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Michigan Report for Friday, April 13, 2012

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Volume #51, Report #73 -- Friday, April 13, 2012

House Dems Gear Up To Punish G.O.P. On Tax Reform

While residents scurry to finish their taxes before next week's deadline, it will not be the last they hear of the issue this year, as the massive tax changes the Republican-led Legislature approved last year begin to take effect and become a key issue in the fall election.

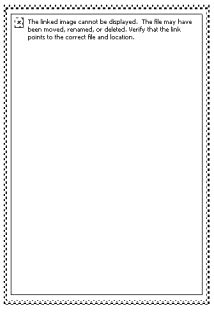
Taxes will now increase for many lower- and middle-income residents who often benefited from the multitude of tax credits and deductions they could claim as they filled out their tax forms.

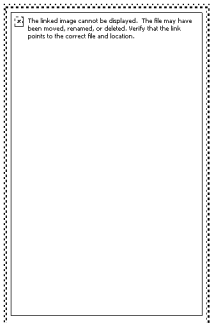
But much of the focus so far has been on the pension tax. Although the decision to apply the income tax exempts anyone born before 1946, there are still many born after that year collecting their pensions who suddenly find themselves paying much more in withholding than in the past, if they even had to withholding anything at all.

Already used heavily as a weapon against the GOP in the successful campaign to recall then-Rep. Paul Scott (R-Grand Blanc), Republicans can be assured to face similar attacks for passing the tax increase throughout the campaign this summer and fall.

In the special election that followed in February, the pension tax was again a major issue in special elections in the 29th District and 51st District. In the 29th, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills) ran on repealing the pension tax and won.

And the Republicans' choice to replace Mr. Scott, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=305301&locid=1" } (R-Linden), is also on board with nixing the tax following his victory.





{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155901&locid=1" } will encourage Democrats to run this fall on repealing the pension tax. House Speaker Jase Bolger's spokesperson said Republicans are prepared to defend their votes.

"In all races around the state, you're going to see the tax changes play into the campaign," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155901&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing), the House Democratic campaign chair.

The stakes are big. Republicans control the House 63-47, and the only way for Democrats to derail the tsunami of Republican legislation { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } is signing into law is to win the nine seats to gain control, or at least the eight seats to assure shared power.

While the focus has been on the pension tax, Mr. Meadows said the unfairness is really the elimination of the exemptions.

"There will be a lot more than just senior citizens realizing they have less money," he said.

Next year at this time, residents will be unable to claim the following credits: The $600 child deduction, the $3,700 personal exemption, and a $2,300 exemption for seniors and taxpayers whose unemployment benefits are 50 percent or more of their adjusted gross income.

Also gone are credits for those who pay a city income tax and who donate to public universities, public libraries, museums, public broadcasting stations, community foundations, homeless shelters, food banks and food kitchens.

And gone are credits for adoptions, stillbirths, expenditures on historic preservation, college tuition and fees (non-refundable), vehicle donations to charitable organizations, and an individual or family development account.

A number of subtractions were also eliminated, including for political contributions, bingo, raffle or charity game prizes, income from gas and oil royalty interest and several others.

The changes also drastically scaled back the Homestead Property Tax Credit and decreased the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Republicans say they are ready for the attacks.

Ari Adler, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall), said the key is to look at the reform agenda the Republicans have pushed from the beginning, which has been to make the state a better place to find a job by making it a more attractive place to do business.

"The challenge for voters will be to see through the politics and see the reality that Michigan is doing better now than it was when the Republicans were given control of the House," Mr. Adler said.

Mr. Bolger has always been clear about asking voters to hold Republicans accountable, Mr. Adler said.

Mr. Adler said during this legislative session, the unemployment rate has dropped, a seemingly never ending $1.5 billion budget deficit was eliminated and turned into a surplus, and more than 100,000 private sector jobs have been created.

"We have accomplished a tremendous amount, and we're not done yet," he said.

After the House eliminated so many of the credits that voters enjoyed and cut taxes on businesses, Mr. Adler said this year Republicans will look at what can be done to help individuals.

He said the other side will likely look even at that which would help people as either pandering before the election or as too little too late after first focusing on businesses.

"Anything you say can and will be used against you by a Democrat," Mr. Adler said.

Mr. Adler said members have not heard many people that upset over changes to the credits being eliminated, as most of their attention has been on the pension tax.

"That's because the Democrats have decided to make political hay with that," he said.

Mr. Meadows said it will be an issue because seniors on fixed incomes are now being forced to pay taxes they weren't before, and it is having a real impact.

"You're in a situation where you don't have an opportunity to make that up," Mr. Meadows said.

Mr. Meadows said he would advise all Democratic members and candidates in open seats to run on repealing the pension tax.

A number of freshman Republican members in competitive seats this fall did not return messages seeking comment for this story.

Sixteen Republicans who won what had been Democratic seats in 2010 voted for the tax changes: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=283301&locid=1" } of Austin, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=291501&locid=1" } of Pellston, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701&locid=1" } of Onekama, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001&locid=1" } of Plymouth Township, { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219601&locid=1" } of White River Township, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292401&locid=1" } of Atlantic Mine, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276301&locid=1" } of Clayton, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001&locid=1" } of Vulcan, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=64701&locid=1" } of Brown City, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=275701&locid=1" } of York Township, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=273801&locid=1" } of Scio Township, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=228001&locid=1" } of Presque Isle, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277401&locid=1" } of Jackson, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=86701&locid=1" } of Lake City, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701&locid=1" } of Clarklake and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" } of Ida.

Of that group, probably Ms. Hughes, Mr. Huuki, Ms. Jenkins, Mr. McBroom, Mr. Ouimet and Mr. Zorn will face the fiercest challenges from Democrats in the fall. Mr. Olson's district radically changed in redistricting to a solidly Democratic seat, and he is in serious danger of not winning re-election regardless of how he voted on the tax legislation.

Mr. Poleski, an accountant who found time to do some tax preparation work this year for his clients, said he hasn't heard much angst about the credits disappearing.

"You may hear more about that next year," he said.

That doesn't usually draw people's attention until they get their taxes done and see their return is less than it has been and ask why, he said.

The most vocal opposition to the tax changes he has heard has come from those under 60 who are state and federal retirees who are now paying taxes and had retired with the understanding they wouldn't pay anything.

"That's certainly understandable they would be upset by that," Mr. Poleski said. "For the most part people understand there is an equity that needed to be achieved."

He said he has also heard many others say that they never understood why they didn't pay taxes on that income before and were willing to pay their share.

"Those are not expressed as loudly, but those opinions are also there," he said.

The tax changes also return the state's tax code to the mantra of fair, simple and efficient, he said.

Some business owners under the old system were paying taxes twice, and some people were not paying taxes at all, he said.

"I challenge anyone to tell me how that is equitable," he said.

While he admits some people are paying less and some people are paying more, "on the whole we reduced taxes."

After 46 Years, Michigan Motorcyclists Can Ditch Their Helmets

Motorcyclists finally prevailed Friday in their long quest to repeal Michigan's law requiring them to wear helmets while riding as { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } signed the legislation despite previously saying he wanted the issue to be part of overall insurance reform.

Mr. Snyder's decision on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB29101" } (PA 98) was much anticipated. It was one of the few situations where the Legislature sent a bill to his desk where there was some doubt about what he would do. It elated motorcyclists, but insurers and health care officials voiced deep disappointment.

"While many motorcyclists will continue to wear helmets, those who choose not to deserve the latitude to make their own informed judgments as long as they meet the requirements of this new law," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "There is no substitute for proper training, education and awareness when it comes to operating any motor vehicle. We must continue working together to keep our roads safe by making sure that everyone who gets behind the wheel of a car or on a motorcycle has the proper skills. Traffic safety is a responsibility shared by all motorists."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/members/Snyder%20(2).jpg" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s signing of the helmet law

repeal drew grumbling from the insurance industry.

Unlike many of his other bill signings, both on high- and low-profile legislation, Mr. Snyder announced his action via a news release, not a signing ceremony. Mr. Snyder signed the bill Thursday afternoon, but it was not filed with the Office of the Great Seal until Friday morning.

Initially, Mr. Snyder studiously avoided saying what he thought about Michigan's 46-year-old mandatory helmet law for motorcyclists, saying only that he would review it if and when it came to his desk.

In June, when Mr. Snyder was asked about his position on the issue, he said helmets "can save lives." He was asked about whether he would want one of his children to ride a motorcycle without a helmet and he quipped that his wife, Sue Snyder, would not even let him ride one.

Later that month, Mr. Snyder said of the issue: "I would not want to take it as an isolated issue. I think it should be part of a broader discussion."

But the broader discussion on setting caps on how much coverage auto insurers have to provide for catastrophic injuries has come to a halt in the House. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB493601" } is well short of the votes needed to pass the full House, so eventually legislators got tired of the helmet bill being in a holding pattern and moved it to Mr. Snyder's desk.

In 1966, the federal government required states to mandate motorcyclists wear helmets or risk losing funding. Michigan passed a helmet requirement that year, repealed it a year later and then reinstated it in 1968. On the day the bill received final passage, it was a nonstory in that day's edition of Gongwer News Service. The big story that day was an address by then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey to a joint session of the Legislature that came shortly after he announced his presidential campaign.

In 1976, the federal government ended its mandate on the states, and that's when motorcyclists in Michigan began urging the repeal of Michigan's law, PA 141 of 1968. Bikers became an annual fixture in the Capitol, lobbying for their cause, but they failed for years. Either one or both houses of the Legislature would refuse to act on the issue.

But in the last 10 years, they succeeded twice in getting bills through the Legislature only to see then-Governor Jennifer Granholm veto them.

"We were pretty confident it was going to happen - although the governor, he's got the best poker face of anyone I've ever seen," said Jim Rhoades, legislative director for American Bikers Aiming Toward Education of Michigan. "They looked at it objectively and said, 'You know what, maybe these clowns are right.'"

Indeed, while Mr. Snyder never stated his position publicly, Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (R-Monroe) said his conversations with Mr. Snyder indicated to him the governor would sign it.

As Mr. Rhoades drove home from work, he lamented that he had his van, not his motorcycle. But the van had an ABATE sticker on the back and as he drove alongside motorcyclists - riding helmetless - they waved and he honked back.

"That was pretty cool," he said.

One member of ABATE told Mr. Rhoades an Ingham County sheriff pulled him over Friday morning for riding without a helmet. The bill was filed at 9 a.m. with immediate effect, so riders could go helmet-free from that moment.

Mr. Rhoades said he told the sheriff's deputy, "I suppose you haven't heard the news." The officer let him go without a ticket.

If there was jubilation among motorcyclists, there was considerable upset among entities that usually align with Mr. Snyder: insurers.

"It is disappointing that a law that saved lives and reduced injuries in the Great Lake States has been repealed," said Pete Kuhnmuench, executive director of the Insurance Institute of Michigan, said in a statement. "The consequences of a person's decision not to wear a helmet is borne by all of society through higher insurance premiums, lost productivity and increased health care costs."

Mr. Kuhnmuench said motorcyclist deaths rose by 80 percent in Florida after that state repealed its law although Mr. Rhoades said the numbers only rose because the number of registered motorcyclists rose by 110 percent.

To ride without a helmet, the motorcyclist must be 21, carry a $20,000 health insurance rider and have at least two years of riding experience or undergo special safety training.

AAA Michigan also denounced the decision, saying the new law "is poor public policy and will increase motorcycle fatalities and injuries." A statement from the insurer said it makes action on overall insurance reform that much more critical, noting motorcyclists represent 1.9 percent of the assessments paid into the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association, but account for 5 percent of all money paid out and 7 percent of all claims reported.

Health care advocates also heaped criticism on Mr. Snyder.

"The argument of freedom-of-choice mixed in with the allure of increased tourism dollars has obviously won the day," said Michael Dabbs, president of the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, in a statement. "Because of this newly found 'freedom' for some motorcycle riders, Michigan residents will now bear the cost through increased deaths, injuries and Medicaid expenses. As for the Brain Injury Association of Michigan and the nearly 100,000 residents across the state currently living with disabilities as a result of a traumatic brain injury, we will reluctantly prepare to welcome even more brain injury survivors to an already-growing population over the coming months."

Snyder spokesperson Ken Silfven said both sides had considerable data, but ultimately one major factor was the data from other states that allow motorcyclists to ride without a helmet. The administration, in its statement, noted that "Michigan joins the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pennsylvania" that have repealed or amended their helmet laws.

"From what we've seen, looking at the experience of other states, there doesn't seem to be much in the way of difference between states that have choice and those that don't," Mr. Silfven said. "The age, training and insurance requirements are reasonable. When you consider that the majority of states offer various forms of choice for riders, it's not unreasonable for us to allow mature, experienced motorcyclists to have that option."

Asked about what seemed like Mr. Snyder's lack of enthusiasm for the bill, Mr. Silfven said the governor is "laser-focused" on job creation.

"But we respect that other issues will come to the forefront on occasion," he said. "We appreciate the fact that this is a partnership. We have 148 legislative partners."

Supreme Court Keeps Welfare Limits Case At Court Of Appeals

The Supreme Court declined late Friday to bypass the Court of Appeals and directly hear the state's appeal of a ruling putting certain recipients back on its welfare rolls, and it declined to stay that ruling until the Court of Appeals had an opportunity to rule.

The Department of Human Services (*Smith v. Department of Human Services Director*, SC docket No. 144913) had asked the high court to bypass the Court of Appeals and rule on the Genesee Circuit Court decision prohibiting the state from ending certain cash assistance cases after 60 months.

While the high court rejected the bypass and stay requests, it did order the Court of Appeals to act quickly in its review of the case.

The Court of Appeals (COA docket No. 309447) had, in a brief order issued Tuesday, rejected the state's request to stay the circuit court order pending appeal.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=108701&locid=1" } would have granted the stay, which would have allowed the state to end any welfare cases that hit the time limit. None of the plaintiffs in the case had reached the time limit.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=114801&locid=1" } said the high court should have either taken the case or granted the stay, given the cost of returning cases to the welfare rolls or keeping them on after the 60-month cutoff.

"As a result of the Court's failure to take either of these actions, this case is not afforded the most expeditious and final review possible, and the state will incur significant costs in the interim period," Mr. Markman said. "The need for such expedited review is underscored in this case by

the financial implications for the state, as the injunction now in place will cost the state an estimated $7 million per month, in addition to the transitional costs that defendant asserts will be incurred as the result of having to comply with the injunction."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=114701&locid=1" }, concurring with the rest of the court in rejecting the bypass and stay requests, said there was no reason to deny the Court of Appeals its say in the case.

"The grant of a stay, which my colleague also advocates, would not necessarily save the state any costs at all," Ms. Kelly said. "It would only be if the Court of Appeals were to reverse the decision of the trial court that costs might be unnecessarily incurred."

And she indicated she did not think the lower court would overturn the ruling. "And, of course, I have considered how likely that result is when deciding not to grant a stay," she said.

Hoekstra Fundraising Falls In First Quarter

Republican senatorial candidate Peter Hoekstra raised at least $1 million each of the first two quarters since declaring his candidacy, but that number fell in the first quarter of 2012 to $700,000.

Candidates for federal office must file reports on their fundraising and spending activity by 11:59 p.m. Sunday, and some of the most closely watched in the nation will be for Mr. Hoekstra and the incumbent he hopes to challenge, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=150701&locid=1" } (D-Lansing). In February, Mr. Hoekstra aired a hugely controversial advertisement during the Super Bowl attacking Ms. Stabenow saying her policies helped China to the detriment of the United States that was widely seen as insulting to people of Asian descent.

Both Mr. Hoekstra and Ms. Stabenow sought to raise money for their campaigns off the ad. Ms. Stabenow saw her fundraising rise to $1.5 million the first quarter, which her campaign said was her best quarter ever.

Mr. Hoekstra, in a Friday posting on his Facebook page, did not say what his cash on hand is, but said it increased and that his campaign is "on path to defeating Debbie Stabenow." Mr. Hoekstra's campaign said it had the most individual donors of any of the three quarters since he became a candidate.

One of Mr. Hoekstra's top rivals for the GOP nomination, Clark Durant, previously announced he had raised $500,000. That also was down from the previous quarter. The other notable challenger to Mr. Hoekstra in the Republican primary, Gary Glenn, has not released his fundraising numbers.

Senate Will Turn Focus to Budget Next Week

The budget will be the top priority when the Senate returns to session Tuesday after its two-week spring break. But the introduction of personal property tax reform, as well as the ongoing Michigan Public School Employee Retirement System reform, will also demand the attention of senators, Senate officials said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said his goal is to move the 2012-13 fiscal year budget bills from the full Appropriations Committee to the Senate floor by the end of the week with full Senate passage targeted for the following week.

The Appropriations Committee has scheduled meetings for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to address 15 different budgets.

But Mr. Kahn cautioned the process was just beginning and expects a clearer vision of the budgets will surface after the state's next revenue estimating conference in May.

"As compared to last year, the differences in vision between the House and the Senate and the governor are larger," he said. "So it may be more time consuming in trying to get to an agreed upon version of these budgets. Our goal remains to have them done by the first of June, but the amount of work before us is still a fair amount yet."

Mr. Kahn said he expected some amendments to the budget bills, both in funding and in boilerplate.

The Senate will also be introducing legislation regarding the administration's personal property tax proposal, which looks at cutting $500 million from the tax over an extended phase-out period for larger employers.

Amber McCann, spokeswoman for Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (R-Monroe) said the basic feeling among Senate Republicans is that the tax is something that "puts us at a competitive disadvantage, especially in the Great Lakes Region," she said.

"We're looking at ways to continue to increase jobs and investments in the state of Michigan and this is a tax that penalizes you for doing that," Ms. McCann said. "We see this as something that could be detrimental to growth."

To recoup most of the anticipated lost funds, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151301&locid=1" } has said the state would assign revenues from expiring tax credits to local governments. Local governments have so far been apprehensive about the legislation, acknowledging changes are necessary, but suggesting the Legislature approve a constitutional amendment to guarantee reimbursements to local governments for the $1.2 billion in revenues generated by the tax.

Ms. McCann said the challenge with the tax is creating a business-friendly environment while also being cognizant of the impact the legislation could have on local governments.

In addition to the personal property tax, another hearing on MPSERS reform is scheduled for Wednesday, which follows a seven-hour long hearing held Wednesday by the Senate Appropriations Retirement Subcommittee that solicited predominately negative feedback on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB104001" }
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Appeals Court Leaves Gateway Project With M.D.O.T.

The Wayne Circuit Court order giving the Department of Transportation control of the Gateway project on the Ambassador Bridge was not a contempt sanction, but an equitable decision in the case, the Court of Appeals said in rejecting the Detroit International Bridge Company's appeal.

The appellate court, in an order issued Thursday (*Department of Transportation v. Detroit International Bridge Company*, { HYPERLINK "http://coa.courts.mi.gov/documents/coa/public/orders/2012/309389%2825%29_order.pdf" \t "blank" }), said there was nothing in any of its earlier orders in the case that would have prevented the trial court from passing control of the project from DIBC, which owns the bridge, to MDOT, which controls the expressway to which it is trying to connect.

"In issuing the March 8, 2012, order, the trial court was acting well within its broad discretion in ordering specific performance of DIBC's outstanding obligations under the contract as directed by the trial court's February 1, 2010 order," the appeals court said. "Under the circumstances of this case, as thoroughly explained by the trial court in its March 8, 2012, order, to order was just and equitable."

MDOT issued the contract for the project Thursday, with work expected to be completed in October. The trial court took the project away from the bridge owner for its track record of delays and legal challenges to the contract to complete the expressway connection.

A bridge company spokesperson did not know Friday if the company plans to appeal the order.

Audit Criticizes M.S.F. For Financial Misstatements

The Michigan Strategic Fund needs to improve its accounting department to avoid misstatements and improper recording, according to an audit released Friday by the Office of the Auditor General.

The first financial error { HYPERLINK "http://www.audgen.michigan.gov/comprpt/docs/r271040112.pdf" \t "blank" } identified was improper recording of the advance the strategic fund received from the U.S. Department of Treasury for the State Small Business Tax Credit Initiative agreement.

"MSF recorded the portion of the advance that was used in accordance with the federal agreement during the fiscal year revenue; however, it recorded the unused portion as deferred

revenue," the audit stated. "As a result, deferred revenue was overstated and revenue, fund balance, and restricted net assets were understated by $21.6 million."

The second error was found in the improper recording of the net assets and fund balance of the Jobs for Michigan Investment Fund, the Michigan Supplier Diversification Fund program, and the Michigan Business Growth Fund program. Net assets of the Debt Service Fund were also not properly reported, it found.

According to the audit, state law created the Jobs for Michigan Investment Fund and requires that the money in the fund, including the related net income, remain in the fund and not lapse to the general fund and be invested only as authorized.

The agency's response agreed with the recommendation of the auditor general to "improve its internal control over financial reporting," but disagreed that the misstatements of net assets and fund balance classifications either overstated or understated the group's total net assets.

The audit reviewed practices at the strategic fund from October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2011.

Appeals Court Schedules Hearings On Manager Challenges

The Court of Appeals has scheduled oral arguments in the various challenges to the emergency manager law for May 3.

The court has consolidated the three cases involving Detroit, but has also overlapped hearing times between those and the case involving Flint, with all of the hearings (*Davis v. City of Detroit Financial Review Team*, COA docket Nos. 309218 and 309250; *McNeil v. City of Detroit Financial Review Team*, COA docket No. 309482; and *Muma v. City of Flint Financial Review Team*, COA docket No. 309260) scheduled for 11 a.m.

All of the cases are before { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=109201&locid=1" }, Judge Peter O'Connell and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=109001&locid=1" } and will be conducted in the Hall of Justice, 925 West Ottawa Street, Lansing.

The Ingham Circuit Court had ruled in all three cases that the review teams violated the Open Meetings Act, but the Court of Appeals has so far allowed the decisions made by those panels to stand pending its further review, leaving the emergency manager in Flint and allowing Detroit to enter a consent agreement to avoid an emergency manager.

Charters Fighting Retirement Funding Plans

Charter school supporters are rallying the troops as the Legislature prepares to return in hopes of heading off plans that would have them helping to fund the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

In an email to members, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies urged calls to legislators particularly to urge no changes to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB104001" }, which requires increased contributions from school employees to both their pensions and retirement health benefits.

The bill as drafted would only affect districts and charters that participate in MPSERS, but the email said there are efforts to have all charters contribute toward the system. All traditional public school districts are required to participate, and some community colleges and universities are also part of the system, but charters have the option whether to participate.

The email said proposals include requiring direct contributions and reducing the foundation allowance to shift funds to MPSERS.

"Michigan's charter schools already receive fewer dollars than traditional public schools," the email said. "We can't afford to receive even less."

Campaign Notes

PEDERSEN EARNS ENDORSEMENT IN 17TH DISTRICT: Democrat Jim Pedersen announced he has earned the endorsement of the 15th Congressional District Democratic Party.

"I'm pleased to receive this endorsement from my fellow Democrats, and add it to the list which includes the Monroe-Lenawee Central Labor Council, the United Autoworkers Union, Operating Engineers Local 324, the Building and Construction Trades Council, Michigan Nurses Association and the United Steelworkers Union," Mr. Pedersen wrote.

He is running in the 17th District, which is a new seat created in redistricting that holds much of the turf now held by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" } (R-Ida), whose 56th District is shifting south and west. The seat will be hotly contested between the parties in the fall.

Appointments By The Governor

12TH DISTRICT COURT: Daniel Goostrey of Jackson succeeds Judge James Justin, who was removed from office, for a term expiring January 1, 2013. Mr. Goostrey, an attorney with Parker & Adams PC and president of the Napoleon Board of Education, must stand for election in November to begin a full term in January. The appointment is not subject to Senate advice and consent.

36TH CIRCUIT COURT: Kathleen Brickley of South Haven succeeds Judge William Buhl, who resigned, for a term expiring January 1, 2013. Ms. Brickley, a criminal defense attorney, must stand for election in November to serve a full term beginning in January. The appointment is not subject to Senate advice and consent.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, April 16

Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Tahquamenon Falls State Park, Paradise, 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 17

Tax Commission, Lansing Center, 333 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 9 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/treasury/Agenda_04-17-12_382235_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/buymichiganfirst/sab_agenda_226061_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Board of Physical Therapy, Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 1:30 p.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_pt_041712agd_381965_7.pdf" \t "blank" }; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_pt_041712dagd_381968_7.pdf" \t "blank" }))

Thursday, April 19

Health Information Technology Commission, Conference Room B&C, Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, 1 p.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/4-19-12_agenda_Draft_380291_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Committee, Conference Room, Comfort Inn, 13954 State Highway M-28, Newberry, 6:30 p.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/EUPCAC_2012_April_18_Agenda_382136_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Friday, April 20

~~**Canceled: Board of Acupuncture, Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m.**~~

Commission on Services to the Aging, Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/Apr%202012%20CSA%20Agenda.doc" \t "_blank" })

Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 West Saint Andrews Road, Midland, 1:30 p.m. (Agenda includes FY 2012 New Leaders Council of Michigan Grant Awards, Reports from the Services to the Field partners)

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 14, 2012 8:06 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

You are receiving the following headlines from various news sources and list of recent press releases received at MIRS as part of your paid subscription to MIRSnews.com If you do not wish to receive these e-mails, please go to your MIRSnews.com account preferences.

Detroit budget cuts hit museums, zoo again

"Cultural institutions owned by the city of Detroit will take a 12 percent hit in funding under Mayor Dave Bing's proposed 2012-13 budget, with the exception of the Detroit Institute of Arts, which will lose its entire city funding.

"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120414/METRO01/204140355#ixzz1s16N4Z3g*

Pontiac teachers say their good-byes; District lays off 95 workers midyear

"It was an emotional day Friday at Owen Elementary School in Pontiac as the brunt of the Pontiac School District's financialstruggles hit a handful of teachers who worked their last day in the building."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120414/NEWS04/204140383/Pontiac-teachers-say-their-good-byes?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

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3 of 5 summoned by Michigan federal judge for missing jury duty show up

"A federal judge on Friday fined two Detroit men $100 each for dodging jury duty, issued a bench warrant for another's arrest and let one man go after accepting his excuse that his grandfather with dementia likely threw out his jury summons."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120414/NEWS01/204140359/3-of-5-summoned-by-Michigan-federal-judge-for-missing-jury-duty-show-up?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Jack Hoogendyk raised $76,499 so far in 2012, more than in 2010 race against Congressman Fred Upton

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI** — The first round of federal election filings are in, and Jack Hoogendyk has raised $76,499 so far this year — $14,000 more than in his 2010 primary campaign against Congressman Fred Upton.*

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/04/jack_hoogendyk_raised_76499_in.html*

Herman Cain's 'Revolution on the Hill' taps Pete Hoekstra

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – U.S. Senate candidate Pete Hoekstra will be recognized Monday by Herman Cain during the former Republican presidential candidate's "Revolution on the Hill" rally in Washington, D.C."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/herman_cains_revolution_on_the.html*

Former Gov. John Engler says his new bosses are weary of Washington's political gridlock

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Former Michigan Gov. John Engler says his bosses are getting tired of Washington politicians who keeping "kicking the can down the road" when it comes to setting tax policy."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/04/former_gov_john_engler_says_hi.html*

State: $3M to be used for Genesee County jail space until Flint delivers plan for city lockup

"GENESEE COUNTY, MI -- The Flint area won't have to wait long to see the benefits of the $3 million that Gov. Rick Snyder has approved to open up local jail space."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/state_3m_used_for_genesee_coun.html*

Jackson City Council paying outside attorneys $295 an hour for stormwater lawsuit work

"JACKSON, MI -- The city of Jackson is paying attorneys from a Detroit law firm $295 per hour to fight a lawsuit filed by Jackson County over the city's stormwater sewer fee."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/04/jackson_city_council_paying_ou.html*

Flint emergency manager works on plan for economic development department following $1M HUD penalty

"FLINT, MI -- Millions of federal grant dollars are funneled each year through the city of Flint's troubled Department of Community and Economic Development, which for years has wrestled with heightened federal scrutiny and allegations of mismanagement."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/flint_department_of_community.html

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CEO: If successful, Detroit Whole Foods store could become blueprint for other cities

"Across the street from one ofDetroit's forgotten natural food markets, a chief executive officer of one of the nation's largest organic grocers promised he's "all-in" when it comes to a new store planned next year in the city's Midtown neighborhood."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/business/detroit/index.ssf/2012/04/ceo_if_successful_whole_foods.html#incart_river_default

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Poor families to pay more in taxes

"Changes in the Earned Income Tax Credit will cost poor families nearly $700 a year more in taxes, a study released Thursday said."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120413/NEWS01/120419917/poor-families-to-pay-more-in-taxes

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Oakland County's mortgage foreclosures halved for first quarter of 2012

"Mortgage foreclosures for the first three months of 2012 are half of what they were the first quarter a year ago, and Oakland County is tooting a cautionary trumpet that the worst of the housing crisis may be coming to an end."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120413/NEWS01/120419920/oakland-county-s-mortgage-foreclosures-halved-for-first-quarter-of-2012

Oakland County considers tax proposal to support Detroit Institute of Arts

"PONTIAC — Oakland County commissioners on Friady introduced a resolution that would create a nine-member authority to run the Detroit Institute of Arts and seek a 0.2-mill property tax to pay for its operations for a 20-year time period."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120413/NEWS01/120419918/oakland-county-considers-tax-proposal-to-support-detroit-institute-of-arts*

Oakland County commissioners adopt new districts; court challenge likely

"PONTIAC — A map of 21 new county commission districts was adopted along a party line vote on Friday."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120413/NEWS01/120419915/oakland-county-commissioners-adopt-new-districts-court-challenge-likely*

Former Oakland County drain commissioner, State Sen. George W. Kuhn dies

"Former Oakland County drain commissioner, state senator and Berkley Mayor George W. Kuhn has died in Colorado, where he lived."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120413/NEWS01/120419947/1006/former-oakland-county-drain-commissioner-state-sen-george-w-kuhn-dies*

Angry teachers, parents protest layoff of 49 Pontiac School District employees WITH VIDEO

"Angry teachers, students and parents gathered Friday outside of Owen Elementary School in Pontiac to protest the layoffs of 49 Pontiac School District employees."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/04/14/news/local_news/doc4f88a01791f5c971428711.txt*

Press Releases

SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section to Host Annual Day of Education May 4 at Oakland University

"

The State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section and the Association of Litigation Support Professionals, Michigan Chapter, will present an "Annual Day of Education" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 4 at Oakland University's Oakland Center Building, located at 2200 North Squirrel Road in Rochester."

Source: *State Bar of Michigan* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334349496_SBM1.pdf

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DEQ announces Earth Day poster contest winners

"

As a part of this year's Department of Environmental Quality Earth Day Celebration, DEQ Director Dan Wyant will honor the winners of the 2012 Earth Day poster contest."

Source: *MI Department of Environmental Quality* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334347245_DEQ2.pdf

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DEQ awards funding for scrap tire cleanups

"

The DEQ today announced nearly $400,000 for scrap tire cleanup work around the state."

Source: *MI Department of Environmental Quality* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334346166_DEQ1.pdf

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Additional Info for April Meeting and Trainings

"

Don't miss the first meeting of the Spring. It will be full of elected officials, candidates, and activists. Come out and sign the Collective Bargaining petition to fight against anti-worker laws. Immediately following the meeting, Protect Our Jobs will train any willing volunteer on petitioning before heading out to take action!"

Source: *14th District Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334344876_14th.pdf

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Children's Trust Fund to stage state Capitol rally

"

The Children's Trust Fund is sponsoring a Prevention Awareness Day Rally at the state Capitol in Lansing on April 19. The rally's theme, "The Power of One," encourages Michigan residents to become involved, by doing one small or large act to help protect children from abuse and neglect."

Source: *Children's Trust Fund* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334344391_CTF1.pdf

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Andrea Larkin to Run for East Lansing District Court Judge

"Andrea Larkin filed with the Bureau of Elections on Wednesday, April 11, to enter the race for the now open 54B District Court Judge position in East Lansing. The Honorable David Jordon who has held the seat has decided not to run for reelection."

Source: *Andrea Larkin for East Lansing District Court Judge* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334342082_Larkin1.pdf

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Andrea Larkin to Run for East Lansing District Court Judge

"Andrea Larkin filed with the Bureau of Elections on Wednesday, April 11, to enter the race for the now open 54B District Court Judge position in East Lansing. The Honorable David Jordon who has held the seat has decided not to run for reelection."

Source: *Andrea Larkin for East Lansing District Court Judge* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334342079_Larkin1.pdf

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60 day public comment window on industrial carbon pollution rule begins TODAY

"

MICHIGAN – On Friday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officially filed its industrial carbon pollution rule with the Federal Register, kicking off a 60 day window for Michigan residents to weigh in on the standard for new power plants."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334341039_DNR2.pdf

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Parks Panel meets April 16 at Tahquamenon Falls State Park

"

Lansing, Michigan - The Michigan Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation will meet Monday, April 16, 2012 at the Tahquamenon Falls State Park in Paradise, Michigan from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Members of the public are welcome to attend."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334341010_DNR2.pdf

DATE CORRECTION: Immigrant Worker March SUNDAY, April 15th, 2012

"

Livonia- More than 200 supporters are expected to rally at the Mastronardi Produce Plant on Sunday April 15th, 2012 in Livonia to march and demand that the company negotiate fairly with workers for stolen pay and safe conditions."

Source: *Alliance for Immigrants Rights & Reform - Michigan* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334340468_MIR3.pdf*

Snyder appoints Daniel Goostrey to the 12th District Court in Jackson County

"

LANSING, Mich. - Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointment of Daniel A. Goostrey, of Jackson, to the 12th District Court in Jackson. The appointment fills the vacancy created by the removal of Judge James M. Justin."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334338545_Gov4.pdf*

Lansing Job Fair Draws Hundreds of Job Seekers

"

It was another busy week back in Michigan full of meetings with job creators and hosting a job fair. Thanks to all who attended and participated in these events."

Source: *U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334337413_Walberg1.pdf*

Weekend lane closures - US-23 and I-96

"

The full closure on eastbound I-96, between M-43 and I-496, that was originally scheduled for Saturday has now been moved to Sunday, April 15. "

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334337375_MDOT1.pdf*

Immigrants Workers to March at Packing Plant, Demand Good Faith Negotiations

"

Livonia- More than 200 supporters are expected to rally at the Mastronardi Produce Plant on Sunday April 16th, 2011 in Livonia to march and demand that the company negotiate fairly with workers for stolen pay and safe conditions."

Source: *Alliance for Immigrants Rights & Reform - Michigan* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334337339_MIR2.pdf*

Kathleen Brickley named to Van Buren County's 36th Circuit Court

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointment of Kathleen M. Brickley, of South Haven, to the 36th Circuit Court in Van Buren County. The appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge William C. Buhl."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334337283_Gov3.pdf*

Hoekstra: Ledbetter Equal Pay Act a "Nuisance" that "Shouldn't be Law"

"

***LANSING** - At the Commune restaurant in Royal Oak yesterday, former Congressman Pete Hoekstra told supporters how he really feels about the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, a law that ensures that women will get equal pay for equal work. According to Representative Hoekstra, the law is a "nuisance" and would support its repeal if elected."*

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334337252_MDP1.pdf*

Islamic Advocacy Group Sues Border Patrol, FBI

"

Detroit – The Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI) filed a lawsuit in a Detroit federal court today naming both the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), citing violation of First Amendment rights via repeated detention and invasive questioning of religious practices at the US-Canada border. "

Source: *Michigan Immigration Reform* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334337213_MIR1.pdf

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Islamic Advocacy Group Sues Border Patrol, FBI

"

Detroit – The Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MI) filed a lawsuit in a Detroit federal court today naming both the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), citing violation of First Amendment rights via repeated detention and invasive questioning of religious practices at the US-Canada border. "

Source: *Alliance for Immigrants Rights & Reform* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334328345_Progress2.pdf

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Recent Michigan Court of Appeals Releases

"

The Michigan Court of Appeals released the following opinion(s) on 4/12/2012. "

Source: *Michigan Court of Appeals* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327284_COA1.pdf

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ABATE: Governor Signs Helmet Choice LawA

"

LANSING – After 46 years, Michigan now joins 30 other states in amending the mandatory helmet law in favor of adult choice. The Michigan legislature overwhelmingly approved SB 291 with broad bi-partisan support and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed Public Act 98 into law, yesterday. "

Source: *ABATE* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327250_Abate1.pdf

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BUSINESS CUSTOMER SOLAR PROJECTS IN GRAND TRAVERSE, JACKSON, KENT, OTTAWA AND SAGINAW COUNTIES

"JACKSON, Mich., April 13, 2012 – Customer-initiated solar projects in Grand Traverse, Jackson, Kent, Ottawa and Saginaw counties have been selected as participants in the next phase of Consumers Energy's Experimental Advanced Renewable Program. "

Source: *Consumer's Energy* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327210_Consumers1.pdf

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Ingham County Dems Challenge Harmful Taxes on Seniors, Middle Class

"

*LANSING – State Representatives **Mark Meadows** (D-East Lansing), **Joan Bauer** (D-Lansing), **Barb Byrum** (D-Onondaga), and Democratic Floor Leader **Kate Segal** (D-Battle Creek) will hold a press conference to address the work they and fellow House Democrats are doing to lift the unfair tax burden placed on Michigan's seniors and middle class on **Monday, April 16, at 1 p.m. at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road in East Lansing**."*

Source: *Rep. Mark Meadows* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327127_MEadows1.pdf

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Michigan Agri-Business Association Joins Michigan Egg Producers in Supporting Federal Legislation

"

EAST LANSING — The Michigan Agri-Business Association has announced support for H.R. 3798, the Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012, which will bring consistency in production practices across the country for all egg producers, and improvements in housing for 280 million hens involved in U.S. egg production. "

Source: *Michigan Agri-Business Association* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327083_Agri1.pdf

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UPDATED: NEWS RELEASE: Bill to let motorcyclists decide helmet use signed into law

"

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan will become the 31st state to give motorcyclists the option of wearing a helmet under legislation signed by the governor on Thursday.

"

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327053_Gov2.pdf

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New ALEC report celebrates Michigan's anti-middle class policies

"

LANSING - Facing a firestorm of controversy, several corporations have fled the American Legislative Exchange Council in recent days. Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Wendy's, McDonald's, Intuit, Kraft Foods, Mars, and the Arizona Public Service Company have all determined that membership in the corporate front group and bill factory is no longer good for business"

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334327009_Progress1.pdf

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Join educators, parents at press conference Friday afternoon while laid-off teachers pack up t

"

***PONTIAC, Mich., April 13, 2012 —** On Wednesday, nearly 40 teachers in the Pontiac School District were informed they were being laid off. "*

Source: *Michigan Education Association* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326973_MEA1.pdf

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Bill to let motorcyclists decide helmet use signed into law

"

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan will become the 31st state to give motorcyclists the option of wearing a helmet under legislation signed by the governor today. "

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326919_Gov1.pdf

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DNR Announces 2012 Archery in the Schools State Tournament Winners

"

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced the winners of Michigan's Sixth Annual State Virtual Archery Tournament. A record-breaking 865 student archers enrolled at schools participating in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) competed in the recent tournament."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326891_DNR1.pdf

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WORKERS' VOICE ANNOUNCES PLANS TO ACTIVATE NETWORKS OF WORKING FAMILIES WITH CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

"

(Washington, DC) – At a press briefing Workers' Voice announced plans to activate and energize networks of working families – both union and non-union - around political campaigns, legislative issues and holding elected officials accountable. "

Source: *AFL-CIO* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326799_AFL.pdf

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Senator Stabenow Congratulates Henry Ford Health System for Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

"

Washington- *U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow today congratulated Henry Ford Health System for being named a 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient—America's highest honor for innovation and performance excellence. "*

Source: *U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326681_Stabenow1.pdf

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Nurses Urge Benishek to Be Honest About His Role in Cheboygan Hospital Closing

"

Members of the Michigan Nurses Association are urging Congressman ***Dan Benishek*** *(R-Crystal Falls) to hold a town hall meeting in Cheboygan to answer the community's questions about the closing of the Cheboygan hospital and clarify his role in the process."*

Source: *Michigan Nurses Association* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326649_Nurses1.pdf

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Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute Honors McCotter

"

Washington, DC - Today it was announced U.S. Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter (MI) will join President Lobo of Honduras and Ralph De La Vega, President and CEO of AT&T Mobility as honorees of the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute's (CHLI) Annual Gala May 7, 2012."

Source: *U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326631_Mccotter1.pdf*

D. Alexander Bullock URGES MSU TO VOTE NO!

"

(LANSING, MI) *– On tomorrow, April 13, 2012, D. Alexander Bullock, president of Rainbow PUSH Detroit Chapter and Rainbow PUSH Michigan State Coordinator, will address the need for a stronger commitment from the MSU Board of Trustees to 100% Clean Energy at the student led rally for 100% Clean Energy at MSU. "*

Source: *Rainbow Push Coalition* **Date:** *04-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334326570_RPC1.pdf*

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Michigan State University proposes agriculture research center in Detroit

*"DETROIT (AP) — **Michigan State University** has proposed building an urban agriculture research center in Detroit that could grow into a $100 million project covering 100 acres."*

Source: *Crains Detroit Business* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20120416/FREE/120419932/michigan-state-university-proposes-agriculture-research-center-in*

State Office of Regulatory Reinvention report: Deregulate 18 occupations, kill 9 boards

*"LANSING — The **Michigan Office of Regulatory Reinvention** recommends deregulating 18 occupations and eliminating nine occupational boards as part of its ongoing effort to reduce red tape in state government."*

Source: *Crains Detroit Business* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.crainsdetroit.com/article/20120416/FREE/120419920/state-office-of-regulatory-reinvention-report-deregulate-18*

Flint emergency manager Michael Brown to unveil budget

*"**FLINT, MI --** Flint emergency manager Michael Brown will present the 2013 budget proposal to the Flint City Council on Monday, April 23."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/flint_emergency_manager_michae_20.html#incart_river_default*

Poll results: MLive readers disagree with delayed sentence for Lansing teen Charles Lewis Jr., instead call for life without parole

"LANSING, MI -- Charles Lewis Jr.'s early age and the role his father played in a 2010 murder were certainly mitigating factors in Lewis' sentencing."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2012/04/poll_results_mlive_readers_dis.html#incart_river_default*

Farmers, small businesses criticize Michigan's enforcement of federal truck ID requirement

"One person's infuriating government regulation is another's measure to protect public health and safety. That philosophical split plays out every day in how Michigan is enforcing regulations on commercial motor vehicles."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/04/michigans_enforcement_of_feder.html#incart_river_default*

Tim Skubick: Score one for Michigan Democratic chair Mark Brewer

"The state Democratic Party chair, of course, gets paid to do this stuff, but really was this a story worth even a second glance?"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/tim_skubick_score_one_for_mich.html#incart_river_default*

M-DOT: Fewer Michigan bridges structurally deficient, but more are 'functionally obsolete'

"The Michigan Department of Transportation has made available an updated list of the conditions of more than 4,400 bridges on roadways throughout the state."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/04/m-dot_fewer_michigan_bridges_s.html*

Snyder recall effort clears first hurdle

*"**LANSING** — A group that wants to recall Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder can begin collecting voter signatures in an effort to make the ballot."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120409/NEWS04/304090051/Snyder-recall-effort-clears-first-hurdle?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Report: Michigan should deregulate 18 occupations, increase other fees

*"**LANSING** — A new state report says Michigan regulators should increase safety inspection fees for ski resorts and carnival rides while dropping oversight of 18 occupations and eliminating nine occupational boards."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120416/NEWS04/304160049/Report-Michigan-should-deregulate-18-occupations-increase-other-fees?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Equal Pay Day rally set for noon at Capitol

*"**LANSING** — Two dozen groups are set to hold a Capitol rally Tuesday to call on Michigan lawmakers to support equal pay for equal work."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120417/NEWS04/304170037/Michigan-Equal-Pay-Day-rally-noon-at-Capitol-Lansing?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Michigan lotto winner charged with welfare fraud

*"**LINCOLN PARK, MICH.** — A Michigan woman who continued to get food stamps after winning a $1 million lottery jackpot has been charged with welfare fraud."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120417/NEWS01/304170034/Michigan-lotto-winner-charged-welfare-fraud?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Police millage revenue issue still concerns Lansing City Council

"A proposal to use a share of new millage revenue to prepare a city-owned building to house Lansing's Police Department remains a sticking point for some Lansing City Council members as they consider next year's budget."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120417/NEWS01/304170025/Police-millage-revenue-issue-still-concerns-Lansing-City-Council?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Editorial: Buffett Rule is lousy tax policy

*"As anticipated, the Senate failed Monday to rally 60 votes to pass the so-called Buffett Rule, a bit of election year mischief championed by President Barack Obama that never had a chance of passage.
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120417/OPINION01/204170312/Editorial-Buffett-Rule-lousy-tax-policy?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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Battery-powered autos proving to be a tough sell

*"Washington— Electric vehicle sales have been slow out of the box, despite marketing hype, government incentives and the hopes of green car advocates.
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120417/AUTO01/204170368/Battery-powered-autos-proving-tough-sell?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Students amass mountain of debt as default rates continue to climb

*"Three years after Angie Rider earned undergraduate and graduate degrees at Michigan State University, she has a teaching job that she loves — but also a student loan debt of $100,000.
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120417/SCHOOLS/204170370/Students-amass-mountain-debt-default-rates-continue-climb?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Editorial: Investing in rail makes sense as demand soars

"A balanced national transportation system requires high-speed rail lines that connect the nation's major cities. With gas prices soaring, people are driving less and looking for less stressful alternatives to congested freeways and airports. The federal government must continue to help metropolitan areas build and maintain transit systems -- including trains -- that reduce congestion, get people to jobs, improve air quality and conserve energy."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/OPINION01/204170316/Editorial-Investing-in-rail-makes-sense-as-demand-soars?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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U.S. Rep. Gary Peters: Rethink tax code to help working families

"The good news is that we've had 25 months of consecutive private sector job growth and we have emerged from the worst recession in generations. The bad news is that more than 200,000 Michiganders have been looking for a job for over six months. Our economy is growing, but not fast enough."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/OPINION05/120416077/U-S-Rep-Gary-Peters-Rethink-tax-code-to-help-working-families-tax-day-Buffett-rule?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Texting while driving: Young adults think 'it's not cool to be safety conscious'

"Young people know text-messaging while driving is dangerous, but they are least likely to speak up when they're riding with a driver who's doing it, according to a new U.S. Department of Transportation study."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/BUSINESS01/204170359/Texting-while-driving-Young-adults-think-it-s-not-cool-to-be-safety-conscious-?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Wayne State to build $90-million biomedical facility

"Wayne State University plans to pump more than $90 million into a new biomedical research facility at the edge of its campus -- a move that continues its push to improve Detroit's Midtown."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/NEWS01/204170343/Wayne-State-to-build-36-90M-biomedical-facility?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Advance-payment firm could get most of abused inmates' $3.5-million settlement from state

"Six women who were sexually assaulted by guards while serving sentences in Michigan prisons are unlikely to see much of a $3.5-million settlement the state agreed to pay them and two others in 2008 in a $100-million class action."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/NEWS06/204170389/Advance-payment-firm-could-get-most-of-abused-inmates-36-3-5-million-settlement-from-state?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Susan Tompor: Today's the day to file tax forms

"If you've been putting off filing your tax return, you're running out of time. Today is the deadline for federal and Michigan returns."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/COL07/204170337/Susan-Tompor-Today-s-the-day-to-file-tax-forms?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Rochelle Riley: Detroit city clerk concerned proposed budget not enough to run election

"Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey says it is not possible to conduct a presidential election for city residents with the money Mayor Dave Bing has proposed in his new budget."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120417/COL10/204170402/Rochelle-Riley-Detroit-city-clerk-I-can-t-run-presidential-election-on-Mayor-Dave-Bing-s-budget?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Press Releases

Same Old Republican Tricks: No to the Buffet Rule, Another Yes to Voucherizing Medicare and Taxing

"

(WASHINGTON) – Today, Republicans in the United States Senate voted to kill S. 2230, "Paying A Fair Share Act of 2012" – legislation popularly known as the "Buffet Rule" – that would reduce the deficit and restore fairness to America's tax system. "

Source: *U.S. Rep. John Conyers* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334671615_Conyers1.pdf

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Camp Statement on Tax Day, Senate Vote on "Buffett Rule"

"

Washington, D.C. -- On the eve of Tax Day and in anticipation of the Senate's procedural vote on the so-called "Buffett Rule," Congressman Dave Camp (R-Midland, MI), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, made the following statement today:"

Source: *U.S. Rep. Dave Camp* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334671566_Camp1.pdf

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ROMNEY REVEALS SECRET PLAN TO CUT HOUSING, EDUCATION

"

DETROIT, MI – At a high dollar fundraiser last night in Florida, Governor Romney revealed that he has a secret plan to make deep cuts in programs essential to the middle class, like education and housing, in order to fund his $5 trillion tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans."

Source: *Obama for America* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334671512_Obama1.pdf

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Voting Rights Advocates to Testify Against New Voter Suppression Proposals Tomorrow

"

Michigan voting rights advocates will testify in opposition to new proposals that will make voting less convenient and accessible and could disenfranchise some voters at a Redistricting and Elections Committee Hearing in the House on April 17. "

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334608608_Progress2.pdf

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SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST ANNUAL LUNCHEON WITH JUSTICES

"LANSING—The Annual Membership Luncheon of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2012, at the Detroit Athletic Club, 241 Madison Avenue, Detroit. "

Source: *Michigan Supreme Court* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334607729_MSC2.pdf

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MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT RELEASES 2011 ANNUAL REPORT; STATE COURTS' PERFORMANCE

"LANSING, MI, April 16, 2012 – Streamlining courts and eliminating unneeded judgeships are among the highlights of the Michigan Supreme Court's annual report, which the Court released today."

Source: *Michigan Supreme Court* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334607629_MSC1.pdf

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LAST CHANCE: Do you know a high school senior who needs $10,000 for college?

"

There's just one week left for one Michigan high school senior to win $10,000 toward their tuition next year courtesy of our friends at the Michigan Senate Democrats. I'm sure you all know of a high school senior who

could use money for college. Many of you may even have one in your own home. That's why I am excited to share this opportunity with you and urge you to share this information with every high school senior you know."

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334605299_MDP2.pdf*

Governor makes appointments to boards of Professional Surveyors and Professional Engineers

"

LANSING, Mich. - Gov. Rick Snyder today announced appointments to the State Board of Professional Surveyors and the State Board of Professional Engineers."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334605100_Gov1.pdf*

Candidate for State Representative Sweeps Leadership Award Ceremony

*"**Dearborn, Michigan – Monday, April 16, 2012** – Last week, outgoing Student Government President David Knezek won every award for which he was nominated at the University of Michigan-Dearborn's 32nd Annual Student Leadership Awards. Knezek, a lifelong Dearborn Heights resident and two-tour Iraq War veteran, won two individual and three organizational awards honoring his leadership and dedication to both the school and the larger community."*

Source: *David Knezek for State Representative* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334603877_Knezek1.pdf*

Right to Life of Michigan launches 40 week educational campaign on fetal development

"

Life After 40 is a Right to Life of Michigan educational outreach for the 40th Memorial of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, the two U.S. Supreme Court decisions which legalized abortion through all nine months of pregnancy."

Source: *Right to Life of Michigan* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334601804_RTLM1.pdf*

DNR Salutes State Park Volunteers' Efforts

"

During any given year thousands of volunteer hours go into helping strengthen and preserve Michigan's state park system. In conjunction with National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, the Department of Natural Resources wishes to salute its volunteers and extend its appreciation to the many people who willingly offer their time, talents, and energy to ensure Michigan's state parks remain the special places where visitors have the maximum opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599694_DNR3.pdf*

MAPSA Expresses Outrage After Anti-School-Choice Group Links Charter Schools to the Ku Klux Klan

"LANSING, Michigan (January 3, 2012) – The Michigan Association of Public School Academies expressed outrage today after an anti-school-choice group in Michigan used its Facebook page to link charter schools to the Ku Klux Klan."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599605_MAPSA9.pdf*

With Cap Lifted, Charter School Authorizers Accepting Applications for New Schools

"LANSING, Michigan (January 10, 2012) – With the cap on university-sponsored charter schools now lifted in Michigan, officials say the standards for new schools will continue to be extremely high. Gov. Rick Snyder signed SB 618, which lifts the cap on charter schools over a three-year period, on Dec. 20, 2011."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599553_MAPSA8.pdf*

Michigan's Charter School Laws Ranked 10th in the Nation

"LANSING, Michigan (January 18, 2012) – Michigan has the 10th-best charter school laws in the country, according to a recent report issued by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. "

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599505_MAPSA7.pdf*

Madison Academy Schedules Press Conference for Feb. 1 to Discuss Student's Suspension

"BURTON, Michigan (January 31, 2012) – Officials at Madison Academy have scheduled a press conference for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, to discuss the situation involving a student who was suspended for violating the school's personal-grooming code."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599470_MAPSA6.pdf*

Statement from School Officials Regarding Suspension of Student from Madison Academy

"BURTON, Michigan (January 31, 2012) – This is an official statement from Madison Academy, a charter school in Burton, regarding the suspension of J.T. Gaskins, a student at the school."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599435_MAPSA5.pdf*

Traditional School Community Continues to Criticize Full-Time Cyber Schools

"LANSING, Michigan (March 21, 2012) – Throughout the debate on lifting the enrollment cap on cyber charter schools, officials throughout the traditional school community have leveled a host of charges against full-time cyber schools. "

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599403_MAPSA4.pdf*

MAPSA Releases List of 14 New Charter Schools in Michigan

"LANSING, Michigan (April 10, 2012) – More school choice is on the way to Michigan, as university authorizers in the state have begun to approve additional public charter schools."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599367_MAPSA3.pdf*

Excellent Schools Detroit "Report Card" Ranks Charter Schools as Among Best Options for Parents

"LANSING, Michigan (March 14, 2012) – The third-annual Excellent Schools Detroit "Report Card" ranks charter schools as some of the best options for parents in the city. The report card was released last week."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599339_MAPSA2.pdf*

Statement from Pontiac Academy for Excellence

"PONTIAC, Michigan (April 16, 2012) – This is an official statement from the Pontiac Academy for Excellence, a charter school in Oakland County."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599301_MAPSA1.pdf*

Pete Hoekstra Abandons Working Michiganders, Calls Wage Discrimination Laws A "Nuisance"

"

LANSING – Last week, candidate for U.S. Senate and career politician Pete Hoekstra abandoned women and our nation's founding principles by calling the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act a "nuisance" before adding "it shouldn't be law.""

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334599065_Progress1.pdf*

Pestka Pulls Even with Amash in Campaign Funds

"

GRAND RAPIDS—Congressional Candidate Steve Pestka, who announced his candidacy in early March, has as much money saved up for the fall campaign as does incumbent Congressman Justin Amash."

Source: *Steve Pestka for U.S. Congress* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334598479_Pestka1.pdf*

Ingham Co. Dems Call For Repeal of Tax Hikes on Middle Class, Seniors

"

*EAST LANSING – State Representatives **Mark Meadows** (D-East Lansing), **Barb Byrum** (D-Onondaga), **Joan Bauer** (D-Lansing) and Democratic Floor Leader **Kate Segal** (D-Battle Creek) today at a press conference in East Lansing called on Republicans to rescind their new taxes on retirees and to restore tax credits to the middle class by supporting Democrat-sponsored bills that will relieve the burden on Michigan families when next year's tax deadline rolls around."*

Source: *House Democrats* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334598311_House2.pdf*

Ingham County Dems Challenge Harmful Taxes on Seniors, Middle Class

"

*LANSING – State Representatives **Mark Meadows** (D-East Lansing), **Joan Bauer** (D-Lansing), **Barb Byrum** (D-Onondaga), and Democratic Floor Leader **Kate Segal** (D-Battle Creek) will hold a press conference to address the work they and fellow House Democrats are doing to lift the unfair tax burden placed on Michigan's seniors and middle class on **Monday, April 16, at 1 p.m. at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road in East Lansing**."*

Source: *House Democrats* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334593814_House1.pdf

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W. Anthony Jenkins to be Roasted at State Bar of Michigan Dinner

*"**DETROIT, Mich., April 9, 2012** - W. Anthony Jenkins, Member and Chief Diversity Officer at Dickinson Wright PLLC, is always thinking about how he can make a lasting contribution to those who may need legal services the most, but can't afford it. "*

Source: *Dickinson Wright PLLC* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334593737_Jenkins1.pdf

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Retiree Benefits Under Attack - Senate Bill 1040

"

SB 1040 is the most sweeping attack on school employee retirement benefits in the history of our state. Join me in speaking out. "

Source: *Susan Schmidt for Representative* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334593639_Schmidt.pdf

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Hoekstra is "Master of Ceremony" at Herman Cain's Anti-Middle Class Rally

"

***LANSING** – On Monday, Pete Hoekstra, the U.S. Senate hopeful and employee of the DC lobbying firm Dickstein Shapiro, travelled to Washington, D.C. to serve as the "Master of Ceremony" for Herman Cain's Revolution on the Hill rally. "*

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334591901_MDP1.pdf

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Self-Described "Celebrity Blogger" John Wright Enjoined by Michigan Court

"

Dearborn, Michigan, April 16, 2012: Self-described "celebrity blogger" John Wright was enjoined by a Michigan court (Case No. 12-005104-CZ) from any further "shakedown" or "extortion" of money or property from National Mortgage Investigation ("NMI")."

Source: *National Mortgage Investigation* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334588045_NMI1.pdf*

Rep. Stapleton to Host Urban Ag Forum

"

LANSING – State Representative ***Maureen L. Stapleton*** *(D-Detroit) will hold a Town Hall Forum tonight,* ***Monday, April 16, 2012, at 6 p.m. at the Plymouth United Church of Christ, located at 600 E. Warren Ave. in Detroit (just west of the Chrysler Freeway).*** *"*

Source: *Rep. Maureen Stapleton* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334586583_Stapleton1.pdf*

Office of Regulatory Reinvention Issues Recommendations to Deregulate 18 Occupations

"

April 16, 2012 *– Today, the Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) released to the public its report to Governor Snyder containing 63 recommendations for improving Michigan's occupational licensing regulations while continuing to protect Michigan's citizens. "*

Source: *MI Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334585158_LARA1.pdf*

Michigan State Waterways Commission to meet April 20 in Detroit

"

The Michigan State Waterways Commission will hold its regular meeting on Friday, April 20, at the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, 130 E. Atwater Street, in Detroit. The public meeting begins at 11:30 a.m."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334584611_DNR2.pdf*

OFA MICHIGAN OPENS NEW LANSING GRASSROOTS HEADQUARTERS

"

LANSING, MI – Continuing its effort to build the strongest grassroots campaign in Michigan history, OFA-MI will open its new Lansing headquarters tonight. Details of the event are as follows:"

Source: *Obama for America* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334583989_Obama1.pdf

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DNR urges awareness, caution during Wildfire Prevention Week – and all season long

"

When it comes to fire safety in Michigan, making smart, sensible decisions in the outdoors is always a good idea. During Wildfire Prevention Week – April 15-21 – the Department of Natural Resources is stressing the importance of preventing wildfire during the state's critical spring fire season."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334583942_DNR1.pdf

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Rev. Charles Williams II, parents and Concerned Clergy confront Pontiac Academy of Excellence

*"**Detroit MI -** 4/16/2012 - Brooke Harris still out of a job and activist intend to keep the fight going to reinstate Brooke Harris. "*

Source: *Michigan Chapter of the National Action Network* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334583895_NAN1.pdf

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TODAY FROM 11:30-1:00 - U.S. Rep. Gary Peters to Host Town Hall Meeting in southwest Detroit

"

***Southwest Detroit, MI** - Today from 11:30 - 1:00 p.m., U.S. Rep. Gary Peters will host a town hall meeting in southwest Detroit. At this event, Congressman Peters will discuss his work with President Obama to save our local auto manufacturing industry as well as his efforts to help create jobs throughout the Metro Detroit region.*
"

Source: *U.S. Rep. Gary Peters* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334583573_Peters1.pdf

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Who's the Real Conservative

"

This week, I filed my petitions and officially placed my name on the August 7th ballot as a candidate for U.S. Congress. I am running as a principled conservative."

Source: *Hoogendyk for Congress* **Date:** *04-17-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334583483_Hoogendyk.pdf*

GroupWise Users Note: If an underlined link does not work, highlight the entire link, then right-click on it and select "Go to".

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 9:08 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Moms plan breast-feeding rights march at state Capitol

"A group of metro Detroit mothers who promote breast-feeding announced Friday a Million Mother March on Lansing to take place July 18 at the state Capitol."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120421/NEWS03/204210336/Moms-plan-breast-feeding-rights-march-at-state-Capitol?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Madison School District teachers call 10% pay cut illegal, threaten lawsuit

"Teachers in the Madison School District said the Board of Education there violated the law by imposing a 10% pay cut last week that is retroactive to the beginning of the current school year."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120421/NEWS03/204210342/Madison-School-District-teachers-call-10-pay-cut-illegal-threaten-lawsuit?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Mayor Dave Bing says he was left with no choice on consent deal

"Reflecting on what will be a pivotal moment in the city of Detroit's history, Mayor Dave Bing said Friday he really didn't have a choice when it came to agreeing to a consent agreement with the state and had to sign off on the deal to avoid an emergency manager."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120421/NEWS01/204210407/Mayor-Dave-Bing-says-he-was-left-with-no-choice-on-consent-deal?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

New State Police unit makes rape kits priority No. 1

"The Michigan State Police crime laboratory is creating a specialized unit to focus on processing rape kits, aiming to shorten the time it takes to do analysis that could lead to the arrest of suspects and reduce the backlog at the lab."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120421/NEWS06/204210362/New-State-Police-unit-make-rape-kits-priority-No-1?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Bing says he's feeling better, will return to office April 30

"Detroit— Mayor Dave Bing is set to return to City Hall on light duty April 30, saying he's ready to lead the city under the controversial — but necessary — consent agreement with the state
.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120421/METRO01/204210353#ixzz1sgEnLxdw

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Macomb may allow DIA vote

"Mount Clemens— The Detroit Institute of Arts cleared a significant hurdle Friday after museum officials persuaded Macomb County's economic development committee to support a taxpayer-funded initiative for the troubled museum."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120421/METRO03/204210341#ixzz1sgEebxKX

Gas prices falling after surge

"The worst is over, for now. Gas prices are starting to fall.
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120421/BIZ/204210321#ixzz1sgEQILGp

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Diverse new shops, renovations infuse new spirit in Eastern Market

"Detroit's Eastern Market is sprouting new shops and preparing for a pickup in springtime activities as it becomes a bigger draw for city dwellers and suburbanites.
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120421/METRO/204210349#ixzz1sgEB19AW

Southwest Michigan Politics: Mike O'Brien to announce candidacy for Congress tomorrow; Rep. Fred Upton endorsed by Dale Shugars

"Happy Friday and here is a special 6th-District edition of Southwest Michigan Politics."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/04/southwest_michigan_politics_mi.html

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Saginaw police chief questions citizen use of Tasers under bill waiting final approval

*"**SAGINAW, MI** – If citizens choose to carry Tasers under a bill awaiting the Governor's signature, they should first know the limitations of the electric shock devices, Saginaw Chief of Police Gerald Cliff said."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2012/04/saginaw_police_chief_questions.html

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Flint, unions reach concessions deals under emergency manager

"FLINT, MI -- At least three city employee unions have agreed to wage and benefit cuts under Michigan's strengthened emergency manager law, and another agreement is in the works."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/tentative_agreements.html*

Hiring of new Flint public safety administrator part of bigger plan, emergency manager says

"FLINT, MI -- Flint Police Chief Alvern Lock will report to new Public Safety Administrator Barnett Jones under a plan the city will begin rolling out next week, said Emergency Manager Michael Brown."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/hiring_of_new_flint_public_saf.html

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Feds to hold public electric vehicle safety hearing

"Federal officials will discuss safety considerations for electric vehicles powered by lithium-ion batteries next month in Washington, D.C."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/auto/index.ssf/2012/04/feds_to_hold_public_electric_v.html

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Poll shows Detroit is the most unpopular city in America

"If America were high school, Detroit wouldn't be sitting at anybody's lunch table."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/04/poll_shows_detroit_is_the_most.html*

Fired Wayland police chief says he 'definitely' plans on talking with next Wayland city manager

"WAYLAND, MI-- Former Police Chief Dan Miller said he isn't acquainted with Michael Selden, who will begin as the next Wayland city manager on Monday."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/fired_wayland_police_chief_say.html*

Meeting for Saugatuck, Douglas and Saugatuck Township merger rescheduled after 'unfair' meeting timing

"SAUGATUCK -- After getting flack from local councils on short notice of a public hearing on a consolidating the three municipalities here, the State Boundary Commission is rescheduling."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/meeting_for_saugatuck_douglas.html*

Late fees stress budget of unemployed Mason woman

*"**MASON** — Ever since losing her job last October, Lindsay Franklin has tried to make every cent count."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120421/COLUMNISTS12/304210029/Late-fees-stress-budget-unemployed-Mason-woman?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Ex-UAW leader 'Tiny' Sherwood remembered as caring

"The day before he died, his daughter said, Christen "Tiny" Sherwood had a disagreement about treatment protocol with staff at McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120421/NEWS01/304210027/Ex-UAW-leader-Tiny-Sherwood-remembered-caring?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Green builder plans $30M housing project in Royal Oak

"ROYAL OAK — The Oak Park-based Greenius Corp. will build a church and 160 four-bedroom townhouses with rooftop solar panels at the former Twain Elementary School site on Campbell Road near 14 Mile Road."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120420/NEWS01/120429986/green-builder-plans-30m-housing-project-in-royal-oak*

Local officials skeptical of Michigan biz tax cuts

"LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Republican lawmakers have long wanted to get rid of a tax on equipment they say is keeping manufacturers from hiring more workers."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/04/21/news/state/doc4f92a42ba43b8416090406.txt*

Royal Oak High School principal arraigned on embezzlement charges

"A Royal Oak high school principal was arraigned Friday on two counts of felony embezzlement."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/04/21/news/doc4f91ae36585f0710441981.txt*

Press Releases

Petition Drive Would Require Michigan Voters to Decide Bridge to Canada

"

Please see the attached news release with details on a statewide petition drive that would place a ballot issue before Michigan voters this November, which would require a vote of the people on any new, international bridge to be built between Canada and Michigan. Contact me for interview opportunities."

Source: *Detroit International Bridge Company* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334953394_DIBC1.pdf*

Committee Backs Saugatuck and Douglas Consolidation; Proposes Saugatuck Township Be Left Out

"

***DOUGLAS, MI (April 20,2012)** --Based upon new information, analysis, and further deliberation, the Consolidated Government Committee (CGC), a group of local citizens, is intending to recommend to the State Boundary Commission that the consolidation of the local governments in Douglas and Saugatuck move forward, but that Saugatuck Township not be included."*

Source: *Consolidated Government Committee* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334951263_Storey1.pdf*

Agricultural Leaders of Michigan Applaud 2012 Farm Bill Draft, Stabenow's Leadership

"

*EAST LANSING – **Agricultural Leaders of Michigan** hailed the draft of the 2012 Farm Bill released today and praised Sen. Debbie Stabenow for her leadership in crafting the proposal, which protects programs essential to agriculture, family farms, rural development and jobs. "*

Source: *Agricultural Leaders of Michigan* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334950703_ALFM2.pdf*

Department of Transportation Opens Bidding for Made-in-America Passenger Rail Cars

"

- Rail car manufacturers will have an opportunity to submit bids to produce the first American-made, standardized passenger rail cars."

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334949708_MDOT2.pdf*

Agricultural Leaders of Michigan Applaud 2012 Farm Bill Draft, Stabenow's Leadership

"

*EAST LANSING – **Agricultural Leaders of Michigan** hailed the draft of the 2012 Farm Bill released today and praised Sen. Debbie Stabenow for her leadership in crafting the proposal, which protects programs essential to agriculture, family farms, rural development and jobs."*

Source: *Agricultural Leaders of Michigan* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334949522_ALFM.pdf*

Major Training Exercise for the Michigan Fire Service Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

"

Scenario involving a simulated train derailment and simulated chlorine gas leak in downtown Holly MI to test Fire Service and Emergency Management response in an exercise at the Troy Police and Fire Training Center"

Source: *MI Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334947319_LARA1.pdf*

Reminder: MDP Presidential Caucuses Only Two Weeks Away

"

***LANSING** – The Michigan Democratic Party's Presidential Caucuses are just two weeks away on May 5, 2012."*

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334947283_MDP3.pdf*

MDP Chair Mark Brewer Issues Statement Celebrating Earth Day

"

***LANSING** –Michigan Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer issued the following statement in recognition of Earth Day this Sunday, April 22, 2012."*

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334945896_MDP2.pdf*

SNYDER MEDIA ADVISORY for Saturday, April 21 and Monday, April 23

"

Calley will offer remarks at the Michigan Shines for Autism gala. The event begins at 6 p.m."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334941835_GOV3.pdf*

Snyder makes appointments to Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointments of Jill Edwards-Sutton, of Mount Pleasant, Nancy Macfarlane, of Battle Creek, and Douglas J. Williams, of Clarkston, to the Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity. "

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334939846_Gov2.pdf*

Michigan Jobs Improve, Threat of Health Insurance Tax Deters Hiring

"

***WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 20, 2012)** – Today, the U.S. Department of Labor announced Michigan's unemployment rate fell to 8.5 percent in March. While this may be a slight indication that the economy is improving modestly, small business owners nationwide still worry that the costly, job-killing Health Insurance Tax (HIT) will threaten their successes."*

Source: *Stop The HIT Coalition* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334938963_STH1.pdf

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Romney's 'Deep Organization' in Michigan: Nobody Home

"

As general election begins to take shape, Romney campaign – true to form – substitutes campaign cash for non-existent grassroots organization"

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334937221_MDP1.pdf

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Spring workshops offer current research on status of Lake Huron fishery

"

The Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with Michigan Sea Grant, Michigan State University Extension, USGS Great Lakes Science Center and local fishery organizations, will be participating in three regional workshops this spring highlighting research and information about Lake Huron's fishery. "

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334936663_DNR2.pdf

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Calley signs bills to guarantee factual information in criminal investigations

"

LANSING, Mich. – Lt. Gov. Brian Calley today signed bills making it a crime to deliberately lie or conceal facts from a state or local police officer."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334936618_Gov1.pdf

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Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Awarded Prestigious LEED Gold Certification

"

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich, April 20, 2012 – Helen DeVos Children's Hospital recently received LEED Gold certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC's leading rating system for designing and constructing the world's greenest, most energy efficient, and high performing buildings. "

Source: *Spectrum Health* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334936599_Spectrum1.pdf

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The Truth about TransCanada's Tar Sands Pipeline and Rising Gas Prices: A Boon for Big Oil

"

In the Republican Weekly Address last weekend, U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) surprised no one by throwing his support behind the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline."

Source: *Sierra Club Michigan Chapter* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334930528_Sierra1.pdf

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Statement by Senator Patrick Colbeck on Committee Passage of 2012- 13 Michigan State Police Budget

"

Today the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously passed the 2012-13 Michigan State Police budget. I am grateful to my colleagues on the committee for their careful consideration of the budget and their continued support of the programs and services provided to the residents of Michigan by our law enforcement officers."

Source: *Sen. Patrick Colbeck* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334930193_Colbeck1.pdf

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Singh Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from MSU Student Government

"

LANSING – The Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) Alumni Foundation awarded Sam Singh, the former East Lansing Mayor and Democratic Candidate for State Representative in Michigan's 69th House District, a "Lifetime Achievement Award" this evening at the ASMSU weekly assembly meeting."

Source: *Sam Singh for State Representative* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334930125_Singh1.pdf

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Recent Michigan Court of Appeals Releases

"

The Michigan Court of Appeals released the following opinion(s) on 4/19/2012. "

Source: *Michigan Court of Appeals* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334930058_COA1.pdf

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Walberg Wrap-Up: Tax Edition

"

This year tax day, the deadline for filing your taxes, coincided with another lesser known date—Tax Freedom Day. It's the day Americans finally earned enough to pay all of our taxes for the year, taking us 107 days to do so."

Source: *U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334929908_Walberg1.pdf

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Citizens Urge Rep. Lund To Drop ALEC Voter Suppression Bills

"

LANSING - Michigan citizens are urging state Rep. Pete Lund (R-Shelby Township) to drop his membership with the controversial American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and reject a package of voter suppression bills. Engulfed in controversy and quickly losing corporate sponsors, ALEC recently announced they would be shutting down their Public Safety and Elections task force, the subcommittee that for years has quietly pushed voter suppression laws around the country."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334929872_Progress1.pdf

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MDOT says: Be aware of glare

"

***April 20, 2012** -- A motorist is making his morning trip to the office. As he turns east, the sun glare temporarily blinds him. Struggling to see, he reaches for his sunglasses and notices what appear to be brake lights on the vehicle in front of him. Hitting the brakes, it takes a couple nerve-wracking moments for him to realize nothing tragic happened, and he safely makes his way to work."*

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *04-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1334929587_MDOT1.pdf

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 7:41 AM
To: Michigan_HTML@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For April 24, 2012

News

- Woodward light-rail group to pay some operating costs, raises cost estimate (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Michigan lawmaker: Post university expenses online (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Michigan lawmakers set to tackle budget (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Petition goal: Make taxes tougher to hike (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Atlanta denied renewal of 4-day school week (Alpena News, 4/24/2012)
- Welcome center may come home (Port Huron Times Herald, 4/24/2012)
- Road commission under review (Battle Creek Enquirer, 4/24/2012)
- Protecting votes ... or preventing them? (Herald Palladium, 4/24/2012)
- Snyder rescinds order on services for blind people (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Snyder: Detroit needs more sense of urgency in financial crisis (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Detroit financial crisis: Bing's budget slashes $250M spending, more than 2,500 jobs (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Time to 'step it up' for improving Detroit, gov says (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Proposed Detroit budget would cut 2,566 jobs (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- UAW weighing GE protest (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Michigan's feral swine criteria creating a stink (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Snyder on Detroit crisis: More urgency needed (MLive, 4/24/2012)
- Concealed gun survey 'bought and paid for by a radical gun-control group' (MLive, 4/24/2012)
- Emergency manager's Flint budget proposal 'rough,' council member says (Flint Journal, 4/24/2012)
- Governor rescinds order that would abolish Commission for the Blind (MLive, 4/24/2012)
- Train has left the station' on Michigan business tax reform, cities grapple with replacing lost money (Grand Rapids Press, 4/24/2012)
- Kalamazoo River oil spill trial may end in settlement (Kalamazoo Gazette, 4/24/2012)
- Group wants to make it harder to raise Michigan taxes (Associated Press, 4/24/2012)
- Detroit mayor's budget plan includes 2,500 layoffs (Associated Press, 4/24/2012)

Editorials

- Jeff Immelt: Why GE chose Michigan (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Editorial: Referendum is newest ploy to stall public bridge (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Tom Walsh: 2 sides of Michigan's economy on public view this week (Detroit Free Press, 4/24/2012)
- Editorial: Deep budget cuts can be eased by reforms (Detroit News, 4/24/2012)
- Carl Levin: Congress must continue defending the Great Lakes (Port Huron Times Herald, 4/24/2012)
- Opinion: School districts must move forward (Lansing State Journal, 4/24/2012)

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 8:14 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

You are receiving the following headlines from various news sources and list of recent press releases received at MIRS as part of your paid subscription to MIRSnews.com If you do not wish to receive these e-mails, please go to your MIRSnews.com account preferences.

'Catastrophic cyberattack' on the horizon, Rogers warns (with video)

"Imagine a personal computer virus attacking and crippling entire financial, energy or electric grid digital networks."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120424/NEWS01/204240309/-Catastrophic-cyberattack-horizon-Rogers-warns-video-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Sheriff: Waterford Township could save $500,000 per year on dispatch if Oakland County takes over

"If the Oakland County Sheriff's Office took over fire and police dispatching services for Waterford Township, the savings would total approximately $500,000 annually over the next three years."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/04/24/news/local_news/doc4f95ffffa1e3f917922828.txt*

Army Corps releases final draft of options for aquatic nuisance controls

"Last week, the U.S. ArmyCorps of Engineersreleased the final draft of its inventory of available controls for aquatic nuisance species of concern, which includes Asian carp."

Source: *Petoskey News-Review* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/featured/pnr-the-us-army-corps-of-engineers-releases-its-final-draft-of-a-paper-outlining-various-controls-for-aquatic-nuisance-species-20120423,0,7614149.story*

Protecting votes ... or preventing them?

"

Michigan legislators are considering a raft of voter law changes

"

Source: *Herald Palladium (St. Joseph/Benton Harbor)* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.heraldpalladium.com/articles/2012/04/23/local_news/8967026.txt*

Supreme Court curbs home invasion rights of police

"The Michigan Supreme Court says people can resist police officers who unlawfully enter their homes."

Source: *Grand Haven Tribune* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.grandhaventribune.com/content/supreme-court-curbs-home-invasion-rights-police*

Bailey seeks Michigan House seat

"TRAVERSE CITY — The cost of a run for Congress halted whatever hopes northwest lower Michigan residents held for breaking the Upper Peninsula's stranglehold on the 1st Congressional District. "

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/local/x1199104419/Bailey-seeks-Michigan-House-seat*

Editorial: Get grip on deregulation kick

"Reducing the size and cost of government can be a good thing — when it's done right."

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/opinion/x1743178931/Editorial-Get-grip-on-deregulation-kick*

Plan would grow marijuana in former Michigan mine

*"**WHITE PINE, MICH.** — A Canadian biotechnology company wants to cultivate medical marijuana in a former copper mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula where it has been growing plants for more than a decade."*

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120423/NEWS01/304230017/Plan-would-grow-marijuana-former-Michigan-mine*

Woodward light-rail investors say most of the money to build is raised

"The private-sector group that wants to build a light-rail line on Woodward Avenue from downtown Detroit to New Center said Monday that it has raised most of the money it will need to build it -- and pledged to pay for the bulk of the cost of operating the system for the first 10 years."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120424/NEWS01/204240385/-1/7daysarchives/Woodward-light-rail-investors-say-most-money-build-raised

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Detroit bus riders fear new round of cuts will decimate servic

"Riders and transit advocates said Monday that they are not sure what they will do if Detroit keeps slashing its bus service, as the city proposes to do again by cutting another $12 million from its general-fund bus subsidy."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120424/NEWS01/204240379/Detroit-bus-riders-fear-new-round-cuts-will-decimate-service

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Snyder: Detroit needs more sense of urgency in financial crisis

"Every day Detroit doesn't take action to right its financial ship is a day the city continues to decline."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120424/NEWS06/204240381/Snyder-Detroit-needs-more-sense-urgency-financial-crisis

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Detroit financial crisis: Bing's budget slashes $250M spending, more than 2,500 jobs

"The City of Detroit's work force would be slashed by 25%, transportation and city lighting would be privatized and services to residents would be reduced under a budget proposal aimed at shaving $250 million off the city's 2012-13 budget."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120424/NEWS01/204240377/Detroit-financial-crisis-Bing-s-budget-slashes-36-250M-spending-more-than-2-500-jobs?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Michigan Amtrak routes to feature state-of-the-art cars in 2015 From The Detroit News: http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/METRO05/204240350#ixzz1sxPqOqVd

"Michigan's three Amtrak routes will get state-of-the-art, bi-level cars that will have wireless service, bicycle storage and more comfortable seats starting in 2015.
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/METRO05/204240350/1409/metro/Michigan-Amtrak-routes-feature-state-art-cars-2015

Governor rescinds order that would abolish Commission for the Blind

"Gov. Rick Snyder today rescinded an executive order that would have abolished the Commission for the Blind. He is working with advocacy groups on a new plan to reorganize state services for the blind and visually impaired, officials said."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/governor_rescinds_order_that_w.html

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Snyder, governors to focus on economic development in Omaha

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is headed to Nebraska on Tuesday to attend an economic development conference."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120423/BIZ/204230401/1022/politics/Snyder-governors-focus-economic-development-Omaha

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School districts around Michigan worry about impact of personal property tax repeal proposal

"Like many other Michigan public schools, the River Rouge School District is struggling to stay afloat."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/school_districts_around_michig.html

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Businesses would get a tax break and teachers would pay more for retirement as the Senate weighs new reforms

"Personal property tax debate heads to Senate"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/businness_would_get_another_ta.html

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Michigan lawmakers set to tackle budget

"Lansing— The state Legislature today is positioned to begin approving legislation completed last week by appropriations committees on budget bills that are generally thriftier than originally proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/POLITICS02/204240362/1022/politics/Michigan-lawmakers-set-tackle-budget

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Republican Majority Leader U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor: Silicon Valley has nothing on Midland

*"**MIDLAND, MI** — U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor, the Republican House majority leader from Virginia, compared the global reach of technology mecca Silicon Valley to Midland on Monday."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/midland/index.ssf/2012/04/republican_majority_leader_us_rep_eric_cantor_silicon_valley_has_nothing_on_midland.html

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Michigan lawmaker: Post university expenses online

"Michigan's 15 public universities would be required to publish online checkbooks detailing expenditures under a proposed constitutional amendment that will get its first vetting today in a House committee."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/POLITICS02/204240346/1022/politics/Michigan-lawmaker-Post-university-expenses-online

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Time to 'step it up' for improving Detroit, gov says

"Acknowledging major problems exist in Detroit, Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday called for more urgent action to save a city suffering a steady population decline."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/METRO/204240353/1022/politics/Time-step-up-improving-Detroit-gov-says

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Snyder on Detroit crisis: More urgency needed

"As the Detroit City Council deliberated today about a new proposed budget that suggests laying off more than 2,500 people, Gov. Rick Snyder called for more urgency and a collaborative effort to help solve the city's problems."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/04/snyder_answer_to_detroit_not_j.html

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Gov. Snyder to hold online town hall on Wednesday

*"Michigan residents are getting another chance to question Gov. Rick Snyder during an online town hall meeting.
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/POLITICS02/204240374/1361/Gov.-Snyder-to-hold-online-town-hall-on-Wednesday

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Michigan board of ed leaders: Teachers must innovate as they face 'fire hose of reform'

"EAST LANSING, MI -- Teachers today must feel like they are facing "a fire hose of reform that is knocking you down instead of lifting you up," but the work is needed to strengthen Michigan schools, state Board of Education President John Austin said."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/04/state_board_members_teachers_n.html

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Concealed gun survey 'bought and paid for by a radical gun-control group'

"A poll that found Michigan voters oppose allowing concealed handguns in schools and other places where they are now banned is "suspicious," said the spokesman for a lawmaker pushing the change."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/concealed_gun_survey_bought_an.html

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MDOT: 18 deaths among 4,600 crashes in Michigan work zones in 2011

"LANSING, MI — Eighteen people died in traffic crashes in road- and freeway work zones across the state last year, five fewer fatalities than in 2010, the Michigan Department of Transportation announced Monday."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/04/mdot_18_deaths_among_4600_cras.html

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Woodward light-rail group to pay some operating costs, raises cost estimate

"M-1 rail advocates say they will cover some operating expenses for up to 10 years of the planned 3.3-mile streetcar line up Woodward Avenue, which they now estimate will cost $137 million to build."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/METRO05/204240368/Woodward-light-rail-group-pay-some-operating-costs-raises-cost-estimate?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

'Train has left the station' on Michigan business tax reform, cities grapple with replacing lost money

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Grand Rapids City Manager Greg Sundstrom would happily give back every cent the municipality receives under an onerous business property tax that state lawmakers are working to repeal."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/train_has_left_the_station_on.html*

Residents speak out on emergency manager's budget plan to raise fees, cut public safety staff

"FLINT, MI -- Many Flint residents were outraged over emergency manager Michael Brown's budget presentation tonight, criticizing the proposed fee increases and public safety layoffs."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/resident_council_members_react.html*

Kalamazoo River oil spill trial may end in settlement

*"**BATTLE CREEK, MI** — The Kalamazoo River oil spill whistleblower lawsuit may end Tuesday with a settlement between SET Environmental Inc. and it's former employee John Bolenbaugh."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/04/kalamazoo_river_oil_spill_trai.html*

Obama, Romney agree on low loan rates for students

"President Barack Obama is stepping up calls on Congress to take action to stop interest rates on student loans from doubling, potentially raising costs for more than 300,000 Michiganians."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/POLITICS01/204240370/Obama-Romney-agree-low-loan-rates-students?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Proposed Detroit budget would cut 2,566 jobs

"Detroit— Nearly a quarter of the city work force would be eliminated, services would be slashed and departments would disappear under the detailed version of Mayor Dave Bing's proposed budget delivered Monday to the City Council."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/METRO/204240369/Proposed-Detroit-budget-would-cut-2-566-jobs?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Emergency manager's Flint budget proposal 'rough,' council member says

"FLINT, MI -- Flint city Councilman Bernard Lawler said the emergency manager's budget will overburden residents who can't afford to pay higher fees for water, waste collection and street lights."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/04/flint_budget_proposal_rough_co.html

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White House honors Clarkston High, Detroit Edison Academy

"CLARKSTON, Mich. — Clarkston High School and Detroit Edison Public School Academy are among 78 first-ever U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/04/white_house_honors_clarkston_h.html

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Michigan's feral swine criteria creating a stink

"Enforcement by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to ensure no game preserves or farms in the state possess invasive feral swine has been met with heavy criticism from those inspected."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120424/METRO/204240365/Michigan-s-feral-swine-criteria-creating-stink?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Group wants to make it harder to raise Michigan taxes

"An anti-tax group says it's begun collecting signatures to let Michigan voters decide in November if a supermajority vote should be needed to raise state taxes."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/group_wants_to_make_it_harder.html

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Corps expands list of options for stopping carp

"TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has added three options to list of possible measures for preventing Asian carp and other invasive species from migrating between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2012/04/corps_expands_list_of_options.html

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Tim Skubick: Next time a pothole blows your tire, curse the Legislature

"Big doings in the state Senate this week."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/04/tim_skubick_roads_revenue_rand.html

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Atlanta denied renewal of 4-day school week

"ATLANTA - After dealing with a variety of federal and state non-compliance issues, the state of Michigan has decided to deny Atlanta Community Schools' request to renew its four-day school week for the 2012-13 school year."

Source: *Alpena News* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.thealpenanews.com/page/content.detail/id/521187/Atlanta-denied-renewal-of-4-day-school-week.html?nav=5004

Press Releases

Daniel White named to Monroe County's 38th Circuit Court

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointment of Daniel White, of Monroe, to the 38th Circuit Court in Monroe County. The appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Joseph A. Costello Jr."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335214014_Gov3.pdf

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Governor, advocates for the blind working to enhance delivery of services

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today rescinded a recent executive order that would have transferred and reconfigured responsibilities of the Michigan Commission for the Blind and Michigan Rehabilitation Services, as he works with advocates to ensure the best possible service for residents who are blind or visually impaired."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335210899_Gov2.pdf

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Michigan DNR honors communities, utilities and campuses with Tree USA program designations

"

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Arbor Day Foundation today announced that 121 Michigan communities have received the "Tree City USA" designation for their promotion of community forestry during 2011. Communities are certified for work accomplished in 2011 and will be presented with their awards materials to coincide with Arbor Week in Michigan (April 22-28)."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335209673_DNR2.pdf

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McLaren Health Plan expands sales team

"

FLINT, Mich. *– McLaren Health Plan welcomes Ron Russman, Patricia Schulte and Jim McCloy to the growing sales team."*

Source: *McLaren Health Plan* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335209561_McLaren1.pdf

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Brown Should Reject Houston Endorsement over Tea Party Comments/Campaign Finance Violations

"

Today Oakland County Clerk Bill Bullard Jr. called on Democratic candidate for Clerk Rep. Lisa Brown to reject the recent endorsement she received from Oakland County Democratic Party Chair Frank Houston."

Source: *Bill Bullard for Oakland County Clerk* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335209523_Bullard1.pdf

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SBM Young Lawyers Section to Host "Think Fast! Boot Camp for New Lawyers" on May 12 in Ferndale

"

The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section will host a workshop called "Think Fast! Boot Camp for New Lawyers" at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 12 at Go Comedy! Improv Theatre, located at 261 E. Nine Mile Rd. in Ferndale."

Source: *State Bar of Michigan* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335206274_SBM1.pdf

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First-of-its-kind study reveals per-child savings to taxpayers of early education programs

"

News conference releasing "Detroit's One-Child School Readiness Dividend," the first study to quantify the per-child savings to taxpayers of preparing Detroit's young children for success in school. "

Source: *Truscott Rossman* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335206252_TR1.pdf

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Call-in webinar Wednesday to release Michigan road, public transportation survey results

"

Lansing, MI -- A new survey of Michigan voters shows a solid understanding of the connection between public transportation and economic vitality, and indicates residents of different political persuasions are willing to pay more for improvements and upgrades. The survey's findings will be released in a media call-in/webinar this Wednesday."

Source: *Michigan Environmental Council* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335203560_MEC1.pdf

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Voting Rights Advocates to Take Aim at Bills that Create Obstacles for MI Citizens

"

*LANSING – Advocacy groups including the **Michigan League of Women Voters**, **Common Cause**, **Project Vote**, **A. Philip Randolph Institute** and others will hold a press conference on Tuesday, April 24, in the Michigan Capitol to denounce a package of bills that will make it more difficult for Michigan voters to cast their ballots."*

Source: *Project Vote* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335201613_Progress1.pdf

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Voting Begins in the $10,000 #mi2020 Scholarship Competition

"

Lansing – Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer announced today that voting has begun to choose the $10,000 winner of the #mi2020 Scholarship Competition. Since the competition's announcement, it has received an overwhelming response from high school seniors all across Michigan and the 55 semi-finalists are now available online at www.mi2020video.com."

Source: *Senate Democrats* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335196275_Senate2.pdf

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Republican Liberty Caucus of Michigan's 2012 Convention!

"

This is an election year and we have several excellent candidates running for different offices from districts all across our Great State of Michigan. This convention will be an opportunity for them to present themselves and for us to get to know them. It promises to be very a successful convention!"

Source: *Republican Liberty Caucus* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335195046_Rep1.pdf

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STATE SENATORS PLAN URBAN FARMING TOUR OF DETROIT

"

On Friday, April 27, 2012, State Senators Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) and Joe Hune (R-Livingston County) will be hosting a tour of urban agricultural sites throughout Detroit. "

Source: *Sen. Virgil Smith* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335194909_Senate1.pdf

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Report Shows Lower Costs in Medicare Due to the Affordable Care Act

"

Don't miss a new report out today which finds that the Affordable Care Act will save the Medicare program over $200 billion through 2016. Additionally, people with Medicare will save nearly $60 billion thanks to the new health care law. Details below."

Source: *Know Your Care* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335194286_KYC1.pdf

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Census Bureau News -- Tip Sheet #8

"

See email below for information on recent and upcoming data releases from the Census Bureau."

Source: *MI Department of Technology, Management & Budget* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335194244_DTMB1.pdf*

Aerial pesticide applicators to demo skill during "Operation SAFE Fly-in"

"

Members of the media are invited to witness "Operation SAFE Fly-in" performed by Michigan's skilled aerial pesticide applicators. Conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD), inspectors will examine the precision, safety, and security of the pesticide spray systems of both planes and helicopters."

Source: *MI Department of Agriculture & Rural Development* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335194183_MDA1.pdf*

MDOT releases 2011 crash data and promotes safety during National Work Zone Awareness Week

"

***April 23, 2012** -- While the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities in road construction work zone crashes in Michigan were down from the year before, 2011 statistics released today by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) indicate that workers, motorists and their passengers are still at risk."*

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335194122_MDOT1.pdf*

Michigan Families Reject For-Profit Cyber Schools

"

In Lansing on Wednesday, Michigan working people will gather to call on legislators to vote against Senate Bill 619 – a plan to expand so-called 'cyber schools' in the state which would profit American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) members like K12, Inc. and harm our students and teachers. "

Source: *AFL-CIO* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335193952_AFL1.pdf*

ADVISORY: Sam Singh to Host Official Campaign Kickoff

"

EAST LANSING – Sam Singh, the former Mayor of East Lansing, will formally kickoff his campaign for State Representative in Michigan's 69th House District on Wednesday, April 25, 10:30 AM in room 114 at Lansing Community College's East Campus, 2827 Eyde Parkway in East Lansing."

Source: *Sam Singh for State Representative* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335193870_Singh1.pdf*

Michigan Homeowners Can Save Big With New Consumers Energy Home Energy Analys

"

JACKSON, Mich., April 23, 2012 -- Consumers Energy is helping customers save money and improve energy efficiency with its new Home Energy Analysis Program. The analysis provides homeowners with a review of their home's essential heating and cooling systems, as well as current energy usage. "

Source: *Consumer's Energy* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335193787_CE1.pdf*

SNYDER MEDIA ADVISORY for Monday, April 23

"

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will offer remarks at the Governor's Education Summit."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335193651_Gov1.pdf*

MABAS Intra-Regional Fire Services Exercise Tests Michigan's Regional Disaster Response Readiness

"

April 21, 2012 - *Hazardous material response teams from Oakland and Livingston counties along with the Oakland County Incident Management team assembled at the Troy Police and Fire Training Center at 9:00 a.m today to respond to a simulated train derailment and release of chlorine gas in downtown Holly, and to demonstrate emergency response readiness in time of disaster. "*

Source: *MI Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335191659_LARA1.pdf*

Brian David Hensley Announces His Candidacy for the State Legislature

"

Estral Beach, MI - Brian David Hensley, a Democratic candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives (17th district) announced publicly his candidacy via his website. "

Source: *Brian David Hensley for State Representative* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335191613_Hensley .pdf*

Portion of Fred Meijer White Pine Trail closed due to heavy rains

"

Following recent heavy rains, a small section of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park was closed Tuesday in Mecosta County due to a culvert washout."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *04-24-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1335191542_DNR1.pdf*

GroupWise Users Note: If an underlined link does not work, highlight the entire link, then right-click on it and select "Go to".

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2012 8:12 AM
To: Michigan_HTML@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For April 26, 2012

News

- Michigan lawmakers study natural gas fracking oversight (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- U-M stem-cell line gets national registry go-ahead (Detroit Free Press, 4/26/2012)
- City, county to further pursue cost savings (Alpena News, 4/26/2012)
- Fire merger talks simmer (Port Huron Times Herald, 4/26/2012)
- Lansing-area districts weigh options to trim busing budgets (Lansing State Journal, 4/26/2012)
- Emergency manager repeal issue appears headed for ballot (Associated Press, 4/26/2012)
- State Board of Canvassers could decide today whether repeal of emergency manager law will be put on November ballots (Detroit Free Press, 4/26/2012)
- Second group rates schools average (Battle Creek Enquirer, 4/26/2012)
- Legislators wary about recovery propose big cuts for state prison system (Detroit Free Press, 4/26/2012)
- Rating agency skeptical of Detroit-state consent deal (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- Board may put EM law on ballot (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- Newt Gingrich ends campaign, Grand Rapids supporters will 'get behind' Mitt Romney (Grand Rapids Press, 4/26/2012)
- Gov. Rick Snyder calls for overhauling Michigan school funding system, but not this year (MLive, 4/26/2012)
- Michigan Senate Democrats: GOP school budget puts 'corporate greed over kids in need' (MLive, 4/26/2012)
- Flint emergency manager imposes contract changes, orders city budget ahead of Public Act 4 challenge (Flint Journal, 4/26/2012)
- Group wants stricter tax-hike rules (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 4/26/2012)
- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder talks state fair, transit during town hall (Associated Press, 4/26/2012)

Editorials

- Commentary: The final word on 'wild hog' legislation (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- Editorial: State licenses shouldn't squelch entrepreneurs (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- Brian Dickerson: Little Leo's lemonade ordeal yields legislative fix (Detroit Free Press, 4/26/2012)
- Guest commentary: Communities, schools can't afford this business tax plan (Detroit Free Press, 4/26/2012)
- Voter ID card attitudes often inconsistent (Marquette Mining Journal , 4/26/2012)
- DAVE LING: Personal property tax cuts will hurt you (Mount Pleasant Morning Sun, 4/26/2012)
- November ballot could be quagmire (Port Huron Times Herald, 4/26/2012)
- Column: Who do lawmakers represent? (Battle Creek Enquirer, 4/25/2012)

- Editorial: House GOP's rush makes immediate insult to Michigan's Constitution (Detroit Free Press, 4/26/2012)
- Tom Watkins — Beyond autism: It's time for full mental health parity (Holland Sentinel, 4/26/2012)
- Editorial: Keep best practices in budget (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- Preschool a 'no-brainer' for kids and taxpayers (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- OUR VIEW — Tax repeal must come with a real guarantee (Holland Sentinel, 4/26/2012)
- Nolan Finley: Want to save Detroit? Help tear it down (Detroit News, 4/26/2012)
- Phil Power: System produces best democracy money can buy (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 4/26/2012)
- Michigan needs new bridge project (Lansing State Journal, 4/26/2012)
- EDITORIAL: Is Pontiac ready to govern itself? (Oakland Press, 4/26/2012)

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 9:08 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Poli-Bites Secretary of State dons helmet, proper gear on hog

"Secretary of State Ruth Johnson donned her leather jacket last week and rode her Harley-Davidson Sportster with a group of bikers near Grand Rapids to call attention to May as Motorcycle Safety Month in Michigan."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120506/COL05/205060473/Poli-Bites-Secretary-of-State-dons-helmet-proper-gear-on-hog*

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2 Michigan school districts edge closer to consolidation

"Every morning for the last school year, Darian Smith and Johnathon Compau have hopped on a school bus that takes them from Willow Run High School to Ypsilanti High School -- a 4.5-mile trek that became necessary when the two schools merged their Air Force JROTC programs."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120506/NEWS06/205060501/School-districts-edge-closer-to-consolidation?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Rochelle Riley: Bit of good news doesn't solve the Big Problem in Detroit

"Pictures are worth a thousand words."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120506/COL10/205060505/Rochelle-Riley-Bit-of-good-news-doesn-t-solve-the-Big-Problem-in-Detroit?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Turkia Awada Mullin doubles amount she says nonprofit paid her to $150,000

"Turkia Awada Mullin had only one Cadillac, but she had two monthly car allowances to pay for it."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120506/NEWS02/205060545/Turkia-Awada-Mullin-doubles-amount-she-says-nonprofit-paid-her-to-36-150-000?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

51st state? Yoopers are talking up secession from Michigan again

"Would it be called the State of Northern Michigan? How about the State of Superior?"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120506/NEWS06/205060541/51st-state-Yoopers-are-talking-up-secession-from-Michigan-again?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Experts say Detroit bankruptcy still a possibility

"Detroit —Some experts contend bankruptcy still is possible for Detroit, despite a recently signed agreement with the state to financially restructure the city.
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120506/METRO01/205060310#ixzz1u5xIvAM4

Tragedies ratchet up urgency to stop bullying

"Back in March, I received a handwritten letter at work with no return address. The letter said that a student at a local high school had committed suicide the previous Friday night. "Rumor has it that he was being bullied by a kid," the letter read. The letter named the student who died and the alleged bully who went to a different school. It ended with: "The kids want someone to know and to do something. They don't think administration will."
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120504/OPINION03/205040312#ixzz1u5x8j3Rz

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AP surges as tool for schools raising standards

"Not long ago, Advanced Placement exams were mostly for top students looking to challenge themselves and get a head start on college credit. Not anymore."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/05/ap_surges_as_tool_for_schools.html

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The cost of consent: State could end up paying full salaries for new Detroit appointees

"he State of Michigan could be on the hook for hundreds of thousands of dollars in salaries for new appointees mandated by its recent consent agreement with the City of Detroit."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/05/the_cost_of_consent_state_coul.html

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Activist accused of stalking Detroit researcher

"DETROIT — A Florida animal-rights activist has been charged with stalking a Detroit researcher who works with dogs and had obtained a personal protection order against her."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/05/activist_accused_of_stalking_d.html#incart_hbx

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Flint water rate hikes lead to influx of well drilling inquiries

"FLINT, MI -- The latest in a series of water and sewer rate hikes in Flint has more residents asking about well drilling in the city."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/05/drill_baby_drill_flint_water_r.html

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Local groups to throw free party for young children to celebrate their star status in the community

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Several local groups are teaming up to throw a free community party Tuesday for children age five and younger to highlight their star status in the area."

Source: *Grand Rapids Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/local_groups_to_throw_free_par.html*

Fourth Gerald Ford graffiti image found on river side of DeVos Place in Grand Rapids

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI — The rogue Gerald R. Ford artist has struck again."

Source: *Grand Rapids Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/fourth_gerald_ford_graffiti_im.html*

Anti-tax group to help residents in two Kent County cities break free from Rapid bus system

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – A tax hike passed last year to pay for the expansion of Kent County's regional bus system, including the Silverline route that won't enter either Grandville or Walker, has spurred a petition to drop out of the Interurban Transit Partnership."

Source: *Grand Rapids Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/anti-tax_group_to_help_residen.html*

Why proposal to eliminate Michigan's personal property tax may be a job killer

"Supporters claim eliminating property taxes on computers, copy machines, machinery and other equipment businesses buy would create jobs and boost the economy."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/why_proposal_to_eliminate_mich.html

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Students mistakenly kicked out of Eastern Michigan University

*"**YPSILANTI** — A Michigan university is apologizing after an email intended for 100 students with bad grades instead went to many more, telling them they had been kicked out of school."*

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/viewart/20120505/NEWS01/305050024/Students-mistakenly-kicked-out-Eastern-Michigan-University?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

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Gov. Rick Snyder speaks at Albion College

*"**ALBION** — Most commencement speakers at a college graduation will be one of a few types of person. They might be businessmen and women, politicians or people from the area who have gone on to big things."*

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120505/NEWS01/305050014/Gov-Rick-Snyder-speaks-Albion-College?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

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New law changes school board elections, terms

"Arguably, what is most notable about this Tuesday's ballot is what isn't there."

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120505/NEWS01/305060002/New-law-changes-school-board-elections-terms?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFrontpage&nclick_check=1

MSU graduation rates increase, race gap persists

"No one said the series of racial incidents at Michigan State University last fall was anything out of the ordinary, not the shouted slurs, the racist scrawls on black students' doors, the graffiti in the residence halls."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/proart/20120506/news06/305060104/msu-graduation-rates-increase-race-gap-persists?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|frontpage&pagerestricted=1*

Bloomfield Hills voters to decide on $58M high school bond issue that could renovate Andover High School WITH VIDEO

"Voters in the Bloomfield Hills School District will vote Tuesday on an issue that has embroiled residents in debate for months — and some might argue for years."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/05/06/news/local_news/doc4fa59931448a1592723823.txt*

$20M school bond issue that includes remodeling and possibly an iPad for every student at forefront in Clarkston WITH VIDEO

"Residents within the Clarkston School District will have a decision to make on Tuesday, May 8 — whether to support the $20 million school bond proposal."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/05/06/news/local_news/doc4fa597974936c103799731.txt*

Lake Angelus resident on a mission to improve Michigan's roads WITH VIDEO

"Jim Shea has spent 39 years in the highway construction business. He's owner of P.K. Contracting in Troy, a highway painting and pavement marking company."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/05/06/news/doc4fa3e9dd52789631950725.txt*

Warren assessment appeals board under state review

"Warren's Board of Review is under review by the Michigan Department of Treasury."

Source: *Macomb Daily* **Date:** *05-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.macombdaily.com/article/20120505/NEWS01/120509638/warren-assessment-appeals-board-under-state-review*

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 7:56 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Mich. prisoner faces Social Security fraud charge

*"**GRAND RAPIDS** — A 77-year-old West Michigan man who was days away from completing a prison sentence is facing a new criminal case for Social Security fraud."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/viewart/20120510/NEWS01/305100049/Mich-prisoner-faces-Social-Security-fraud-charge?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Gov. Rick Snyder says Michigan doing better, must do more at Tulip Time Festival Luncheon

"

Holland —
Unemployment is down; personal income is up."
Source: *Holland Sentinel* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x1310208093/Gov-Rick-Snyder-says-Michigan-doing-better-must-do-more-at-Tulip-Time-Festival-Luncheon*

$120K salary already has opposition

"TRAVERSE CITY — A proposal to give the new Grand Traverse County administrator a three-year contract starting at $120,000 a year will run into some stiff opposition."

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/local/x610438086/-120K-salary-already-has-opposition*

Mich. reactions mixed on Obama gay marriage stand

"A labor activist who supports gay marriage said she was "doing the touchdown dance" in her Lansing law office after President Barack Obama declared his support for gay marriage."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.grandhaventribune.com/content/mich-reactions-mixed-obama-gay-marriage-stand*

Hostess warns of 380 possible layoffs in Michigan

"Wholesale baking company Hostess Brands Inc. has notified state officials that it may have to lay off about 380 workers in Michigan as part of its plan to get out of bankruptcy."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120510/BUSINESS06/120510007/-1/7daysarchives/Hostess-warns-380-possible-layoffs-Michigan*

State is making changes to add clarity to school ratings system

"Parents would get clearer information about the quality of schools under a change state officials are making to revamp the school report card system."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120510/NEWS05/205100539/-1/7daysarchives/State-making-changes-add-clarity-school-ratings-system*

Government accuses Kwame Kilpatrick of accepting lavish gifts from pension investment adviser

"First it was the text message scandal, followed by state charges. Then came the federal indictment."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120510/NEWS01/205100589/-1/7daysarchives/Government-accuses-Kwame-Kilpatrick-accepting-lavish-gifts-from-pension-investment-adviser*

Urban farms, gardens, reforestation all part of Detroit Works vision for remaking city

"Faced with growing vacancy in the city, Mayor Dave Bing's Detroit Works long-term planning team is moving closer to recommending a set of diverse options for remaking Detroit's neighborhoods."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120508/BUSINESS06/205080378/Urban-farms-gardens-reforestation-all-part-Detroit-Works-vision-remaking-city*

Detroit violations notices call for homeowners to get up to code -- now

"The violations notices began arriving in mid-April: City of Detroit inspectors had been in a southwest neighborhood scoping out blight, and now homeowners were on the hook to make costly improvements and repairs."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120510/NEWS01/205100546/Detroit-violations-notices-put-homeowners-in-a-bind?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Advocates attack blight by salvaging building material

"Detroit— James Willer has a simple approach to blight: Re-use before you raze."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120510/METRO/205100398/1409/metro/Advocates-attack-blight-by-salvaging-building-material

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Walling: Flint emergency manager reforms 'fallen short' of revenue reductions

"FLINT, MI -- Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said revisions to Michigan's tax code are needed to help struggling cities such as Flint rebound and contribute to a statewide recovery, he says in a guest column in Bridge Magazine."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/05/walling_flint_emergency_manage.html

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Push to close Michigan's three juvenile reformatories sparks debate: Safety versus savings?

"Michigan's three juvenile reformatories – which house some of the state's most serious teen offenders – will be shut down next year if legislative backers get their way."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/05/push_to_clode_michigans_juveni.html

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Amid cuts, millage sought to hire Detroit police officers From

"Detroit — The Board of Police Commissioners is expected to press the City Council today to seek a millage request in November to raise $56 million to hire more public safety officers as the city struggles with budget cuts and rising crime."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120510/METRO01/205100400/1409/metro/Amid-cuts-millage-sought-hire-Detroit-police-officers

Martin likely to be named Detroit CFO

"Detroit— Jack Martin, emergency manager for Highland Park schools, today is expected to be named chief financial officer in Detroit, sources close to the situation told The Detroit News on Wednesday."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120510/METRO01/205100406/1409/metro/Martin-likely-named-Detroit-CFO

Detroit gained second-most manufacturing jobs in U.S.; auto workers paid $21,000 above industry average

"DETROIT, MI- Manufacturing in Metro Detroit has grown in the past two years more than almost every major metropolitan area in the U.S., according to a report today from the Brookings Institution."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/business/detroit/index.ssf/2012/05/detroit_manufacturing_jobs_inc.html

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Rep. Earl Poleski unhappy state might lease more office space even as report says it has too much already

"State Rep. Earl Poleski is not pleased that the state is considering renting more office space as a committee he chairs works to reduce its office space, according to a Detroit Free Press report."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/05/rep_earl_poleski_unhappy_state.html

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Forgotten Harvest becomes nation's top food rescue operation

"Susan Goodell, the CEO of food rescue charity Forgotten Harvest, was on the hunt for a partner in food — a company with heft on the manufacturing side, like ConAgra, the Omaha, Neb.-based food conglomerate."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120510/OPINION03/205100404/Forgotten-Harvest-becomes-nation-s-top-food-rescue-operation?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Why McDonald's is launching a marketing campaign to showcase their $237 million in Michigan spending

"CHESTER TOWNSHIP, MI — Fast food Goliath McDonald's buys a lot of product in Michigan and they want to make sure you know all about it."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/05/why_mcdonalds_is_launching_a_m.html

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Medical marijuana law no defense in federal court, prosecutor in Grand Rapids says

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – If anyone thought the state medical marijuana law provided protection against federal charges, a recent filing in U.S. District Court should dispel any such notion, as far as federal prosecutors are concerned."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/michigan_medical_marijuana_law.html*

Michigan's emergency manager opponents try to revive their effort in court

"A coalition that wants to repeal Michigan's law giving more power to state-appointed emergency managers is headed to court to try and revive its stalled effort."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/05/michigans_emergency_manager_op.html

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Southwest Michigan Politics: How similar is the Dick Lugar Indiana Senate primary to the Fred Upton - Jack Hoogendyk race?

"It's Wednesday, and you're at Southwest Michigan Politics, a collection of all things happening on the political scene in the 6th District and all state and local districts within it."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/05/southwest_michigan_politics_ho.html

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Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero to GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney: You weren't auto industry's hero, you were the enemy

"LANSING, MI – Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero took to the cable news television circuit again Tuesday, blasting GOP Presidential candidate Mitt Romney for taking credit for the resurgence of the domestic automobile industry."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2012/05/lansing_mayor_virg_bernero_to_1.html*

Press Releases

It's just not right

"

Senate Republicans are preventing the Senate from even debating legislation to fix the looming increase in student loan interest rates. It's just not right."

Source: *U.S. Sen. Carl Levin* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336596980_Levin.pdf

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Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative gaining momentum

"

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today applauded the Lake Hudson Pheasant Cooperative (LHPC) for its efforts in building a coalition of landowners and others committed to restoring pheasant habitat and revitalizing pheasant hunting in Michigan."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336596936_DNR3.pdf

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Highlights from the House: Jobs Report Shows Minimal Growth

"

The jobs report released last week showed the economy added just 115,000 jobs last month, with a jobless rate of 8.1 percent. "

Source: *U.S. Rep. Dave Camp* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336590757_Camp1.pdf

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Portion of the Denton Creek ORV Trail will be temporarily closed for bridge replacement

"

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials announced today that a portion of the Denton Creek Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail, located in Roscommon County south of Houghton Lake, will be temporarily closed due to a bridge replacement project. "

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336590281_DNR2.pdf

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Vigil for Deportation Relief for Gustavo Vargas

"

[Detroit]- The Alliance for Immigrant Rights and Reform- Michigan will host a vigil for Gustavo Vargas and his family. Vargas' is deportation is imminent."

Source: *Michigan Immigration Reform* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336590242_MIR1.pdf*

Spring-Board Seminar to Focus on the "ABCs" of Agency Practice

"

The State Bar of Michigan Labor and Employment Law Section will host its annual Spring-Board seminar at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 7, 2012 at The Reserve at Big Rock Chop House, located at 245 S. Eton St. in Birmingham."

Source: *State Bar of Michigan* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336589179_SBM1.pdf*

MSP Multi-State Effort Focuses on Drug Trafficking and Impaired Driving

"

LANSING. Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers joined forces with state troopers from Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Indiana last week to combat drug trafficking and impaired driving on Interstates 70 and 75. The three-day effort, on May 3 – 5, resulted in 78 arrests for impaired driving and 40 criminal cases across the six states."

Source: *Michigan State Police* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336587463_MSP1.pdf*

Businesswoman Karen Jacobsen, Republican Candidate, Files Petitions for Michigan's New 12th District

"

(Lansing, MI)……Today Businesswoman and Accountant Karen Jacobsen submitted petition signatures to the Secretary of State in Lansing for Michigan's 12th U.S. Congressional District."

Source: *Karen Jacobsen For U.S. Representative* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336587417_Jacobson1.pdf*

Kate Mortensen Files for Ingham County Register of Deeds

"

***LANSING, Mich.** – Kate Mortensen has officially entered the race for Ingham County Register of Deeds."*

Source: *Advantage Associates* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336587366_AA1.pdf

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***MEDIA ADVISORY* Mothering Justice Announces it's MAMAS' AGENDA**

"

In honor of Mothers Day this Sunday, the mother's advocacy organization "Mothering Justice" will be hosting a press conference to announce it's "Mamas' Agenda." This set of bills aims to provide more economic opportunities for workings moms and giving middle class families needed support."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336583894_Progress2.pdf

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Sexual Abuse Charges at Private Firm Lobbying for Michigan Prison; Coalition Files FOIA Request

"

GEO, lobbying to re-open shuttered Michigan facility, also hit with $1.4 million in fines and penalties for understaffing in New Mexico"

Source: *We Are the People Coalition* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336583848_WTPM1.pdf

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Mothering Justice Announces "Mamas' Agenda"

"

*Who: **Danielle Atkinson** from Mothering Justice, a nonprofit focused on improving families in Michigan, **Nayyirah Shariff**, a Flint mother who supports these bills, along with State Representatives: **Rashida Tlaib** (D-Detroit), **Jim Ananich** (D- Flint), **Dian Slavens** (D-Canton) and **Vicki Barnett** (D-Farmington Hills). "*

Source: *Rep. Jim Ananich* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336583741_Ananich1.pdf

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Alba Teen to Compete in National Poetry Out Loud Championship

"

LANSING – Randi Laundré, a sophomore at Alba Public School, will compete in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition on May 14 in Washington, D.C., for her chance to win a $20,000 college scholarship. "

Source: *Michigan Humanities Council* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336580656_MHC1.pdf

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Michigan Summit Organizers Announce Keynote Speakers

"

EAST LANSING, Mich.- Barbara R. Arnwine and George Goehl will speak at the Michigan Summit. Community activists from all over the state,are gathering for the Michigan Summit on May 12th at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing to focus on key issues and help spark change in Michigan."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336580614_Progress1.pdf

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MDOT puts "Share the Road" bicycling safety message video on YouTub

"

May 9, 2012 *-- To promote safety during National Bike Month, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) reminds drivers to stay alert, share the road safely, and be aware of all roadway users, including bicyclists."*

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336578472_MDOT2.pdf

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Bauer and Whitmer to Host State Basketball Champs

"LANSING -- On Wednesday, May 9th, State Representative ***Joan Bauer*** *(D-Lansing) and State Senator* ***Gretchen Whitmer*** *(D-East Lansing) are hosting a reception at the Capitol to honor the Sexton High School Boys Basketball Team, this year's Class B Boys Basketball Champions. Bauer and Whitmer will be introducing the team to the House and Senate during session. "*

Source: *Rep. Joan Bauer* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336578436_Bauer1.pdf

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Enjoy Michigan's 'Summer Free Fishing Weekend' June 9-10

"

The Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone the annual Summer Free Fishing Weekend is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10. On that weekend, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336576933_DNR1.pdf*

Major MI manufacturers, businesses release energy efficiency jobs report

"

LANSING (May 9, 2012) – Michigan companies in the advanced and renewable energy sector today announced the release of a benchmark study on the economic and jobs impact of residential and commercial energy efficiency products in Michigan."

Source: *Energy Innovation Business Council* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336576892_EIBC1.pdf*

Recent Michigan Court of Appeals Releases

"

The Michigan Court of Appeals released the following opinion(s) on 5/8/2012. "

Source: *Michigan Court of Appeals* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573635_COA1.pdf*

Flexible Building Code Cycle Legislation Gaining Widespread Support

" (Lansing, MI) – A broad-based coalition of groups is lining up in support of legislation that will give state regulators more flexibility in updating Michigan's Building Construction Code. "

Source: *Michigan Association of Homebuilders* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573599_MAHB1.pdf*

NEWS RELEASE: Snyder makes appointments

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointments of Cynthia Allen, of Parma, and William Perrone, of East Lansing, to the Correctional Officers Training Council. "

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573556_Gov2.pdf

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Electronic signatures to save MDOT $2.2 million a yea

"

***May 9, 2012 --** The use of digitally encrypted electronic signatures (E-sign) is saving time and money for construction contractors and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and making the department greener as well. E-sign will save MDOT an estimated $2.2 million annually and reduce paper use by 7.4 million pieces a year. Future savings will be even greater. "*

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573523_MDOT1.pdf

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SNYDER MEDIA ADVISORY for Wednesday, May 9

"

Gov. Rick Snyder will offer remarks at the 2012 McDonald's "Made in Michigan" event."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573458_Gov1.pdf

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Gov.Snyder/Republican Party Tax Hikes on Senior Pensions & Homes Are Illegal

"

How 400,000 Michigan Retirees and Senior Citizens can fight back for being illegally targeted by Gov. Rick Snyder and majority Republican legislators with $613 million in new annual tax hikes on their Pensions and Family Homes starting this year."

Source: *Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573424_Taypayers.pdf

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Democrats Fight to Protect All Victims of Domestic Violence

"

House Judiciary Committee Democrats oppose Republican bill to roll back existing protections for immigrant women and omits protections for vulnerable communities included in Senate passed bipartisan bill "

Source: *House Democrats* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573375_House1.pdf

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McCotter Joins Peters to fight for American Jobs and against Predatory Trade Practices

"

Washington, D.C. *- Today, U.S. Representative Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11) is the lead Republican sponsor on his colleague Gary Peters (MI-09) bipartisan amendment to fully fund the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center (ITEC). "*

Source: *U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573333_Mccotter1.pdf

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David Wolkinson Announces Plan to Eliminate Michigan's Corporate Income Tax

"This morning, the Detroit News printed Wolkinson's editorial on eliminating state corporate income taxes on businesses in Michigan. "

Source: *David Wolkinson for State Representative* **Date:** *05-10-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1336573272_Wolkinson.pdf

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PO Box 19303
Lansing, MI 48915

Phone 517-482-2125 Fax 517-374-0949
www.mirsnews.com

From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 7:25 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

You are receiving the following headlines from various news sources and list of recent press releases received at MIRS as part of your paid subscription to MIRSnews.com If you do not wish to receive these e-mails, please go to your MIRSnews.com account preferences.

Occupy Lansing protesters receive tickets for violating city ordinance

"Two Occupy Lansing protesters were ticketed early Sunday for violating a city ordinance that prohibits use of the parks after 10 p.m."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120514/NEWS01/305140028/Occupy-Lansing-protesters-receive-tickets-violating-city-ordinance*

Schools' retirement system under scrutiny

"TRAVERSE CITY — State Republican leaders are backing off some proposed changes to school employees' retirement system after hearing concerns that new rules could prompt a mass exodus of teachers."

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/local/x610439046/Schools-retirement-system-under-scrutiny*

Dem, GOP bills aim to hurt other party

"Washington — Congress is producing little this election year that will become law, yet both parties are churning out bills designed to make the other side look bad."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/POLITICS03/205140329/1022/POLITICS/Dem-GOP-bills-aim-hurt-other-party*

Clock is ticking for would-be candidates - Filing deadline is Tuesday

"Tuesday marks the filing deadline for anyone interested in running for Livingston County's congressional, state, county and township offices."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120514/NEWS01/205140307/Clock-ticking-would-candidates-Filing-deadline-Tuesday?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Sen. Carl Levin: 'Extreme' GOP taking over (with video)

"The contrast between Democrats and Republicans on the national stage has never been greater — a factor highlighted in just the past week, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin told a capacity room of Democratic faithful Friday."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120514/NEWS01/205140310/Sen-Carl-Levin-Extreme-GOP-taking-over-video-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Stabenow, Hoekstra divided on student loan issues

"The fight over keeping student loan interest rates from doubling has created a stark contrast between candidates in the race for Michigan Senate."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/POLITICS03/205140335/1022/POLITICS/Stabenow-Hoekstra-divided-student-loan-issues*

State to seek No Child waiver

"Michigan will learn soon whether it's among a handful of states to receive a waiver from the U.S. government for some tougher provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act
.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/SCHOOLS/205140334/1409/METRO/State-seek-No-Child-waiver*

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Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/SCHOOLS/205140334/1409/METRO/State-seek-No-Child-waiver*

Candidate for Dearborn's 19th District Court judgeship files signature challenge against opponent

"DEARBORN - A challenge filed this week with the Michigan Secretary of State seeks to disqualify Sam Salamey from running for 19th District Court judge based on alleged irregularities in his nominating petitions and the challenger is one of his opponents, attorney Candyce Abbatt."

Source: *Dearborn Press and Guide* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.pressandguide.com/articles/2012/05/14/news/doc4fad56e3c6206260400783.txt*

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.

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Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/SCHOOLS/205140334/1409/METRO/State-seek-No-Child-waiver*

Thefts of catalytic converters on the rise in Metro Detroit From The Detroit News: http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/METRO01/205140339#ixzz1uqDOePBU

"Equipped with battery-powered saws, criminals in Metro Detroit are jacking up vehicles, rolling under, making two cuts and, within minutes, running away with a part scrap yards will buy for as much as $150."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120514/METRO01/205140339/1409/METRO/Thefts-catalytic-converters-rise-Metro-Detroit*

Guest commentary: Don't buy the push to privatize Michigan's prisons

"What does it say about us as a society that the largest growing expense of state and local governments today is corrections systems? In the Michigan Legislature the drumbeat for privatization has reached a fevered pitch during the past year. Under the auspices of cost savings, an agenda has been set into motion that does nothing to improve the public good, but works wonders for the profit margins of Republican corporate campaign funders."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120514/OPINION05/120513035/-1/7daysarchives/Guest-commentary-Don-t-buy-push-privatize-Michigan-s-prisons*

GM and Chrysler improve relationship with their suppliers

"Toyota and Honda again topped Planning Perspectives' annual supplier-relations list, but they're trending downward -- in contrast to General Motors and Chrysler, which are improving. Ford and Nissan remained about the same as last year."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120514/NEWS06/205140351/GM-and-Chrysler-improve-relationship-with-their-suppliers?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Why manufacturing jobs are returning to West Michigan

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The Grand Rapids region added 2,951 manufacturing jobs in the last two years."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/05/post_83.html*

Bankruptcy aims to free Ally of bad mortgage assets after auto rescue

"Ally Financial, which still owes the government about two-thirds of the $17.2 billion in emergency loans it received as part of the General Motors and Chrysler rescues, is nudging its residential mortgage subsidiary into Chapter 11 bankruptcy to shed toxic mortgage-related securities."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120514/BUSINESS07/205140395/After-auto-rescue-bankruptcy-aims-to-free-Ally-of-bad-mortgage-assets?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Report: Ohio casinos will hurt Detroit\'s budget

"DETROIT (AP) — A consulting company says Detroit\'s hard-pressed treasury can expect to take another hit as neighboring Ohio opens four casinos in competition with the three that operate in Detroit."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/05/report_ohio_casinos_will_hurt.html

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Tim Skubick: Michigan senator wants Detroit Lions to play Green Bay Packers in the Upper Pennisula

"This is Pure Michigan and somebody ought to run with Sen. Tom Casperson's idea: A football game between the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions staged in the Upper Peninsula."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/05/tim_skubick_heres_one_way_to_s.html

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Michigan parole officers worry smaller staff could mean more public safety threats from ex-cons

"LANSING, MI - The union representing Michigan's parole and probation officers says it's worried a plan to leave 100 positions within its ranks unfilled will hurt public safety, allowing more ex-inmates to roam without adequate supervision."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/05/michigan_parole_officers_worry.html

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Jesse Jackson, Reverend Reginald Flynn call on residents in Flint, statewide to rally against emergency manager act

"FLINT, MI -- Reverend Jesse Jackson said the arrest of Foss Avenue Baptist Church Reverend Reginald Flynn "helped illuminate the darkness" taking place in the city of Flint."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-14-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/05/jesse_jackson_reverend_reginal.html

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 9:55 AM
To: Michigan_HTML@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For May 14, 2012

News

- Snyder urges Congress to let Michigan collect sales tax on online purchases (Detroit News, 5/12/2012)
- Stabenow, Hoekstra divided on student loan issues (Detroit News, 5/14/2012)
- Pete Hoekstra tries to clear up stance on Great Lakes drilling (Detroit Free Press, 5/14/2012)
- Poli-Bites: The Muppets take Congress, starring Carl Levin (Detroit Free Press, 5/13/2012)
- Court revives lawsuit by Michigan prison employee (Associated Press, 5/13/2012)
- Crushed by college debt: Massive loan bills hang over graduates, derail life plans (Detroit Free Press, 5/13/2012)
- State to seek No Child waiver (Detroit News, 5/14/2012)
- Virtual school provides new learning experience (Detroit News, 5/14/2012)
- Sen. Carl Levin: 'Extreme' GOP taking over (with video) (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 5/14/2012)
- Possible Michigan private prison contractor faced problems in other states (Associated Press, 5/11/2012)
- Fish and wildlife survey reveals no new invasive species (Alpena News, 5/14/2012)
- Report: Ohio casinos will hurt Detroit's budget (Associated Press, 5/14/2012)
- Michigan lieutenant governor praises Muskegon Township manufacturer's growth, tax-elimination proposal (Muskegon Chronicle, 5/14/2012)
- Michigan drug courts a win-win for users, taxpayers (Bridge Magazine, 5/14/2012)
- Gov. Rick Snyder tours prison in Jackson complex (Associated Press, 5/14/2012)
- Michigan film industry refocuses on big picture (Associated Press, 5/14/2012)
- Cost drops for Attorney General Bill Schuette's plan to penalize repeat felons, but millions for prisons still needed (Bridge Magazine, 5/13/2012)
- Union rally Monday for Rep. John Conyers election (Associated Press, 5/13/2012)
- Jesse Jackson, Reverend Reginald Flynn call on residents in Flint, statewide to rally against emergency manager act (Flint Journal, 5/14/2012)
- Michigan parole officers worry smaller staff could mean more public safety threats from ex-cons (MLive, 5/14/2012)

Editorials

- Editorial Quick Hits: Nip fraud in the bud (Detroit News, 5/12/2012)
- Keep graduation requirements strong (Detroit News, 5/13/2012)
- Guest commentary: Four ways to improve Michigan Supreme Court elections (Detroit Free Press, 5/13/2012)
- Stephen Henderson: Detroit has little to show for its casino revenue (Detroit Free Press, 5/14/2012)
- Editorial: In-home care grants help youths and budgets (Detroit Free Press, 5/14/2012)

- Forum: Smoke-free workplace law is working (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 5/13/2012)
- George Weeks: Light lacking in supreme court races (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 5/13/2012)
- Jack Lessenberry: Joe Schwarz and Congress (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 5/12/2012)
- Editorial: Flexible cap needed on state land buys (Detroit News, 5/14/2012)
- Revival demands investment in higher ed (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 5/12/2012)
- Use caution in selling mineral rights (Lansing State Journal, 5/14/2012)
- State needs to guarantee replacement funds (Midland Daily News, 5/11/2012)
- Our View: State tweaks laws on underage drinking, etc. to fix exceptions (Adrian Daily Telegram, 5/14/2012)
- Gov. Rick Snyder repeal of motorcycle helmet law is dubious (MLive, 5/11/2012)
- Our View: Adrian's experience shows privatization of services can work (Adrian Daily Telegram, 5/13/2012)
- EDITORIAL: Lump-sum payout good for Ford, but not for retirees (Oakland Press, 5/14/2012)

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:38 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: Michigan Report, Tuesday, May 29, 2012
Attachments: May29House.htm; May29Rules.htm; May29Senate.htm; 120529dayplan.htm; May29.htm

Michigan Report for Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Fraud Appears Likely In McCotter Petition Signatures

U. Funding Appears Last Hurdle To Finish Budget; June 14 Eyed For Summer Recess

D.C.H. Budget Sees New Funding For Autism, G.M.E., Dental

Snyder Agenda Slows in '12 After Huge '11

Juvenile Justice Facilities Cut But Still Open

D.P.S. Millage Vote Change Hung On E.M. Law Objections

Snyder Opens Policy Conference With Call For Action

Community College Budget Uses Traditional Formula For Increase

Snyder Gets State Police Increases He Sought

Entrepreneurship Can, Will Turn State Around, Panelists Say

Medical Malpractice Bills Debate Continues In Committee

Detroit Regional Chamber Opposes '25 By 25' Campaign

Senate Committee Moves Low-Income Energy Bills

Jackson Falls Short On Signatures In 13th Congressional

Snyder Declares Emergency, Prohibits Burning As Fire Spreads

D.E.Q, D.N.R. Budgets Pass Senate

House Passes Senior Protection Bills

Committee Approves Home Visiting Bill

Committee Hears Testimony On Social Networking Bill

Sellek To Head Romney Mich. Campaign

Durant Unveils New Ad

Study: Individual Insurance Policies Don't Meet Basic Requirements

Island Notes

Capital Notebook

Campaign Notes

Appointments By The Governor

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

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Volume #51, Report #105 -- Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Fraud Appears Likely In McCotter Petition Signatures

The petition signatures submitted by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=4001&locid=1" } for ballot access have a Frankenstein look to them with portions appearing to have been cut and pasted together in an attempt to pass off signatures from a previous campaign for office as new ones.

Lines on several of the petition forms don't match up while dates of the purported signatures appear to have been doctored or pasted on top of the form. In other cases, an original page of signatures was copied and then submitted with the name of a different circulator. Of the 1,833 signatures the campaign submitted, just 244 appear to be valid, said Gisgie Davila Gendreau, Department of State spokesperson. He needed 1,000.

Tuesday saw rapid-fire developments. First, The Detroit News published a column from Mr. McCotter (R-Livonia) revealing his attorneys had confirmed the Department of State's finding that he was short of signatures. As a result, Mr. McCotter said he would ask the Board of State Canvassers to disqualify him from the ballot when it convenes to certify the August primary ballot June 6 and instead run as a write-in.

Potential write-in foe David Trott, a longtime party donor, decided not to run. Then Mr. McCotter appeared on WJR-AM to discuss the mess during which he acknowledged irregularities in his petitions. The Department of State then turned over its initial findings to the Department of Attorney General for investigation.

{ INCLUDEPICTURE \d "http://www.gongwer.com/members/ThaddeusMcCotter.gif" \y * MERGEFORMATINET }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&na

meid=4001&locid=1" } was under heavy fire Tuesday about his campaign's petition signatures.

"There is a prima facie case that somebody did something that they shouldn't have," Mr. McCotter told WJR-AM's Frank Beckmann. "I do feel like someone I trusted lied to me. And that, in my line of work, is shocking."

Mr. McCotter said he did not know whether someone on his campaign staff panicked and assembled the petitions in the fashion in which they were submitted or consciously was out to commit fraud. He has not named who was responsible, saying only it was handled by the same people who have gathered his signatures in his previous five runs for Congress.

At this point, Mr. McCotter looks like the only write-in candidate to contest teacher Kerry Bentivolio of Milford, a tea party activist who is the lone Republican on the ballot. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=18801&locid=1" } (R-White Lake Township), who had launched a bid for the seat last fall, but dropped out in January after failing to raise enough money, said he would not run. Former Rep. Rocky Raczkowski said he was considering a bid, but Oakland County Republicans said that ultimately was unlikely.

Mr. McCotter could need somewhere in the vicinity of 40,000 votes to overtake Mr. Bentivolio, who will gain many votes simply by virtue of being the lone Republican on the ballot.

"It's going to be an uphill climb, but it is what it is," Mr. McCotter said on WJR. "Life is full of surprises, some of them pleasant, some of them unpleasant."

THE PETITIONS: Whoever hoped to pass off Mr. McCotter's petitions as legitimate doesn't have much of a future in forgery.

Based on Gongwer News Service's review of the petitions, there were several clear signs of attempting to pass off duplicate signatures. Aside from some petitions having been submitted as copies (the department can only count originals), it appeared obvious that whoever was in charge took old petitions and cut and pasted new dates on top of them. Portions of the form were cut off as well (see graphic below).

{ INCLUDEPICTURE \d "http://www.gongwer.com/public/mccottersigs.jpg" \y * MERGEFORMATINET }

Petition number 24 submitted by the McCotter campaign shows several irregularities.

Department of State staff noticed some of the forms appeared to be copies and the same names appeared at least twice during a standard review, Elections Director Chris Thomas said.

"I would kind of characterize this as padding the petition," Mr. Thomas said. "There's some cut and paste job going on."

Several different names show up on the forms as the petition circulator, but that does not mean those individuals necessarily participated in what happened. Whoever made the copies and

doctored them could have kept the names and signatures from previous forms. Mr. Thomas said staff did a spot check comparing those signatures to the signature on file for that person in the Qualified Voter File and there was no sign of forged signatures.

The Department of State turned over some initial findings to the Department of Attorney General regarding the copied petitions and cutting and pasting, Ms. Gendreau said.

"We will review information provided by the Secretary of State and determine whether additional action is warranted," Attorney General spokesperson Joy Yearout said.

Mr. McCotter said the responsibility for the situation is his, but also noted he delegated the signature-gathering effort.

"I want to know what happened," he said. "I want to have the appropriate people punished."

But he also refused to name who he had asked to handle his petitions.

"We will not engage in speculation or fuel any speculation regarding individuals and what they may or may not have done during this process," campaign spokesperson Randy Thompson said. "That is for the secretary of state and attorney general's office to find.

Several observers have said Mr. McCotter's wildly unsuccessful presidential campaign served as a distraction from running a good operation to get re-elected to the House. But Mr. McCotter said he ended his presidential campaign in September and didn't begin his petition drive for re-election until February.

"I think those people are idiots," he said. "I would encourage those people to actually know what they were talking about."

Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer jumped all over the situation and linked it to the controversy in the 76th House District where the Department of State Police is investigating the circumstances under which Matt Mojzak filed as a purported Democrat after { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205201&locid=1" } left the Democratic Party for the GOP.

"This is no longer an isolated incident," Mr. Brewer said in a statement. "This is a pattern of fraud and illegal activity in the Michigan Republican Party. Why do Republicans think they're above the law? These are serious charges and must be investigated thoroughly. Republicans are showing they are not fit to lead. They know voters will hold them accountable for their disastrous policies over the past two years."

THE ELECTION: There has long been some dissension in Mr. McCotter's district about him, with many activists accusing him of failing to help the party down the ticket and being more enamored of spending time in Washington than appearing at local party functions. In the immediate aftermath of his petition disaster, there was a big push by some Republicans in

Oakland County to woo longtime GOP donor and foreclosure attorney David Trott into the race over the weekend.

But as Gongwer reported Tuesday morning, Mr. Trott opted not to run.

"The circumstances surrounding this election are unique and intriguing, but the simple answer is that the timing is not right for me or my family," he said in a statement. "I have always been interested politics and public service and believe that I would do a great job."

Mr. McCotter asserted in his Detroit News column that Mr. Trott was supporting him for re-election. That appeared to be an oversimplification. Asked whether he was supporting Mr. McCotter, Mr. Trott said, "I have supported Thaddeus McCotter in the past and if the choice is between McCotter and Bentivolio I'll be supporting Thad."

At this stage, it appears that will be the match-up on the Republican side.

Mr. Raczkowski is dangling the idea of running, noting that the newly drawn 11th District contains 53.4 percent of the old 9th District, which Mr. Raczkowski narrowly lost in 2010 to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=7801&locid=1" } (D-Bloomfield Township).

But Mr. Raczkowski also noted his name might not lend itself to an effective write-in campaign.

"It's a long road, and I would have to ask would Rocky suffice on the ballot," he said. "Raczkowski may be hard to spell, but it's easy to vote for (if it's on the ballot)."

To that point, voters need not spell a write-in candidate's name exactly for it to count as a vote, Mr. Thomas said. By that measure, if someone writes in "Thad MacCotter" as opposed to "Thaddeus McCotter," the vote will still count, Mr. Thomas said. The key is for the name to be clearly discernible as an attempt to vote for that candidate.

Write-in candidates must officially register by July 27. And to win, they must get enough votes to total at least the equivalent of 5 percent of the total votes cast for the most voted in Republican race in the 11th District. That will likely be the Republican senatorial primary.

Dennis Pittman, executive director of the Oakland County Republican Party, said for all the problems, Mr. McCotter remains the favorite.

"He's got the name ID," he said. "All he has to do is spend the money and make sure the process is carried out carefully. He's going to have to raise more money. The $190,000 he's got in the bank is not going to be enough."

As for Mr. Bentivolio, he has gone from an afterthought to possible future congressman after one of the more stunning blunders to hit state politics.

He was not available for comment Tuesday because he was performing his regular job as a teacher, campaign manager Bob Dindoffer said.

But Mr. Dindoffer said the situation just furthers Mr. Bentivolio's plans to focus on government accountability.

"Now we have the opportunity to hammer that point home," he said. "We expect that we will win."

But Mr. Dindoffer acknowledged that the situation is a huge surprise. Initially, Mr. Bentivolio ran just to prove a point, not to win, he said.

"Now we're the only guy on the ballot," he said. "I was kind of a quasi-campaign manager when we were running kind of a quasi-campaign (but am now full-time). We're trying to turn it on a dime."

U. Funding Appears Last Hurdle To Finish Budget; June 14 Eyed For Summer Recess

House-Senate negotiators on the higher education budget are at a standstill on how to divvy up an overall 3 percent increase in funding to each of the 15 public universities.

The higher education budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95501" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95501 " }) appears to be the last unfinished item as legislators hustle to complete the 2012-13 fiscal year budget before their self-imposed June 1 deadline. The conference committee for the K-12 budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96101" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB96101 " }) scheduled a meeting for noon Wednesday, and several officials said that budget was essentially set to go.

Tuesday otherwise saw the budget rapidly churning forward. House-Senate conference committees approved budgets for community colleges ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB94901" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB94901 " }), general government ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95401" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95401 " }), judiciary ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95701" }{ HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95701 " }) and the departments of Agriculture and Rural Development ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB94701" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB94701 " }), Community Health ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95001" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95001 " }), Corrections ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95101" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95101 " }), Education ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95201" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95201 " }), Human Services ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95601" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95601 " }), Licensing and Regulatory Affairs ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95801" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95801 " }), Military and Veterans Affairs ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95901" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95901 " }), State Police ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96201" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB96201 " }) and Transportation ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96301" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB96301 " }).

The full Senate passed the budgets for the departments of Environmental Quality ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95301" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95301 " }) and Natural Resources ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96001" }{

HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB96001" }).

"I think we're on schedule to do everything this week," Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (R-Monroe) said. "We've got a couple of them that are kind of up in the air, still have to be talked about - higher ed we're not done with, K-12 we're not quite done with. But for the most part I think we'll be on schedule."

The possibility exists for a rare Friday legislative session, but Mr. Richardville discounted that scenario.

"I think it's going to be a good product," Mr. Richardville said. "These guys have put a lot of work into this stuff. It's amazing, in my 12-13-14, whatever it is years here, that the budget process now is kind of a non-exciting thing because we don't have the same kinds of delays and problems we've had in the past."

Richardville spokesperson Amber McCann said the K-12 budget would contain an $80 million overall increase to the foundation allowance with an equity payment that sees $120 per pupil awarded to lower-funded districts and higher-funded districts remaining "stable."

With all of the conference reports publicly unveiled except K-12 and higher education, the focus will heavily shift to resolving the higher education budget.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton), chair of the Senate Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee, said Tuesday night that she and Rep. Bob Genetski (R-Saugatuck), the House subcommittee chair, hit a standoff on the mechanism for allocating the increase.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } had proposed awarding greater increases to those universities graduating more students in the science, technology, engineering, math and health fields. But both the House and Senate balked.

The Senate called for half of the $36 million overall increase to be distributed 3 percent across the board and the other half based on tuition restraint as well as how they measure against other universities in their Carnegie classification.

The House version required universities to have a limit on tuition increases looking at a two-year basis, report embryonic stem cell research, participate in reverse transfer agreements with at least three community colleges in the state, ensure their dual enrollment policy doesn't consider use of credits toward high school graduation requirements and not compel undergraduate students to carry health insurance. The universities would have to certify by August 31 that they have complied or will comply with all five measures to receive the money.

"I would still say a ways to go yet," Ms. Schuitmaker said. "At this point, I wouldn't schedule a conference committee. But that doesn't mean that there might not be movement tomorrow."

Ms. Schuitmaker sidestepped a question about whether legislative leaders have taken charge of the negotiations or if she and Mr. Genetski are still discussing the bill.

Asked whether the stem cell reporting language and other controversial boilerplate items had been resolved, Ms. Schuitmaker said, "We haven't even gotten past the philosophical differences (on the formula). I think once we get past that, it will go pretty quickly."

The other budgets went as expected after last week's target-setting agreement provided more funding for most departments and major budget areas with many programs seeing increases (see related stories).

In another development, Mr. Richardville said the plan now is for the Legislature to recess for the summer starting June 14 instead of the initially planned June 28.

"The only thing that would change that would be a second coming or something," Mr. Richardville said of the June 14 plan.

House Republican spokesperson Ari Adler said the House also plans to adjourn then if it can finish what it wants to finish by then.

D.C.H. Budget Sees New Funding For Autism, G.M.E., Dental

The Legislature initially hesitated about the many funding increases { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } proposed in the Department of Community Health, but the conference report a House-Senate conference committee adopted Tuesday showed it eventually bought into most of them and even added some new funding not previously suggested.

And Mr. Snyder relented in one area the Legislature resisted his proposal for a cut - Graduate Medical Education.

Under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95001" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95001" }, the Graduate Medical Education program would see an increase of $8.6 million ($2.9 million general fund). { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } had called for a $17.1 million cut ($5.8 million cut general fund). The House had called for about the same level of funding and the Senate was essentially backing the governor's proposal.

Additionally, Medicaid will now cover treatment for autism for children through the age of 18 under the budget. The bill contains $21.3 million ($7.1 million general fund), less than the $34.1

million Mr. Snyder proposed and the House approved, but that reflected a lowering of the estimated cost.

And the budget would allow expanding the Healthy Kids Dental program by $16.7 million ($5.6 million general fund), less than the $25 million ($8.4 million general fund) Mr. Snyder proposed, but more than the House and much more than the Senate, which had essentially provided no funding.

That program serves 349,000 children in 65 counties and Mr. Snyder eventually wants to take it statewide.

"Healthy Kids Dental balances the oral health needs of Michigan's children with the responsible appropriation of taxpayer dollars," said Drew Eason, CEO and executive director of the Michigan Dental Association, in a statement. "A 5-year-old who visits a dentist for the first time at age 1 needs just $262 in dental care over those five years, while a 5-year-old seeing a dentist for the first time requires $546 in care. This is smart public policy."

When the Senate passed its version of the budget, it removed nearly all of Mr. Snyder's proposed increases and replaced them with $100 placeholders. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=71001&locid=1" } (R-Midland), the Senate Appropriations Community Health Subcommittee chair, said he wanted to see how revenues looked at the May Revenue Estimating Conference.

"I think there was a priority placed on this budget and many positive initiatives aimed at increasing access to health care in Michigan," he said. Tuesday. "We're trying to build our infrastructure to ensure there's access to health care in Michigan."

Mr. Moolenaar highlighted a 20 percent increase in payment rates for Medicaid providers for the cost of Ob/Gyn services at a cost of $11.9 million. That had not been a part of any of the previous proposed budgets from the governor, House or Senate.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=204301&locid=1" } (R-Constantine), chair of the House DCH subcommittee, said Graduate Medical Education was a priority.

"We're glad we were able to keep it pretty much in line with this current year's funding," he said. "All in all, I think we did pretty well considering all the restrictions we have with today's economy." "Once we got going, things fell into place quickly."

Among the other items of difference resolved:

> The conference committee concurred with Mr. Snyder's call for a $3 million increase to the Healthy Michigan Fund.
> $2 million proposed by the House for pregnancy/parenting support was included.
> A $5.95 million increase for rural and "sole community" hospitals. Mr. Snyder called for the elimination of those funds and the House and Senate initially essentially agreed.

An expansion of $11.8 million for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program to reduce that program's waiting list. The House initially had gone with a smaller increase than Mr. Snyder proposed and the Senate awarded no increase.
$900,000 to restore chiropractic services under Medicaid, something the House and Senate initially had rejected.
One disappointment for many hospitals is likely the rejection of a second pool of funds for those hospitals that serve a disproportionate share of the Medicaid population. The House had passed $10 million for the program, but the conference committee dropped it.
There also is full restoration of the adult vision program at a cost of $4.5 million.

Overall, the budget contains $15.035 billion ($2.817 billion general fund).

Snyder Agenda Slows in '12 After Huge '11

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } enjoyed remarkable success in the first six months of his term at winning quick approval of his agenda from the Legislature, but the last nine months have seen his priorities move at a different pace with lawmakers now balking at many of them.

The start of 2011 saw an avalanche of major new laws, from the one enhancing powers for state-appointed emergency managers overseeing troubled local governments and school districts to the most sweeping overhaul of taxes in a generation. New laws making it easier to fire teachers and increasing the number of charter schools, both sought for years by Republicans without success, finally came to fruition.

Now Mr. Snyder is seeing legislative work on his agenda slow with major proposals to raise revenue to fund road repairs and create an exchange where residents can comparison shop for health insurance going nowhere. Still, Snyder is enjoying a strong rate of success with the Legislature.

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link

=bio.cfm&name id=245801 &locid=1" } has seen the Legislature balk at some of the priorities he unveiled in the fall.

"I think he's done remarkably well," said Dennis Cawthorne, a founder of the Kelley Cawthorne lobbying firm in Lansing who has been a fixture in the capital city since serving in the state House from 1967-78, the last four years of which as the Republican leader. "He's had a substantial agenda that he's managed to move with surprising speed. His track record so far in the Legislature I think is very good."

Mr. Snyder of course has the considerable advantage of Republicans holding not only the majority in the House and Senate, but by overwhelming margins at 26-12 in the Senate and 63-47 in the House. Unified control is a rare opportunity in modern times. Since the Senate and governor switched to four-year terms starting with the 1966 elections, it has happened only in the 1967-68 term (Republicans), 1983 and part of 1984 (Democrats), 1995-96 (Republicans) and 1999-2002 (Republicans).

Even with that advantage, Mr. Snyder has rolled up a remarkable number of legislative wins ({ HYPERLINK "http://bridgemi.com/2012/05/tallying-up-the-snyder-administration/" \l ".T8ToolJQT1k" \t "blank" }).

"If you can get two-thirds of your program through even a friendly Legislature, I think that's pretty remarkable," Mr. Cawthorne said. "I think his record is probably as good as John Engler's and that's saying a lot because Engler was a very astute political operative."

Doug Roberts, who worked in the administrations of Democrat James Blanchard and Republicans William Milliken and John Engler, credits Snyder's focus - and the GOP Senate - for much of the administration's legislative success.

"The Senate has 26 Republicans. Even during the Watergate debacle (for Republicans in the 1970s), the Democrats only had 24. So this is a huge number," said Mr. Roberts, who now directs the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University. "Also, (the governor) didn't say 'Let's wait (on big items).' He said, 'Let's do it now.' There's an enormous amount being accomplished."

Key to the Snyder agenda has been the use of a mechanism afforded to the governor in the Constitution: the ability to submit to the Legislature "special messages" on any given topic that he seeks legislative action. Former Governor William Milliken frequently delivered special messages, but until Mr. Snyder took office in 2011, subsequent governors largely ignored the tool.

Mr. Snyder already has issued six such special messages - on local government, education, health and wellness, infrastructure, talent development and public safety - with a seventh planned for the fall on the environment and energy. They have carried the bulk of the Snyder agenda although some major issues - notably Mr. Snyder's proposed major overhaul of taxes and construction of a new bridge to Canada - were made without the use of a special message.

Republican majorities in the Legislature quickly lined up behind most of the proposals outlined in the first two messages, local government in March 2011 and education in April.

On local government, the Legislature passed and Mr. Snyder signed legislation overhauling allocation of revenue sharing aid to local governments and requiring negotiation of new collective bargaining agreements with public employees when local governments enter into a service sharing agreement, among other significant changes.

Mr. Snyder then mostly cleaned up on his education special message. The Legislature supported tying school funding to meeting a series of best practices such as how much school employees must pay for health care, mandating school districts adopt anti-bullying policies and substantially changing teacher tenure to make it easier to fire bad teachers. Mr. Snyder proposed charter school expansion in certain areas with failing schools, but the Legislature went further and completely removed the cap on the number of charter schools public universities can authorize.

Bill Rustem, a top Snyder aide who has been on the scene in Lansing going back to his days as a staffer for Mr. Milliken, said the climate was perfect for moving on the local government and education reforms.

"These are issues that have been teed up among particular Republicans for a long time," said Mr. Rustem, Mr. Snyder's director of strategy. "There was kind of a pent-up demand for dealing with the issues."

And it was long before the 2012 election began factoring into the Legislature's thinking. The House is up for election in November, and Democrats are mounting a furious effort to win back control from Republicans, who have a 64-46 majority.

The one major setback on these two issues was Mr. Snyder's call to essentially end school district borders so that any student could attend any school regardless of where he or she lives. Opposition swelled quickly in suburban school districts, especially in the Detroit area. By the time legislators pared the idea back to allow school districts to determine whether they had the capacity to allow schools of choice, the idea had become politically toxic.

"A lot of local, parochial politics got in the way," Mr. Rustem said.

The fall saw more setbacks for Mr. Snyder. Besides the Senate dropping his proposal to authorize a new bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, the legislative response to his proposals on health and wellness, transportation and recruiting and retaining talented workers to the state was tepid at best.

The Senate passed Mr. Snyder's proposed online exchange where consumers could comparison shop for health insurance, but the House, where Republicans see the proposal as part of the controversial federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, have said they will not act on it until the Supreme Court rules on the statute in June. Mr. Snyder's proposal to ban smoking on state-owned beaches has gone nowhere. The same is true of Mr. Snyder's proposals to change how the state taxes gasoline sales and hike vehicle registration fees to raise $1.4 billion for roads.

But legislative resistance on those issues is hardly shocking, Mr. Rustem said. Asking for new revenue always is difficult, and the exchange got caught up in the charged political atmosphere surrounding the federal health care law, he said.

"These are not easy things to get done," he said.

And the 2012 election is approaching.

"I've been around enough election years to know you don't get anywhere near as much done in an election year as you do in a non-election year," Rustem said. "It's just the way it is, the way it has always been and the way it will always be."

Mr. Snyder enjoyed a resurgence of legislative action this spring. The Legislature backed most of his proposals on public safety and after a year of work also passed legislation expanding the number of online charter schools. And it passed a mandate on insurers that they cover treatment for autism. Still, Mr. Rustem has heard the criticism that Mr. Snyder's agenda is grinding to a halt in the Legislature.

"It's crap," he said.

The test for a governor is not what he or she accomplishes in the first 100 days, six months or year, but entire time in office, Mr. Rustem said. He recalled how Mr. Milliken proposed placing a deposit on cans and bottles in 1970, was stymied by the Legislature and saw the measure finally take effect in 1978 after a statewide ballot initiative.

"The governor can't control - he can influence - but he can't control what the Legislature does," he said. "He puts out the proposals. They set the timeline. The governor can push, the governor can influence. This is not a dictatorship. We have a separate branch of government. The governor's got to work at what he wants. Sometimes it takes a long, long time to get those ideas implemented."

And while the summer break and House elections in the fall are expected to slow the pace of activity in Lansing, Mr. Roberts says Michiganders shouldn't be surprised to see another burst of activity in early 2013, depending on the election results.

"If the Republicans retain control of the House, look for things to pick up again," Mr. Roberts said. "The first six months of next year will be very important."

This story was produced as part of a collaboration between Gongwer News Service and Bridge Magazine.

Juvenile Justice Facilities Cut But Still Open

The state's juvenile justice facilities would see reduced funding, but they would remain open under Department of Human Services budget adopted by conference committee Tuesday.

The facilities, for housing the state's more dangerous juvenile offenders, would see a $2 million reduction in funding for next fiscal year.

The budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95601" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95601" }) would, however, prohibit the department from increasing capacity in state-operated facilities without allowing private facilities to bid on the capacity.

The House subcommittee had eliminated funding for the facilities, requiring instead that the residents be moved to private facilities, an idea that appeared to have support in both chambers.

"There's always been a question whether money wouldn't be better spent placing these children in a private facility," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township) said. "Yet we limp along year after year funding Maxey."

Rep. Dave Agema (R-Grandville), chair of the House subcommittee, said he had assurance from the administration that the facilities would be full in the coming months, but urged that, if they are not, the Legislature consider closing at least one of the facilities for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

The conference committee also approved increases for foster families and private residential facilities. Foster families would see $3 more per day and residential facilities would see 7.5 percent increases.

The budget does not include funds for increased security at local DHS offices. The department had requested the funds after a number of assaults on staff at those offices in the last year.

Among the more substantial cuts, assistance spending is down $101.2 million ($68.07 million general fund) for expected reductions in caseloads and need for economic adjustments.

The budget totals $6.55 billion ($1.011 billion general fund), a $133 million cut gross from the current year.

CORRECTIONS: A conference committee also approved the budget for the Department of Corrections. As Gongwer News Service previously reported, the plan includes converting the Ryan Correctional Facility to a parole violator center, closing the Tuscola Re-entry Facility and reopening the Muskegon Correctional Facility.

The budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95101" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95101" }) totals $2 billion, down from $2.014 billion for the current year.

The facility changes are expected to cost an additional $10.8 million for the year. But the conference included a variety of other savings, including $25.05 million from staffing efficiencies and $12.6 million from reclassifying certain employees (resident unit officers will be come corrections officers, for instance).

As Gongwer first reported last week, the budget does not include the House's plan of closing a prison and then transferring those inmates to a private facility.

The budget also cuts $15 million by not reappropriating funds expected to be lapsed from the current budget.

The conference committee also rejected { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s proposal to use money from the Special Equipment Fund (collected from prisoner telephone calls) for capital projects, allowing only the $5.3 million Mr. Snyder had proposed for safety equipment for corrections officers, including TASERs, and cell phone jammers.

The conference report was adopted on a 4-2 party-line vote. Democrats raised concerns that the budget included policy issues that had not been discussed and that, in some cases, could cost the state in the long run.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } (D-Westland) said the plans for Ryan would make it more difficult for inmates' families to visit them and would increase transportation costs for the department because inmates from the Detroit area would have to be transferred to the west side of the state.

House Republicans praised the budget as opening the door to competition within the department's programs.

"My goal on competitive bidding is not just to have a cheaper product but to have a more accountable department," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205901&locid=1" } (R-Holland), chair of the House subcommittee. "I believe when we have a monopoly as we do through public employment, it lowers the bar."

TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE: The state will divert $100 million in sales taxes assessed on gasoline sales into the state transportation fund as a way of meeting the federal match on highway funds the conference committee for the Department of Transportation budget for 20120-13.

However, to meet the total federal match, the state will also move $23 million from the general fund to the transportation fund.

The total budget for the department, in { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96301" }{ HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB96301 " }, is $3.466 billion, an increase of $119 million over the current year.

The redirection of sales tax money required first that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB351and01" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB351and01" } { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB452101" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011HB452101" } are enacted, and is intended for one year only.

With the additional money, the state's trunkline road and bridge fund will have $941 million, nearly $99 million more than the amount allocated for the current year.

The budget also maintains current language regarding a proposed new bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, prohibiting any expenditure of funds on the bridge unless the Legislature passes legislation authorizing the bridge.

And the budget does not include a provision the House had that the state sell one of its Beechcraft King Air twin-engine turbo prop planes. The House had directed that proceeds from the sale go the state aeronautics fund.

The conference committee approved the budget unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: The budget, reported on a 4-1 vote in { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95401" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011SB95401 " }, would total $4.3 billion, with $990 million in general funds.

Among the biggest changes in the budget, compared to the current budget, will be $47 million allocated to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to begin a technology investment project. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } had called for $50 million to begin he multi-year project to update operating systems and equipment that in some cases is decades old. The Senate had reduced that to $48 million, the House to about $31.6 million.

The total allocation for DTMB is $1.142 billion, the largest in the entire budget.

In the Department of Treasury, the budget allocates $10 million for eligible students in non-public schools for dual enrollment purposes.

Treasury will also receive $2.3 million to help pay a portion of the debt service on the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams at Michigan State University.

One of the largest single share of the budget is the $1.096 billion for revenue sharing. The budget will boost constitutional revenue sharing by $27 million to $725. It also boosts the Economic Vitality Incentive Program by $15 million to a total of $225 million.

County statutory revenue sharing will come in $104.5 million, and the bill creates a county incentive program at $26.1 million.

The budget also allocates $10 million in the competitive grant assistance program.

The Strategic Fund, which is also allocated through Treasury, would receive $984.4 million, and while workforce training is nicked by $45 million because of federal reductions (the state will have a total of $250.8 million) the budget increases the state's film incentive program by $25 million to a total of $50 million.

Actual operations for Treasury are set at $490.3 million, with another $140.5 million for debt service.

The budget also added $700,000 each to the House and Senate, for a total budget of $110.9 million, but does not include $3.1 million for additional Capitol maintenance that the Senate had called for.

The Executive Office would get $4.9 million, an increase of $288,700 from the current year.

The Department of State would be allocated $220.7 million.

Other allocations include $85 million for the Department of the Attorney General, $14.8 million for the Department of Civil Rights and $18.7 million for the Legislative Auditor General.

D.P.S. Millage Vote Change Hung On E.M. Law Objections

There is support in the House to move the vote on a millage renewal for Detroit Public Schools to August, but the issue is currently hung up over concerns that the change would block a referendum on the state's emergency manager law.

And that objection may have made moving the election more difficult, if not impossible.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=89401&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) said she was willing to sponsor the legislation, but that other members of her caucus were concerned how an amendment to PA 4 ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB421401" }{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_querymanager.cfm&billid=2011HB421401" }) might affect efforts to subject the law to referendum.

The law requires any millage votes conducted at the request of an emergency manager be in November, but DPS emergency manager Roy Roberts has urged the change, saying the issue would get lost on the ballot.

Ms. Jackson agreed that ballot fatigue could mean a loss on the proposal if it remains on the November ballot.

"The bottom line for me is DPS is in a position to operate," she said. The district is seeking to renew 17 mills.

But moving the issue to the August ballot would mean changing the emergency manager law. And now it could mean changing election law.

"There's a concern if PA 4 is amended, it could create an issue for all of those signatures that were raised," Ms. Jackson said.

She said she was hoping to have those issues worked out as early as Tuesday evening.

The effort to put PA 4 on the ballot is still working its way through the courts after the Board of State Canvassers deadlocked on certifying the petitions to the ballot.

Ari Adler, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall), said Republicans were willing to back the issue if Democrats are also on board.

Mr. Adler said the change would still leave PA 4 subject to the referendum. "There's nothing in the legislation that would have impacted the ballot initiative," he said.

The message from Democratic leadership, Mr. Adler said, was they were not to touch anything dealing with PA 4. "As far as we're concerned, the Democrats said yes to unions and no to students," he said.

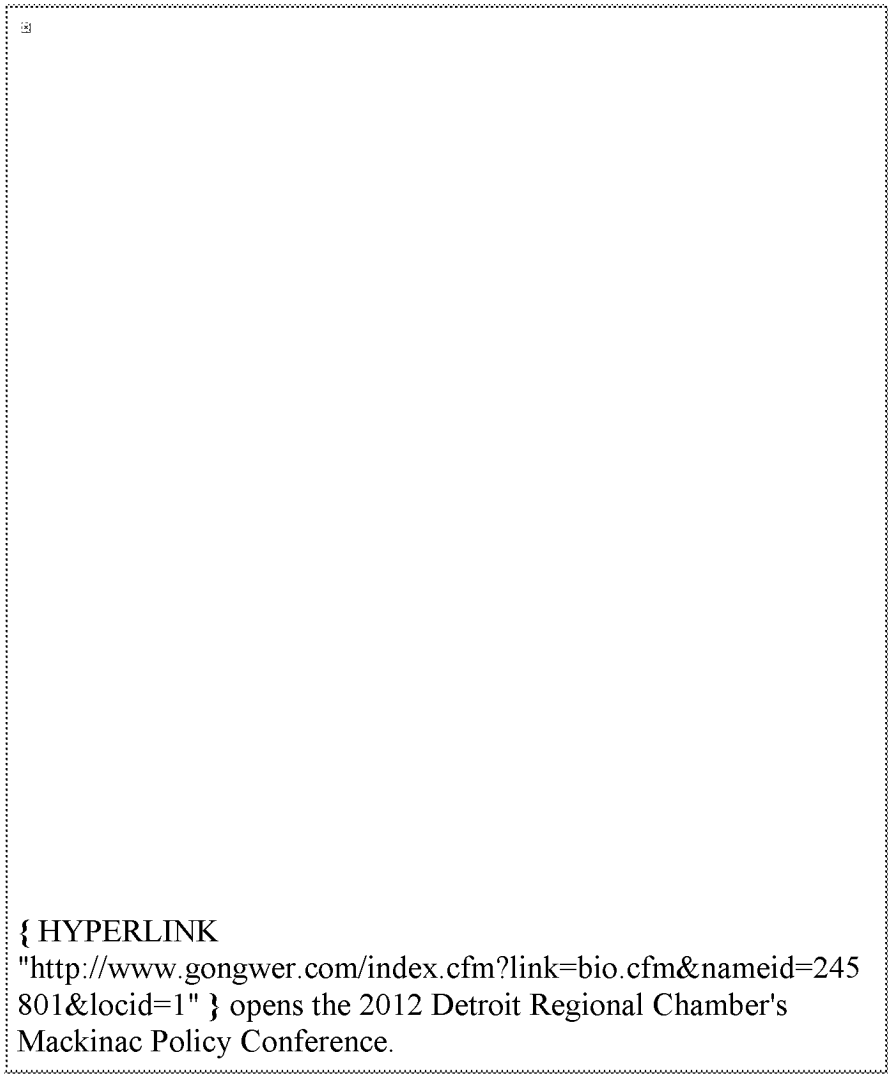
But he also said the task is now larger because putting the issue on the August ballot would require changing not only PA 4, but the election law to move back the deadline for putting items on the ballot.

The deadline for items on the August ballot has passed and the bill would still have to make its way through both chambers.

Snyder Opens Policy Conference With Call For Action

MACKINAC ISLAND - { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } opened the 2012 Mackinac Policy Conference by reminding attendees that this is not an event to do nice things with one another, but is meant to be an accelerator aimed at reinventing the state.

"Do not make this a nice event," Mr. Snyder said. "Make this an event that makes a difference."



{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } opens the 2012 Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference.

One way the business owners in the crowd could make that difference, he said, is to hire veterans.

Mr. Snyder encouraged attendees to attend a session Wednesday focused on veterans entering the workforce.

According to the panel's description, Michigan has the second-highest unemployment rate of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, at 29 percent.

"That's simply unacceptable," Mr. Snyder said. "The people that can do a lot to solve that problem are us."

He called on people not just to attend, but to discuss what their organizations can do to highlight veterans and also hire them.

Since last year's conference, there is much the state can look back on be proud of, but Mr. Snyder urged the crowd to avoid complacency.

"Now is not the time to be satisfied, I'm not satisfied at all with where we are at," he said

That said, Michigan does have a good story to tell, and needs to make sure it is told, he said.

"Michiganders are too humble," he said. "We don't brag well... We have to speak up more. We are the comeback state in the United States right now."

While state lawmakers won't be on the island this week, there will be plenty going on at the policy conference hosted by the Detroit Regional Chamber,

The conference is scheduled through Thursday and Gongwer News Service will be providing coverage from the island. The conference was moved up a day from its typical Wednesday through Friday configuration to allow the Chamber to help promote the Detroit Grand Prix scheduled for that weekend on Belle Isle.

Community College Budget Uses Traditional Formula For Increase

The multi-layered formula the state has used for several years in determining how to account for performance funding will be maintained for the upcoming fiscal year, the Legislature's conference committee for the community college budget decided Tuesday.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=95101&locid=1" } (R-Evart), Senate chair of the conference committee, said he was pleased with 2012-13 budget coming off a 4.1 percent reduction in funding for the current year, and believes the community colleges share the same sentiment.

The bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB94901" }) was reported from the committee with Republican members of the House and Senate voting in favor, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } (D-Westland) voting against and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=275401&locid=1" } (D-Kalamazoo) abstaining from a vote.

The performance funding increase totaling 3 percent overall will be divvied up as follows: 50 percent across-the-board; 10 percent based on student population; 7.5 percent based on administrative costs; 17.5 percent based on a system that gives more importance to certain degrees; and 15 percent based on colleges meeting best practices.

The plan rejects { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s proposal to base performance funding solely on the number of certificates awarded in areas such as science, technology, engineering, math, and health professions.

It also does away with the House's recommendation to give an across-the-board 3 percent to all of the state's 28 community colleges.

Mr. Booher said he was the chair of the community colleges committee in 2005 when he and a work group, including the community colleges' presidents, came up with the formula.

"Prior to my getting here was across the board (funding)," he said. "Those that were bigger got more and we didn't always think that was fair."

The bill also provides about $1.7 million from the School Aid Fund to offset the increase in retirement contributions for community colleges in the Michigan Public School Employees

Retirement System. That allocation will be assessed across-the-board as the House suggested, rather than basing it upon the MPSERS payroll.

Mr. Booher said it was decidedly so because that funding is such a small portion of the MPSERS payments overall.

"It's a drop in the bucket of their payments," he said of the provision.

The renaissance zone reimbursements totaling $3.5 million that previously came from the community college budget were instead shifted to be accounted for in the general government budget, but will still be there nonetheless, Mr. Booher said.

The total budget is about $294 million with most of that money coming from the School Aid Fund although $96.5 million comes from the general fund. That's a 3.6 percent increase from the current year (9.7 percent general fund).

Snyder Gets State Police Increases He Sought

Lawmakers have agreed to the $15 million extra that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } sought for the Department of State Police to boost its law enforcement efforts under a budget unanimously agreed to Tuesday by a conference committee.

The House had called for an $11.8 million increase while the Senate approved $10 million more. But the conference committee approved the $15 million Mr. Snyder requested as part of his public safety plan. The money would go toward funding two trooper recruit schools.

"This bill represents a significant investment in public safety in Michigan," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township), the conference committee chair.

Resolving another disagreement, the conference report agreed to the $4.2 million ($200,000 general fund) to pay for an additional 30 positions to handle tobacco tax enforcement that the Senate passed. The House and Mr. Snyder had proposed just $200,000 to pay for one additional analyst on that issue as well as requisite training.

Otherwise, the House, Senate and Mr. Snyder already had been in step on the department's budget and that was reflected in the conference report for { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96201" }.

There is a $1.9 million (all general fund) increase for laboratory operations to pay for additional scientists, equipment and training to reduce forensic analysis turnaround times to 30 days. And there's a $1.3 million increase to the department's DNA analysis program staff.

In another move that is part of Mr. Snyder's public safety plan, the bill contains a new appropriation of $2.8 million to boost investigative and patrol assistance in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac

and Saginaw, specifically helping those cities with the costs of overtime, training, aviation and fleet costs.

There's a new appropriation of $1.1 million to replace 180 outdated mobile radios and create a 10-year lifecycle replacement program as well as replacing 160 mobile data computers with a five-year lifecycle replacement program.

Overall, the budget contains $577.98 million ($317.5 million general fund). That is an 8.3 percent increase from the current year (17.5 percent increase general fund).

VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION GRANTS NICKED: A House-Senate conference committee went along with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s call for a $125,000 cut to Veterans Service Organization grants and the transfer of those funds to the Veterans Affairs Directorate Administration in approving { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95901" }. The House had called for no cut to the service organizations.

Overall, this budget differed little from what Mr. Snyder proposed in February. It contains $172.1 million ($38.2 million general fund). That's a 9.9 percent increase from the current year (12.5 percent increase general fund).

The most significant new spending is $2.4 million general fund for special maintenance at the state's 43 armories and $12 million (federal and restricted funds) to build a new armory in Flint where the existing facility is 87 years old. Another $1.6 million general fund will be spend on special maintenance projects at the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home and $516,000 at the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans' Home.

AGRICULTURE BUDGET INCLUDES MORE FOR DAIRY AND NURSERY STOCK INSPECTIONS: The Senate's push to add staff for milk safety and nursery stock inspections carried the day as a House-Senate conference committee approved a budget for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The conference adopted the Senate's call for an additional $300,000 general fund to pay for three positions in the Milk Safety and Quality Assurance section. It also approved an extra $70,000 general fund to pay for nursery stock inspections.

The budget also adopted half of the Senate's push for a Rural Development Value-Added Grant Program, allocating $1.95 million general fund.

Overall, the budget contains $76.95 million ($36.1 million general fund). That's a 0.3 percent increase from the current year (20.8 percent increase general fund).

EDUCATION: Libraries and E-libraries will take precedence in the appropriated funding for the Department of Education, a conference committee unanimously decided Tuesday.

The Michigan eLibrary Database, also known as MeL, will receive $800,000 in the upcoming year for the purchase of business research databases for small businesses and entrepreneurs, part of the 84 percent increase to MeL funding.

State aid to libraries will be $762,300, an increase from the House's recommendation by about $291,600, a Senate Fiscal Agency summary noted.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=73001&locid=1" } (R-Traverse City), Senate chair of the conference committee, said he was very pleased with the increases to libraries in this budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95201" }), noting that they are increasingly more important in communities, especially smaller ones such as his.

The Michigan College Access Network will also see $2 million in the upcoming year in the face of losing $4.3 million from federal funding - a move that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155801&locid=1" } (D-Lansing) said she was happy to see.

"This is something that's really making a difference in our state," she said.

The committee slashed $3 million general fund for projected child development care public assistance caseload decreases but increased funding for early childhood programs such as Great Start by about $1.1 million this year, including a $310,000 increase for an early childhood report outlined in the bill.

According to boilerplate, this report will require the department to provide an annual report on the activities of the ECIC, including information about the various grants awarded each year. It also requires 1 percent of the ECIC funding to be withheld for each month or partial month the report is late.

This language was previously included in the budget for the Department of Human Services prior to the transfer of the Office of Great Start to the department.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township) expressed some concern about the due date of the report - May 15, 2013 - as it may be too late of a date to be used when trying to appropriate funds next year, but no changes were made in committee about the issue.

JUDICIARY: The budget for the judiciary nearly saw unanimous passage from its conference committee on Tuesday, with the only objection coming from { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=217601&locid=1" } regarding the funding that had been appropriated for two Court of Appeals judges { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } initially said he would leave vacant.

While Ms. Tlaib said she was pleased with the rest of the appropriations in the budget, she felt "very principled" on an issue that has frustrated Democrats in both chambers after Mr. Snyder's change of position. Ms. Tlaib's Senate counterpart, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park), was absent from committee.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph), the conference committee chair, said he was most satisfied with an increased $5 million appropriation to fund the Swift-and-Sure Sanctions Fund, which pays for a program that ensures quicker sanctions for some parole violators.

"The Swift and Sure Sanction is one we want to watch carefully," he said prior to voting on reporting the bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95701" }). "The early anecdotal comments are that it's showing significant success in the four counties that have been able to participate. I think this is a step in the right direction of funding."

The conference decided to include boilerplate that requires a court be part of a unified system or have a drug court, but not necessarily both, to apply to the program. That would broaden the number of counties that would qualify.

The State Court Administrative Office also has the ability to give preference to courts that have previously participated and courts in areas from which higher numbers of residents or former residents are under supervision of the Department of Corrections.

In total, the bill contains $273.8 million ($170.75 million in general fund) in funding for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

"I feel very good about this budget that we put forward," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant), House chair of the committee. Mr. Cotter said he was excited for the increased investment to Swift and Sure as well and said he anticipates seeing some very positive return on that investment.

The budget for the judiciary will also follow Mr. Snyder's proposition to fill a $2.2 million shortfall in the Court Fee Fund for judicial compensation using funding from the general fund.

Mr. Proos said the judiciary had always expressed concern this portion of its budget was underfunded because of its reliance upon a restricted revenue source, and he was glad to see that concern had been met this upcoming year.

L.A.R.A.: Abortion clinic inspections and autism coverage stood as two of the most significant inclusions of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs budget unanimously reported from conference committee on Tuesday.

As previously reported, $15 million general fund has been appropriated for the reimbursing insurance carriers for the diagnosis and treatment of autism. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township) said time will tell on whether or not that money increases from year to year, but that he expects the issue "will mature" and therefore funding may end up being "much, much higher."

But members of the panel for { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95801" } pressed on and all agreed upon the budget, with the exception of { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), who was absent from the meeting.

Additional general fund monies to the amount of $585,000 were appropriated for fees paid by hospitals and schools for inspections and plan review revenue, which was not previously included in conference.

No funding was included for home heating assistance, but a similar program will be in the budget for the Department of Human Services.

Finally, $2 million was appropriated for IT upgrades for the Liquor Control Commission, a drop from the $5 million the House had intended to provide.

The budget totals $791.4 million ($50.57 million general fund).

Entrepreneurship Can, Will Turn State Around, Panelists Say

MACKINAC ISLAND - The mindset of the state is changing and more people are looking to stay in Michigan and start their own business, and because of that, so too is the perception people around the world have of Detroit and the state as a whole.

During a panel discussion titled, "Innovation: Entrepreneurship as the Catalyst for Economic Recovery in Michigan," four successful entrepreneurs said they are seeing more interest and excitement than ever before.

Josh Linkner, CEO and managing partner of Detroit Venture Partners said several years ago there were no venture capital firms in Detroit and now there are more than a dozen. And he said his phones are ringing off the hook.

Angel Gambino, senior vice president for digital innovations at Westfield Shoppingtowns and co-founder of nonopoly, said when she travels around the world and tells people she is from Detroit, the first reaction now isn't always one about bad news or hearing an apology.

"What I'm finding now is that there's intrigue," she said.

After making millions in technology companies, Ms. Gambino said she made the decision to bring investment and jobs back to Detroit.

For the whole state to be vibrant and vital, Detroit has to be a thriving urban center again, and even bigger than it was during its automotive heyday, she said.

"I am a cheerleader for Detroit," she said.

She said she will soon be bringing four convoys of people to the state, each containing several dozen millionaires, billionaires, property developers and artists to tour and see what Michigan has to offer.

Rick DeVos is known for starting Art Prize, but he is also CEO of Start Garden, which invests $5,000 in two ideas each week, to help those wanting to start a business to be able to get off the ground.

He said the biggest hindrance to entrepreneurship is culture of business relating to startups, but it is changing.

"We were the Silicon Valley of mobility 100 years ago," he said. "That built incredible industry."

But that industry also moved the state away from focusing on startups and new ideas.

Ms. Gambino said if she were governor for a day, she would create more incentives for investment into businesses, and new startups that stay in Michigan or maintain a presence here.

She also said she would propose disincentives for people that own big buildings and are just keeping them up to code, or are not keeping them up to code because it benefits them to do so.

"There are some property owners that are just sitting on them, making our city look like crap," she said.

Those property owners are contributing to blight and perpetuating the idea that Detroit is a scary place.

Medical Malpractice Bills Debate Continues In Committee

No vote was made on Tuesday by the Senate Insurance Committee on bills that would reform tort law involving medical malpractice lawsuits in the state as testimony continued and panel members heard from a room full of people largely in opposition to the bills.

Attorneys, including more from the Michigan Association of Justice, continued to say the bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB111501" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB111601" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB111701" }, { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB111801" }
and { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB111901" }
) would essentially grant physicians immunity from being sued for malpractice.

But perhaps the most protested bill was SB 1116, which contains a provision that would determine whether a suit had legal standing for a trial by jury based on a physician's state of mind when deciding to go through with procedure "A" instead of procedure "B."

That, attorneys say, is impossible to prove.

"Proving or disproving a state of mind is difficult and that's effectively what SB 1116 does is proving a state of conduct against a state of mind," said Barry Conybeare, a personal injury lawyer.

Currently, he said, jurors determine whether a physician is guilty or not guilty of the negligence they are accused of based on a state of conduct, which is more easily proven or disproven through expert testimony on both sides.

"We cannot convert malpractice litigation to malpractice beliefs," he said.

James Bodary from the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel, which argues on behalf of doctors and lawyers and not victims, said his organization supports some of the legislation, but opposes some as well, including opposition to SB 1116.

"We have serious concerns of what would be a professional judgment defense," he said, noting that he believes in the ability to use a civil jury to decide such cases rather than leaving it up to judges alone first.

Mr. Bodary also said his organization had some concerns about a provision in one of the bills that deems "household and other service" as noneconomic damage, which has a cap on the amount of money victims can receive.

"In fairness to the other side, calling an apple an orange doesn't make it an orange," he said, referring to the instances in which the victim of malpractice is the largest or most significant breadwinner for the family. "Let's be truthful about the legislation we pass."

Other somewhat surprising comments were intended to come a physician in opposition to the bill, as most physicians have so far been in support of the bill.

Elliot Grysen is a licensed physician in the state of Michigan, but also serves as a medical malpractice attorney. Though time ran short and he was unable to testify, he supplied a statement noting his strong opposition to the package.

"Patient safety requires that hospitals and providers be accountable for the decisions and actions they take that determine whether Michigan residents will receive quality care," he said in a

statement. "All of Michigan families deserve the safest and highest quality medical care that can be provided. This package of bills will do the opposite."

His statement also notes that a "best estimate is that 200,000 Americans die each year from medical malpractice." Rather than reducing the amount and tragedy of negligent care, he said, these bills grant effective immunity, "holding no corporation or professional legally responsible for deaths and injuries, even when clearly negligent care is provided."

It is unclear when the bills will be voted on, but two packed committee meetings on the topic so far indicate that much more testimony and possibly even changes may still be ahead.

Detroit Regional Chamber Opposes '25 By 25' Campaign

As the 2012 Mackinac Policy Conference opened Tuesday, the conference host, the Detroit Regional Chamber announced its formal opposition to the renewable energy ballot proposal and urged residents not to sign the petitions.

The proposed constitutional amendment would mandate that the state's utilities generate 25 percent of their power from renewable resources by 2025.

Current law requires the utilities to generate 10 percent of their power from renewable resources by 2015.

"The Detroit Regional Chamber strongly opposes the proposed 25 percent renewable energy mandate that would use the state constitution as a means to set a new state energy policy," said Sandy Baruah, Detroit Regional Chamber president and CEO said in a statement. "Michigan is already on an intelligent and affordable clean energy path because of the 2008 energy law, which passed the Legislature with overwhelming bipartisan support. We strongly urge all Michigan families and businesses to oppose this mandate to ensure Michigan can continue to provide its residents and businesses with reliable and affordable electric service."

The 10 percent renewable portfolio standard was put in place in 2008, and was supported by the chamber, saying it was crafted with bipartisan support and input from energy providers. The state's major utilities oppose the 25 by 25 plan.

In its statement, the chamber said it believes the state's constitution should not be used to make energy policy.

Senate Committee Moves Low-Income Energy Bills

Legislation establishing a new low-income energy assistance program in the state was sent to the full Senate on unanimous votes by the Senate Energy and Technology Committee.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=57701&locid=1" } (R-Battle Creek), the committee chair, said he hoped that at least for the first year of the

program, though, no utility customer would have to contribute to the system through their utility bills. He hoped the state would appropriate $60 million for the fund.

Already the two largest utilities in Michigan, DTE Energy and Consumers Energy, collect funds from customers to assist low-income individuals, and the state has restrictions on cutting off utility service during the winter.

But { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB113401" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB113501" } create a fund in the state treasury for low-income energy assistance program that can total $60 million a year in either appropriated funds or collected funds from utility payments.

The bills also establish which individuals would be eligible for assistance, those with household income of 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or less, and a crisis period, from November 1 to May 31, in the Lower Peninsula in which funds can be requested. No specific crisis period for the Upper Peninsula was set, and the package dictates that no more than 30 percent of the fund can be spent outside of the crisis area.

Several individuals speaking to the committee opposed the legislation, saying it amounted to a new tax on individuals to pay for the low-income, but Mr. Nofs said for many people in the state the fee - once set by the utilities - will not be new.

The state is trying to create a more efficient method of dealing with a way of helping low-income individuals, Mr. Nofs said.

Jackson Falls Short On Signatures In 13th Congressional

The field for the 13th U.S. House District continues to thin as a result of insufficient petition signatures.

First it was attorney Godfrey Dillard to get the boot. Now it's { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=89401&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), who claimed to have submitted 1,625 petition signatures - more than the 1,000 required.

But Jina Sawani, spokesperson for the Wayne County Clerk's Office, said Ms. Jackson fell short and would be disqualified. She said the exact shortage was still being finalized.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } (D-Westland), U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D-Detroit), John Goci of Westland and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park) remain on the Democratic primary ballot for now. However, challenges are still pending to the signatures of all those candidates except Mr. Conyers, whose signatures were not challenged.

Snyder Declares Emergency, Prohibits Burning As Fire Spreads

With the Duck Lake fire having burned more than 22,000 acres and at least 97 structures, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } over the weekend declared a state of emergency in the counties affected by the fire and banned open burning in the rest of the region and the northern half of the Lower Peninsula.

Late Friday evening, Mr. Snyder issued a burning ban for 49 counties because of dry conditions in an effort to prevent further wildfires. The state, as well as federal and local agencies and Minnesota, have 214 personnel already committed to fighting the Duck Lake fire. The fire, as of Monday evening, was more than half contained.

The emergency declaration not only allowed for some funds to flow to the firefighting effort, but also allowed the Department of State Police to bring in and coordinate communications equipment.

Under { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/EO_2012-8_387184_7.pdf" \t "blank" }, also issued Friday, the National Guard is also assisting in the effort.

Officials had not released value estimates, but they have confirmed the fire had destroyed 34 homes or cabins, a store and a hotel in the region, as well as some garages and outbuildings.

Though it has been evacuated, the fire has not yet reached Tahquamenon Falls State Park. The park has been closed because of smoke concerns, but will reopen Wednesday.

The area has seen some rain that has helped to control the fire, but also some heavy winds.

"The rainfall will help reduce the risk of wildfires in the short-term for those areas receiving precipitation," said Bill O'Neill, acting chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division. "However, it's important for the public to understand that the high risk of wildfire is expected to increase again in these areas. With our firefighting resources stretched to the limit, the DNR strongly encourages all residents and visitors in all parts of the state to avoid open burning and use of any fireworks to minimize the possibility of more wildfires."

The fire in the nearby Seney National Wildlife Refuge is nearly contained, having burned about 3,400 acres, federal officials said.

D.E.Q, D.N.R. Budgets Pass Senate

The first two finalized budget bills cleared the Senate on Tuesday as funding for the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources won approval on 25-10 votes with three senators excused from session.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101&locid=1" } (R-Mayville), chair of the Appropriations subcommittees for both departments, spoke to both bills, noting perhaps the most significant appropriation in the DNR budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB96001" }☒)

as the $3 million that will go toward funding a summer program for youth in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac and Saginaw to work in DNR facilities.

Initially, Mr. Snyder had proposed $5 million as part of his special message on public safety aimed at those four cities on the FBI's top ten list for violent crimes.

The conference committee also rejected fee increases for off-road vehicles and use of state shooting ranges, as well as a fee to replace lost recreation certificates.

Voting was mixed, as { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001&locid=1" } (R-Grand Blanc), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" } (R-Sterling Heights), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301&locid=1" } (R-Sheridan) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=52901&locid=1" } (R-Hamburg) all voted no alongside most Democrats.

But four Democrats - { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } of Westland, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=53401&locid=1" } of Flushing, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=41301&locid=1" } of Taylor and Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } of East Lansing -voted in favor of the bill.

The budget for the DNR totals $337.88 million, a 1.8 percent cut from the current year and 0.8 percent less than the governor's recommendation. The $19.74 million in general fund, though, is a 7.7 percent increase from current year and $100,000 more than the governor's recommendation.

As for the DEQ budget ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB95301" }), it totals $431.43 million, a 0.5 percent increase from the current year.

"The House and the Senate were pretty close even before we split budgets," Mr. Green said of the bill. The one difference, he said, came in funding a water withdrawal assessment program to replace part of the revenue expected to be generated by a fee expansion the conference committee rejected.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701&locid=1" } (R-Harrison Township), Mr. Hune and all Democrats except for Mr. Gleason and Mr. Hopgood voted no on the DEQ budget.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=35001&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501&locid=1" } (R-Hart) were excused from session.

RETIREMENT BOARD: The Senate passed a bill on Tuesday that will allow the retirement portfolio of public employee retirement systems to be more greatly diversified and expand their funds globally.

The bill cleared the Senate on a 30-5 vote, with three senators absent from session. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=124401&locid=1" } (R-Gaines Township), sponsor of the bill (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=51091" }), added an amendment that would permit a pension board member to be removed from a pension system with an established method of doing so if it is less restrictive than what { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB79701" } calls for.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=95101&locid=1" } (R-Evart), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701&locid=1" } (R-Escanaba), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301&locid=1" } (R-Sheridan) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101&locid=1" } (R-Mayville) voted against the bill.

House Passes Senior Protection Bills

The House passed Tuesday the first part of a package of bills designed to protect seniors and other vulnerable adults.

The bills would enact { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s proposal for enhancing protections for seniors that moved quickly through the Senate but have taken a more deliberate path through the House.

All of the bills moved from the House Tuesday did so with 110-0 votes.

Among the bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB45401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB45501" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB45701" },

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB45901" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB46101" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB46201" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB46401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB46501" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB46601" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB46801" }) was the creation of senior medical alert program that would require law enforcement agencies to take reports on missing seniors and vulnerable adults and to forward those to neighboring agencies.

County coroners also would be able to create senior death review teams to conduct initial investigations in cases of suspicious deaths.

Parts of the package also enhance penalties for defrauding seniors and allow seniors to testify remotely rather than in court.

Committee Approves Home Visiting Bill

A bill that would allocate home visiting funding to only promising and evidence-based programs was unanimously approved by a House committee Tuesday.

A substitute adopted by the Families, Children and Seniors House Committee made various technical changes to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB557201" } along with adding a timeline provision for programs to move from promising to evidence-based. Timeline plans will be worked out on a program-by-program basis with the state departments of Community Health, Human Services and Education.

The vote was 8-0 on both the substitute and the bill with Rep. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) absent. Ms. O'Brien was skeptical of the bill at the May 22 testimony hearing.

"We are grateful that members of the House recognize the importance of funding proven home visiting models," said Amy Zaagman, director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, in a statement. "Home visiting models are an effective way to protect children, educate parents and strengthen parenting skills and create safer communities. It is important to embrace proven models in order to receive the maximum benefit from home visiting programs."

Voluntary home visiting programs service at-risk new and expecting families with children up to the age of 5.

In addition to only providing state funding to proven programs, the bill will require a communication system between the three departments involved in the process.

COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON NURSING HOME BILL: All testimony was supportive of a bill that would help government and nursing homes save money, use resources more efficiently and communicate more effectively.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=218701&locid=1" } (R-Coldwater), the committee chair, said he intends to follow through with this bill that would streamline the yearly survey and follow-up process for nursing homes throughout the state.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB88401" } passed the full Senate with a unanimous vote of 37-0.

Committee Hears Testimony On Social Networking Bill

A bill that would prevent employers and educational institutions from requesting passwords to personal social media accounts received mixed reviews in a House committee Tuesday.

The National Federation for Independent Business Michigan chapter spoke in support of the legislation along with the American Civil Liberties Union. Michigan State University also spoke at the hearing but with a neutral stance. The Michigan Chamber of Commerce opposed the bill, but did not speak.

The NFIB has about 10,000 members in the state; in a survey by the federation 68 percent of its members said they would support legislation that would prohibit employers from requesting user names and passwords to social media.

"With the way people are so sloppy with their privacy settings on Facebook, if you want to find out anything about an employee typically you don't need their permission," said Charlie Owens, state director for the National Federation of Independent Business, in a statement.

The representative from Michigan State University worried about student email accounts, which are issued by the university. He asked that these accounts be treated as employee accounts that the university would continue to have access to when investigating academic integrity or other issues.

The ACLU was in support of the bill..

"We believe that employer policies that request or require employees or applicants to disclose user names or passwords to their private internet and web-based accounts ... constitutes a

frightening and illegal invasion of privacy," said Shelli Weisberg, of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179301&locid=1" } (R-Frankenmuth), who is supporting the bill, said the House Energy and Technology Committee would meet for more testimony on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB552301" } and then vote next week.

Sellek To Head Romney Mich. Campaign

John Sellek, a longtime Republican staffer in the legislative and executive branches, will head up Mitt Romney's presidential campaign in Michigan.

Mr. Sellek, most recently press secretary to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" }, is taking an unpaid leave of absence from that job through the November election. Joy Yearout will serve as acting press secretary for Mr. Schuette.

Mr. Sellek's principal job will be to oversee Mr. Romney's Michigan staff. He is in the process of finding a headquarters for the operation, which will be in Lansing.

"I took the job because I'm a Michigan lifer," Mr. Sellek said. "My family is here and my friends are here. I want to do anything I can do to see Michigan come back. And to play even a small role in that is a thrill personally for me. But I think there's no doubt that Mitt is the guy to make that happen, so I want to work to see that through."

Mr. Schuette is a top Romney surrogate in Michigan, serving as one of his campaign co-chairs here.

Mr. Sellek said the Michigan operation would be fully staffed and said the campaign considers Michigan a "target state."

Prior to serving as press secretary for Mr. Schuette and former Attorney General Mike Cox, Mr. Sellek held several roles. He served in the House Republican staff for many years, rising to deputy chief of staff under former Speaker Craig DeRoche. He also worked on the 1994 and 1998 gubernatorial campaigns of former Governor John Engler and then the 2002 gubernatorial bid of then-Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus.

In 2000, he worked on the Michigan and Ohio campaigns for George W. Bush.

Durant Unveils New Ad

Republican senatorial candidate Clark Durant plays up his "rebel with a cause" campaign theme in a new advertisement he unveiled Tuesday.

However, the ad is not up on television yet. Campaign spokesperson Joe Koss said the details of when the ad will air and how big a buy it will be are still getting finalized.

But Mr. Koss said, "It's going to be something that we definitely put some oomph behind in terms of money and stations and points."

The ad opens with Mr. Durant holding a leather jacket and approaching a motorcycle.

"I don't wear a leather jacket or ride a Harley But challenging the status quo? ... You bet I'm a rebel," he says in the ad. "Washington is broken and isn't accountable. Career politicians won't change things. But, this Michigan rebel will."

Mr. Durant goes on to tout his work at founding the Cornerstone charter schools organization in Detroit.

Study: Individual Insurance Policies Don't Meet Basic Requirements

A study comparing individual to group health insurance policies in Michigan and several other states found that the average individual policy did not meet basic coverage requirements the 2010 Affordable Care Act will mandate of policies sold through statewide exchanges.

The study, conducted by the University of Chicago and the firm of Towers Watson, looked at health insurance policies in Michigan, California, Utah, Pennsylvania and Florida. The study looked at the aggregate of all the policies in all the states, and did not break down the different policies in each state.

According to the study, most of the individual plans did not provide enough actuarial coverage to be even be marketed by state exchanges beginning in 2014, as the Affordable Care Act requires.

The federal health care law says to be marketed on the exchange the plans have to provide a minimum of coverage.

Individual plans studied in the review averaged no more than 60 percent coverage of health care costs. The federal act requires at least 60 percent coverage to be marketed on an exchange.

In contrast, coverage of group plans was 83 percent, the study said.

The exchanges are mandated by the federal act, and if a state does not create one, the federal government will do so.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } has called for the Legislature to approve legislation allowing for the exchange, but lawmakers have balked so far. They are waiting to see what the U.S. Supreme Court will say about the act in a decision expected by the end of June.

Island Notes

SWAG BAG GOODIES: This year's swag bag for attendees of the 2012 Mackinac Policy Conference contains the usual party invites, event promotions and of course, Mackinac Island fudge.

But there is also hand sanitizer from the Detroit Regional Chamber and stain remover from Blue Cross Blue Shield, which both come in containers that could be confused with an epi pen. There's a wrist band from Henry Ford Health System, a keychain from Bank of America and Merrill Lynch and a nightlight from Michigan Nightlight, which is said to be illuminating solutions for children.

The highlight though, would have to be the Polisticks from Brogan & Partners, which contains a packet of stickers and features a mock Rick Snyder action figure on the cover, with the warning, "tie not included."

Inside are stickers containing a picture of former Governor Jennifer Granholm in a hoodie with the words "Jenny from the hoodie" above her. A helmetless motorcycle rider next to the phrase "Organ donor on wheels" and one with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=105001&locid=1" } labeled as a "State treasure."

STORYBOARDS: New this year is the addition of storyboards to the conference. Julie Stewart, of Duluth, Georgia, will create a graphical representations of the issues discussed throughout each day's sessions.

Ms. Stewart owns Making Ideas Visible. Her illustrations will be posted near lobby at the end of each day and on the chamber's website

INTERACTIVE VOTING: During Wednesday night's discussion on the 2012 presidential election, with Democrat strategist Donna Brazile, and former special assistant to President George W. Bush, Tucker Eskew, the audience will have the ability to vote live with the results displayed on the screen as they happen.

"Democracy has come to Mackinac Island, even though cars have not." Sandy Baruah, president and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber, said.

Capital Notebook

M.S.U. SURVEY RESEARCH DIRECTOR HEADS NATIONAL ORGANIZATION: The director of Michigan State University's Office of Survey Research has been named president of the Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations.

Larry Hembroff is the founding director of the university's survey office, which began operation in 1989. He will now represent more than 60 survey research organizations within the nation's higher education institutions. Mr. Hembroff has a doctorate in sociology from Washington State University.

Campaign Notes

PLATINUM RECORD FUNDRAISER: One lucky contributor to Trevor Thomas' could have his or her own copy of Madonna's double platinum award for her recording of Vogue. Howie Klein, former general manager of Sire Records and founder of Blue America PAC, is offering the award to someone who contributes to Mr. Thomas through the PAC.

Those not wishing to contribute can also enter the drawing by sending an entry to Mr. Klein.

Appointments By The Governor

STATE PLUMBING BOARD: Dan Nixon of Sterling Heights was reappointed for a term expiring June 30, 2015. His appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Wednesday, May 30

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=68801&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210101&locid=1" }, 373-8538), Room 307, House Office Building, 9 a.m.

{ **SUGAR BEET PRODUCTION** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=287701" }) Exclude soil from sugar beet production from solid waste definition.

HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB536301" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=69201&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284201&locid=1" }, 373-2002), Room 519, House Office Building, 9:15 a.m.

{ **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901" }) Require opportunity for students to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" in public schools each school day.

{ **CORRECTIONS OFFICER TRAINING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205901" }) Allow new employee training for corrections officers to be provided by certain colleges under certain circumstances.

{ **FALSE MEDICAL REPORT** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001" }) Prohibit false report of medical or other emergency and provide for a penalty and reimbursement of certain expenses.

=legisl ation_ billdet ail.cfm &billid =2011 HB543 101" }

{ HYPE RLIN K "http:/ /www. gongw er.com /index. cfm?li nk=leg islatio n_bill detail. cfm& billid= 2011H B5456 01" } **DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288101" }) Allow completion of certain vocational technical or career and technical education in lieu of certain state high school diploma requirements.

{ HYPE RLIN K "http:/ /www. gongw er.com /index. cfm?li nk=leg islation _billde tail.cf m&bill id=201 1HB55 3401" } **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289901" }) Modify certain requirements for high school diploma and eliminate foreign language requirements.

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{ **ALGEBRA II REQUIREMENTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=282201" }) Provide opt-out provision for foreign language and algebra II requirements for high school diploma for pupils meeting certain alternative requirements.

HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB564501" }

{ **SCHOOL ACCREDITING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205001" }) Allow third party accrediting of schools and provide that department establish list of approved private accreditors.

HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB565901" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=69001&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=80001&locid=1" }, 373-7256), Room 326, House Office Building, 9:30 a.m.

{ **CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" }) Modifies protection from liability to nonclients for certified public accountants.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=70301&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=207401&locid=1" }, 373-5795), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

{ **LOG WALLS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101" }) Permits log walls in residential buildings under certain conditions.

{ **PRELICENSURE REQUIREMENTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=291501" }) Revise prelicensure requirements for residential builders and contractors.

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB550201" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB560401" }

ELIMINATE OSTEOPATHIC BOARD ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Eliminate osteopathic medicine advisory board

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=212601" }

REPEALS CONSUMERS COUNCIL ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268601" }) Repeals professional employer organization regulatory act.

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11HB568
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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=70401&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=22401&locid=1" }, 373-2013), Room 519, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=201SB110401" } **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=124401" }) Clarify withholding requirements for certain qualified charitable gift annuities and for flow-through entities.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=201SB110401" } **PROPERTY CAP** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=228001" }) Retains assessment cap on property if transferred to immediate family member and use does not change.

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}
{ DELINQUENT TAXES ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292401" }) Provide for
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{ INCOME TAX REDUCTION ({ HYPERLINK
HYPER "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001" }) Sets income
LINK tax rate reduction to begin October 1, 2012.
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2011HB
569901"
}
{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB570001" } **TAX EXEMPTION** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219601" }) Increases the personal tax exemption.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=69901&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206701&locid=1" }, 373-5795), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" } **PRISONER PHONES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB55201" }) Prohibits possession or use of mobile telephone or other wireless communications device in a jail.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" } **MARRIAGE** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" }) Allows district court judges, district court magistrates and probate judges to perform marriages anywhere

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{ PERFORMING MARRIAGES ({ HYPERLINK
HYP "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" **}**) Authorizes fee
ERL charged by probate judge to perform marriages and requires fee to be paid to probate court
INK in county where ceremony is performed.
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{ PERFORMING MARRIAGES ({ HYPERLINK
HYP"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" **}**) Authorizes state
ERL court administrative office to set fee charged by district judges and magistrates to perform
INK marriages and requires fee to be paid to district court in the district where the wedding is
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{ HYPERLI NK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" } **BOOT CAMP** Eliminates sunset for boot camp program.
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cfm&billid
=2011SB8
6101" }
{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206701" } **BUSINESS COURT** Create a business court.
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ongwer.com/in
dex.cfm?link=l
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detail.cfm&bil
lid=2011HB51
2801" }
{ HYPERLI NK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205901" } **PRIVATE INMATE LABOR** Clarify use of inmate labor.
"http://ww
w.gongwer.

com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB565801" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=70601&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=158101&locid=1" }, 373-1260), Room 519, House Office Building, 12 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB58201" } **UNLOADED LOWBOYS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701" }) Allows access to designated highways for unloaded lowboys.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB565801" } **DRIVER TRAINING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301" }) Revises fingerprint and criminal history record information requirements under driver education provider and instructor act.

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01" }

{ HYPERL INK "http:// www.gong wer.com/i ndex.cfm ?link=legi slation_bi lldetail.cf m&billid =2011SB 103001" } **SCHOOL BUSES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=56201" }) Revises certain requirements for stopping school bus.

{ HYPE RLIN K "http:// www.g ongwer .com/in dex.cf m?link =legisl ation_b illdetail .cfm& billid= 2011SB 103401 " } **LICENSE SUSPENSIONS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701" }) Allows multiple reinstatements of license suspended for nonpayment of driver responsibility fee.

{ HYPER LINK "http:// www.go ngwer.c om/inde **LICENSE PLATES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=223301" }) Prohibit renewal of "Auto Centennial" and "Great Lakes Splendor" license plates. (Testimony only)

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{ MICHIGAN TRANSPORTATION FUND ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601" }) Modify
RLINK condition to receive funding from Michigan Transportation Fund.
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nk=legi
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}
{ ROAD AGENCIES BEST PRACTICES ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205201" }) Require
RLIN adoption of best practices and asset management standards as a condition of receiving
K funds.
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201" }

{ TRANSPORTATION FUND ({ HYPERLINK
HYPER "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=271501" }) Modify

LINK conditions to receive funding from Michigan Transportation Fund.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=201 1HB531 301" }

{ EMERGENCY CONTACT ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=158101" **}**) Prohibit requiring emergency contact information as condition of licensure and prohibit disclosure except for law enforcement purposes. (Testimony only)
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=201 1HB5 54201 " }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=77601&locid=1" **}**, (Chr. **{** HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=73001&locid=1" **}**, 373-2768), Senate Appropriations Room, Capitol Building, 12 p.m.

{ K-12 SCHOOL AID BUDGET ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=73001" **}**) Provides school aid appropriations for 2012-13 fiscal year.
"http://www.gongwer

.com/in dex.cf m?link =legisla tion_bil ldetail. cfm&bi llid=20 11SB96 101" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=65501&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=18801&locid=1" }, 373-5312), Room 110, Farnum Building, 1 p.m.

{ HYPERL INK "http://w ww.gong wer.com/i ndex.cfm? link=legisl ation_bill detail.cfm &billid=2 011HB547 701" } **21ST CENTURY JOBS FUND** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206201" }) Modify 21st century job trust fund.

{ HYPE RLIN K "http: //www .gong wer.co m/ind ex.cfm ?link= legisla tion_b illdeta il.cfm **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PERMISSIONS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=124401" }) Grant the Housing Development Authority the authority to make, purchase, or participate in certain loans.

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2301"
}
{ HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PERMISSIONS ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=124401" **})** Define escrow
RLIN accounts in which authority funds are held for the Housing Development Authority.
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er.com
/index.
cfm?li
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cfm&
billid=
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01" }
{ HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PERMISSIONS ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=18801" **})** Increase the limit
RLIN on principal amount of bonds and notes for the Housing Development Authority.
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{ HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=66301&locid=1" **},**

(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001&locid=1" }, 373-5323), Room 100, Farnum Building, 3 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB505801" } **ELECTION LAW** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=80001" }) Limit expenditures by candidate committees to defend certain officials in criminal or civil actions.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB514201" } **CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=273801" }) Provide for certain joint authorities.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=201 **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266801" }) Revises population threshold for establishment and maintenance of free public libraries.

1HB557
301" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=65801&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301&locid=1" }, 373-5312), Room 210, Farnum Building, 3 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB472301" } **BRIDGE CARD** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=212601" }) Prohibits issuance of bridge card to inmates.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB472301" } **BRIDGE CARD** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=212601" }) Clarifies replacement costs for lost or stolen bridge card.

Thursday, May 31

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=69701&locid=1" }, (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=203801&locid=1" }, 373-8538), Room 519, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=213901" }) **NO FAULT INSURANCE** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=213901" }) Prohibit

LINK undocumented aliens from receiving personal protection benefits.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB499301" }
{ NO-FAULT ELIGIBILITY ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=215101" }**) Prohibit eligibility for personal injury protection for individuals injured during the commission of a felony.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB558701" }
{ NO-FAULT COVERAGE ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=283401" }**) Eliminate PIP coverage for certain persons.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB558901" }
{ THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=203801" }**) Expands No-Fault auto theft prevention authority to include insurance fraud.

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{ HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=67001&locid=1" **}**,
(Chr. **{** HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" **}**, 373-5307),
Room 110, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.

{ LIQUOR SALES AT OUTDOOR STADIUMS ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=273801" **}**) Allow sales of
RLINKalcohol at certain sporting events held at a university's outdoor stadium.
**"http://
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ongwer
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dex.cf
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tion_bil
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}**
Subscribers Please Note

A Capital Notebook item in the Friday, May 25 edition regarding the visitation and funeral for Collin Hansen, the son of **{** HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501&locid=1" **}** (R-Hart), inaccurately dated the day of visitation. The date should be Thursday, May 31. Visitation hours will still be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at King Funeral Home, 2370 North 72nd Avenue in Hart. His ceremony will also still be the next day at 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Hart, 3258 North 72nd Avenue, as well.

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Lansing Michigan 48933
Phone: 517−482−3500 | **Fax:** 517−482−4367 | **Email:** { HYPERLINK "mailto:gongwer@gongwer.com" }

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 09, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

You are receiving the following headlines from various news sources and list of recent press releases received at MIRS as part of your paid subscription to MIRSnews.com If you do not wish to receive these e-mails, please go to your MIRSnews.com account preferences.

Obama to Congress: Help keep teachers employed

"President Obama urged Congress today to renew federal money for local governments so that they can avoid layoffs of teachers."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120609/NEWS15/120609008/Obama-to-Congress-Help-keep-teachers-employed?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Detroit will be broke next week if lawsuit isn't dropped, mayor says

"With Detroit teetering over a monetary abyss, Mayor Dave Bing and the city's new chief financial officer issued a clarion call Friday, warning bluntly that the city will run out of cash next week if a lawsuit challenging the financial agreement the city made with the state to avoid insolvency isn't dropped."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120609/NEWS01/206090385/Detroit-will-broke-next-week-lawsuit-isn-t-dropped-mayor-says

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Masonic Temple, Cass Park may get $38M renovation

"A plan is in the works to pump $38 million into Detroit's Masonic Temple and the surrounding desolate area."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120609/BIZ/206090318/Masonic-Temple-Cass-Park-may-get-38M-renovation?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Powerful pyrotechnics hit Michigan with a bang

*"Michigan's 6-month-old fireworks regulations have lighted up more than just amateur pyrotechnics.
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120609/BIZ/206090344#ixzz1xIu8oUZr

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Emails hint Mullin chosen early for airport job From The Detroit News:
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120609/METRO01/206090339#ixzz1xItwzzy9

"Detroit— Turkia Mullin fielded business pitches and at least one job inquiry at Detroit Metropolitan Airport weeks before she applied to become its CEO, emails obtained Friday by The Detroit News show.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120609/METRO01/206090339#ixzz1xItrusAo

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U.S. Senate candidate Gary Glenn speaks at Kalamazoo County GOP luncheon, fights for party base

*"**PORTAGE, MI –** U.S. Senate candidate Gary Glenn's second day in Kalamazoo County couldn't have been more different than the first."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/06/us_sen_candidate_gary_glenn_sp.html

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Hundreds gather at state Capitol in Lansing to protest contraception mandate

"LANSING, MI – Mothers pushing strollers flanked teens, young adults, priests and others who gathered on the state Capitol lawn Friday afternoon in protest of a federal rule requiring most employers to offer health care that also covers birth control for women."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2012/06/hundreds_gather_at_state_capit.html*

Detroit councilman: Marijuana decriminalization a 'bad idea' that could hurt job seekers

"Proponents say decriminalizing marijuana in Detroit could save the city cash by ending a costly war on recreational drug use, but Councilman Ken Cockrel Jr. believes legalization could come at a cost to the local economy."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/06/detroit_councilman_marijuana_d.html

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West Michigan's largest bank will have the nation's largest overdraft fees

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Fifth Third Bank, the largest financial institution in West Michigan, will have some of the nation's largest overdraft fees, according to a survey released this week by the Consumer Federation of America (CFA)."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/06/west_michigans_largest_bank_al.html*

Flint budget cuts: Emergency manager intends to outsource garbage pickup, senior centers, other services

"FLINT, MI -- More jobs that have been held for decades by city workers could soon be headed to the private sector."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/06/flint_emergency_manager_wants_1.html#incart_river_default*

As font size dispute threatens to nullify 200,000 signatures, activists vow to keep fighting Public Act 4

"FLINT, MI -- Local opponents of Public Act 4 plan to keep fighting for the validity of the petition that garneredmore than 200,000 signatures in favor of a referendum of the law that gives more power to state-appointed emergency managers."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/06/as_font_size_dispute_threatens.html#incart_river_default*

Former Kentwood Mayor Richard Root dies of cancer days after resigning from office

"KENTWOOD, MI – Days after resigning as mayor of Kentwood, Richard Root died of cancer Friday night."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/report_former_kentwood_mayor_r.html#incart_river_default*

Mackinac Island Ferry Service ordinance nears completion

"Mackinaw Island, Mich. —

A two-year battle over Mackinac Island ferry franchise fees, schedules and winter service could come to an end on Saturday.
"

Source: *Cheboygan Daily Tribune* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.cheboygannews.com/topstories/x2067829424/Mackinac-Island-Ferry-Service-ordinance-nears-completion

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Commission approves County Animal Shelter plans

"Cheboygan, Mich. —

The animal shelter renovation project got a green light Wednesday when it received special use permit approval from the Cheboygan County Planning Commission during the panel's regular meeting.
"
Source: *Cheboygan Daily Tribune* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.cheboygannews.com/topstories/x1098660196/Commission-approves-County-Animal-Shelter-plans

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Delta Township World War II veteran wowed by Washington welcome

"Army veteran Gerald Knapp was prepared to be moved by his Wednesday visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120609/NEWS01/306100107/Delta-Township-World-War-II-veteran-wowed-by-Washington-welcome?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Levin says Air National Guard base is safe

"U.S. Sen. Carl Levin said Friday he was optimistic that the threat of military budget cuts hitting Battle Creek's Air National Guard Base has passed."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120608/NEWS01/306080022/Levin-says-Air-National-Guard-base-safe?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFrontpage%7Cp&nclick_check=1

Reaction split on Michigan bill to restrict abortion

"Three bills cleared a hurdle in a Michigan House panel aimed at restricting and regulating abortion practices."

Source: *Macomb Daily* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/06/09/news/local_news/doc4fd29db32521d650570734.txt

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Christians rally in Detroit to protest Obama administration's contraception mandate

"More than 1,000 people at a rally in downtown Detroit on Friday amplified their opposition to the Obama administration's contraception mandate, saying it attacks religious beliefs and encourages sexual promiscuity."

Source: *Macomb Daily* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.macombdaily.com/article/20120608/NEWS01/120609514/christians-rally-in-detroit-to-protest-obama-administration-s-contraception-mandate*

Press Releases

DTE Energy's River Rouge Power Plant Receives State's Highest Workplace Safety and Health Award

"

June 8, 2012 –DTE Energy's River Rouge Power Plant *received the* ***Star Award,*** *Michigan's highest workplace safety and health award, today from the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA). The MIOSHA program is part of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).*

"

Source: *MI Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339184886_LARA1.pdf*

Tomorrow, Saturday, June 9th-- Unity Pancake Breakfast & Phil Hart Early Bird Specials Deadline

"

Please come out and join us. We would like to continue the election cycle showing our strong unity as Democrats! "

Source: *Oakland County Democratic Party* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339184646_OCDP1.pdf*

Durant Campaign Challenges Hoekstra to a Spelling Bee

"

DETROIT, MI- *Today the Clark Durant campaign challenged Pete Hoekstra to a spelling bee. Typically at this stage of the election cycle, campaigns issue debate challenges, but in light of the Hoekstra campaign's "Wreckeless" advertisement released yesterday, the Durant campaign felt a spelling bee would be more appropriate."*

Source: *Clark Durant for Senate* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339184602_Durant1.pdf

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Snyder makes appointments to Liquor Control Commission

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointments of Edward Clemente, of Lincoln Park, and Dennis Olshove, of Warren, and the reappointment of Edward Gaffney, of Grosse Pointe Farms, to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339180378_Gov2.pdf

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Executive Hackel reveals Macomb County's Blue Economy Strategic Development Plan

"

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel has announced some of the highlights of the Blue Economy Strategic Development Plan the County will be implementing to further develop Lake St. Clair and the Clinton River."

Source: *Macomb County Executive Office* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339178420_Macomb1.pdf

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Senator Stabenow Congratulates Sparrow Health System on Joining Mayo Clinic Care Network

"

***WASHINGTON** – U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow today congratulated Sparrow Health System on being one of the first five hospitals in the country to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network."*

Source: *U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339178386_Stabenow1.pdf

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Walberg Weekly Wrap-Up: House Passes Health Care Cost Reduction Act

"

While the Supreme Court prepares to deliver a ruling on the 2010 health care law, the House took their 30th vote aimed at repealing, defunding, or dismantling a portion of it. On Thursday, the House passed H.R. 436, the Health Care Cost Reduction Act, which reduces health care costs for families and small businesses and help save American jobs. "

Source: *U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177532_Walberg1.pdf

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REPEAL OF MEDICAL DEVICE TAX PASSES HOUSE

"

Washington, D.C. – A bill to repeal the medical device tax imposed under Obamacare passed the House yesterday afternoon on a 270-146 vote. H.R. 436, the Health Care Cost Reduction Act of 2012, was cosponsored by Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI). "

Source: *U.S. Rep. Justin Amash* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177485_Amash1.pdf

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SNYDER MEDIA ADVISORY for Monday, June 11

"

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will offer remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Lenawee Intermediate School District Center for a Sustainable Future."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177420_Gov1.pdf

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State Rep. Candidate Martin Howrylak Launches Campaign Website

"

***TROY, Mich.** – State Representative candidate Martin Howrylak today launched his campaign website, www.MartinHowrylak.com. Having been elected three times to citywide office in Troy and having served 2000-2012, Howrylak is considered the front runner in the three way primary."*

Source: *State Representative candidate Martin Howrylak* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177336_AA1.pdf

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Lt. Governor Brian Calley of Portland, Michigan Named One of the 2012 Ten Outstanding Young American

"CHESTERFIELD, MO – The United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees) is pleased to announce that Lt. Governor Brian Calley of Portland, MI has been named as one of the 2012 Ten Outstanding Young Americans. The presentation of the 77rd annual black-tie awards ceremony will be held June 30, 2012, at the Des Moines Marriott in Des Moines, IA. "

Source: *United States Junior Chamber (Jaycees)* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177286_Jaycees.pdf*

Rep. Santana being stripped of committee assignments for inappropriate conduct

"

LANSING - Speaker of the House Jase Bolger announced today that Rep. Harvey Santana, D-Detroit, will be stripped of all committee assignments in response to his repeated inappropriate conduct on the House floor, with the most recent occurrence being Thursday of this week."

Source: *Speaker Jase Bolger* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177232_House1.pdf*

Michigan promotes Aquatic Invasive Species Week

"

Governor Rick Snyder has proclaimed June 9-17, 2012, as Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week in an effort to raise awareness about the need for citizens to take action to stop new introductions and control the spread of aquatic invasive species."

Source: *MI Department of Environmental Quality* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339177188_DEQ1.pdf*

MI-BADC Hosts 2012 Bangladeshi American Night

"

***DETROIT, MI** – The Michigan Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus (MI-BADC) will host the 2012 Bangladeshi American Night, June 9th, 2012 at the Balkan Community Center, Troy, MI. This event is to formally kick-off the 2012 local, congressional and presidential campaign."*

Source: *Michigan Bangladeshi American Democratic Caucus* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339176230_BADC.pdf*

Sparrow Health System selected to join prestigious Mayo Clinic Care Network

"

LANSING, Mich. – Sparrow announced today it is the first health system in Michigan and one of the first five in the nation to be selected as a member of the prestigious Mayo Clinic Care Network."

Source: *Sparrow Health System* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339176128_Sparrow1.pdf

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U.S. Reps. Peters, Campbell and Ellison introduce bipartisan plan to help underwater homeowners

"

Washington, D.C. - Today U.S. Reps. Gary Peters (D-MI), John Campbell (R-CA) and Keith Ellison (D-MN) introduced the Preserving American Homeownership Act of 2012."

Source: *U.S. Rep. Gary Peters* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339166314_Peters1.pdf

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2012 Wolverine Caucus Forum Series!

"

December 2011 the new, state-of-the-art University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital opened to the public, bringing with it a new era in family-centered patient care. "

Source: *University of Michigan* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339166170_UoM.pdf

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MPSC approves another rate hike for Consumers Energy

"

LANSING – Starting Friday, customers of ***Consumers Energy*** *will be paying an additional $4.28 a month after the* ***Michigan Public Service Commission*** *this week approved a rate hike for the utility. Meanwhile, the MPSC has already determined the price of all renewable energy is cheaper than new coal generation."*

Source: *Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339166075_MEMJ1.pdf

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Weekly Wrap Up

"

My campaign for Congress is about giving West Michigan a voice in Washington who fights for what we are all about."

Source: *Steve Pestka for U.S. Congress* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339166042_Pestka1.pdf*

Chad Dewey "Bowling For Liberty" Event Friday, June 29

"

BAY CITY, Michigan - Chad Dewey's campaign for State Representative announced a bowling fundraiser at Bay Lanes Bowling Center being held on Friday, June 29th from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. All area residents are invited to the "Bowling for Liberty" event located at 4243 North Euclid Avenue, Bay City."

Source: *Chad Dewey for State Representative* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339163217_Dewey1.pdf*

Recent Michigan Court of Appeals Releases

"

The Michigan Court of Appeals released the following opinion(s) on 6/7/2012."

Source: *Michigan Court of Appeals* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339163053_COA1.pdf*

DNR uses spring roadside surveys to monitor wildlife

"

Every spring, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff members and volunteers conduct spring roadside surveys throughout Michigan. During the spring breeding seasons, many different birds and animals are easily detected because of the displays and sounds they make. "

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *06-09-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1339163014_DNR1.pdf*

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 12:46 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: Michigan Report, Wednesday, June 13, 2012
Attachments: Jun13.htm; 120613dayplan.htm; Jun13House.htm; Jun13Senate.htm

Michigan Report for Wednesday, June 13, 2012

House G.O.P. Passes One Abortion Bill, Shelves Another

M.P.S.E.R.S. Deal Tentatively In Place As Leaders Seek Votes

Battle Over Collective Bargaining Is On

Detroit Counsel's Lawsuit Over Consent Agreement Dismissed

House Panel Blocks Bridge Spending; Bridge Co. Attacks Pending N.I.T.C. Deal

Senate Slows Pace on Detroit Lighting Authority Bills

Unemployment Rate Rises For First Time In A Year

Senate Clears Election Reform Package

Senate Finance Moves Income Tax Reduction, Exemption Bills

Land Purchase Cap Headed To Snyder

Liquor License At Big House, 911 Fee Get Senate Stamp Of Approval

Capital Outlay Supplemental On Its Way To The Governor

Natural Resources Trust Fund Debate Lingers

Poll Finds Mixed Feelings On E.M.s In 4 Cities

Senate Committee Discusses Labor Strike Penalty Bills

Stallworth Pushes Standards For Consent Agreements

Audit Calls For Improvements In 401(k) Controls

D.N.R. Cited For Land Acquisition, Disposal Practices

Schuette: Law Allows Local Fireworks Sales Regulation

D.N.R. Selling Fire-Damaged Timber

Committee Roundup

Capital Notebook

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Volume #51, Report #116 -- Wednesday, June 13, 2012

House G.O.P. Passes One Abortion Bill, Shelves Another

A controversial abortion bill won House approval after an extraordinarily heated debate Wednesday to criminalize coercing a woman into having an abortion and require some physicians providing abortions to carry insurance, but House Republicans unexpectedly did not act on the most significant bill that would ban abortions after 20 weeks of gestation.

What was approved was { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB571101" } that combines a number of abortion coercion bills that had been working their way through the Legislature. It passed 70-39.

The floor substitute to the bill also changed from a felony to a civil infraction for failing to dispose of aborted fetal remains and changed which doctors would be required to carry $1 million of professional liability insurance.

But the day will likely be remembered for what was some of the more memorable floor speeches in memory. It also quickly made its way into social media circles and nabbed the attention of liberal MSNBC host Rachel Maddow.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=217601&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) took to the floor and decried the fact that Republicans were launching a war on women, but not a war on poverty. She proposed an alternate way to stop unwanted pregnancies and the resulting abortions.

"Stop having sex with us, gentleman. Find somebody else to do it with," Ms. Tlaib said to a smattering of applause. "I ask women across Michigan to boycott men until these bills stop moving out of the House."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=217601&locid=1" } provided one of the more memorable floor speeches in recent memory, as she stated her opposition to the abortion bill. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=86701&locid=1" } said the bill is about protecting the unborn.

It was one of numerous passionate floor speeches on the issue from both sides.

"This bill is not about protecting women's health," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=230301&locid=1" } (D-Battle Creek).

Others were more blunt with their objection to the bill they felt was too intrusive into a woman's health issue.

"I'm flattered that you are all so interested in my vagina, but no means no," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=171401&locid=1" } (D-West Bloomfield) said.

Rep. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) said she rejected the notion these bills are a "war on women."

She said it's an umbrella of protection for women to make sure they are not coerced into having an abortion and that institutions that provide abortions meet certain standards.

"I'm very committed to protecting the rights of women and the unborn," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=86701&locid=1" } (R-Lake City), the sponsor of the main bill.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=279101&locid=1" } (R-Charlotte), sponsor of the 20-week abortion ban contained in { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB571301" }, said her responsibility to women and to society was to make sure the places where "the horrific procedure of abortion takes place are licensed and inspected.

"I would rather there be no abortions performed anywhere, tragically that is not the case," she said.

So emotional was the debate that it overshadowed a major development with the decision of majority Republicans to hold off on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB571201" } and HB 5713, the latter of which contained the most controversial item in the package, banning abortions after 20 weeks with no exception for rape or incest, only one to save the life of the mother.

Ari Adler, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall), said the House would not be voting on those bills this week.

He said Mr. Bolger wants to review the language in the bills to make sure they adhere to the Constitution. Abortion rights advocates say the 20-week law would violate the *Roe* vs. *Wade* decision that legalized abortion.

"We want to address some concerns that were brought to our attention," Mr. Adler said. "We're not done with that issue. We need to look at it further."

Ms. Shaughnessy said she believes the House should act deliberately and not rush the bill.

"I certainly don't have a problem with that," she said.

She said she believes the caucus does support her bill, but said concerns have been raised about constitutionality and with the 20-week time frame.

David Maluchnik, spokesperson for the Michigan Catholic Conference, said in an email that it sounded like Mr. Bolger was taking a prudent approach to the bill.

Before the debate began, the House dispensed with all of the Democratic amendments, several of which attempted to turn the tables and require some of same restrictions placed on abortion providers on facilities that do vasectomies.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151201&locid=1" } (D-Onondaga), the sponsor of one of those amendments began shouting, saying she wanted to speak to it, but was not allowed.

As she walked away, she shouted "vasectomy!" Her amendment would have required a physician to determine that a man seeking a vasectomy needed the procedure because his life was in danger or a medical emergency existed.

One amendment by Rep. Stacey Erwin Oakes (D-Saginaw) stated that before a physician could prescribe medication for erectile dysfunction, a physician has to perform a digital rectal exam and cardiac stress test.

Planned Parenthood, though, is planning another protest day at the Capitol on Thursday morning, encouraging members on Facebook and Twitter to meet at the Capitol.

On Tuesday, about 200 Planned Parenthood supporters in pink shirts stood outside the Capitol before session, chanting and holding signs and then shouted in the lobby and tried disrupting session on several occasions. It was the largest and most vocal protest against anti-abortion legislation in years.

But on Wednesday, the gallery was relatively empty. Ms. Brown had several boxes containing 10,000 cards from constituents from around the state indicating opposition to the bills, but those were removed from the floor by a House sergeant.

Mr. Adler said such displays or presentations are a violation of House rules.

Prior to the vote, the Michigan Catholic Conference released a video message from policy advocate Rebecca Mastee, saying the package contains common sense measures.

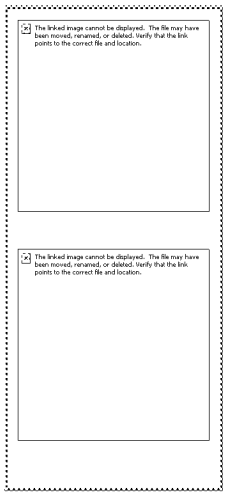
"Considering that only 4 of the 32 abortion clinics in Michigan are licensed, which abortion advocates recognize, don't women in Michigan deserve better?" she said. "Others have erroneously stated that this legislation is a politically motivated attack on women. However, legislators were informed of egregious abortion industry practices back in March. Should they simply sit idle while verifiable reports of dirty and unlicensed facilities circulate? No, because women deserve better."

M.P.S.E.R.S. Deal Tentatively In Place As Leaders Seek Votes

Top Republican legislative leaders have a tentative agreement in place for overhauling the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System, and it would retain the hybrid pension plan for new hires.

Some Republican senators continue to push for ending the hybrid plan for new hires and instead placing them all into a 401(k)-style defined contribution plan, but House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall) and Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (R-Monroe) are rounding up the votes to pass the legislation Thursday before the Legislature adjourns for the summer.

Mr. Richardville told reporters Wednesday evening after the Senate adjourned that an agreement is in place.



Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (top) and House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } are working on getting the votes for the deal.

"I think in general they (the caucus) want to make sure we do the health care thing, but we'll make sure we get another vote on it down the road so they'll have a chance to speak up and maybe the numbers will even show that they were right all along," he said. "I'm supportive of the defined contribution though, I think that's the way to go but we'll see what the study says."

Mr. Richardville said the study would cost $100,000.

Sources familiar with the bill who spoke on condition of anonymity said the new H-3 substitute for { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB104001" } would see other changes from the H-2 version now pending on the House floor.

The major change would be an attempt to address stranded costs that result from school districts privatizing services like food, transportation and janitorial. With those workers no longer school employees, there are fewer workers paying into MPSERS, putting considerable pressure on the system.

To address that factor, the bill would require school districts to contribute to MPSERS based on 11.9 percent of their expenditures starting in the 2013-14 school year instead of payroll. That way, the funds districts spend on contracts for privatized services would be counted toward MPSERS. This change would not affect other participants in MPSERS like public universities and community colleges, which would continue to pay based on 24.46 percent of their payroll.

And the changes to the bill also would mean no longer requiring all retirees to pay 20 percent of the cost of their health insurance premium. Current retirees 65 and older would continue to pay 10 percent under the revised plan.

As is the case in the H-2 substitute, the bill would require those in the basic pension plan to contribute 4 percent of their salary to the system and those in the Member Investment Program to contribute 7 percent. Currently, those in the basic plan pay nothing, and those in the MIP plan, the bulk of those in the pension system, pay 3.9 percent.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } (R-St. Clair) said he was disappointed in the agreement.

"If we're really going to be serious about protecting not only the retirees but also the taxpayers of the state of Michigan, we've got to shutter that system," he said of the hybrid plan that provides new hires with some pension benefit and some defined contribution. "There's been a 50-year experience on public employee pensions - that doesn't work."

A significant unknown headed into Thursday is how the approach to dealing with stranded costs by having school districts pay into MPSERS based on their expenditures will play with rank-and-file lawmakers. Sources said there is some reticence among legislative Republicans toward this

proposal because they see it as penalizing those districts that have put services up for competitive bidding in an effort to save money.

Mr. Pavlov is one of those lawmakers critical of this piece of the legislation.

"We're penalizing good behavior," he said, noting that the best practices language in the K-12 budget has rewarded districts for contracting out such services.

The expectation Thursday is that House Republicans will caucus on the proposal and then vote shortly after session convenes at 10 a.m. Sources said there were 14 of the 64 members of the House Republican caucus that at one point were cool to the plan, but it appeared Mr. Bolger was having success in bringing some of those members aboard to get the 56 votes he needs.

If it passes the House, then the question is whether Mr. Richardville can find 20 votes in his caucus to pass the plan, a task that could prove a little tricky considering 20 Republican senators voted to end the hybrid plan and shift to defined contribution when the bill first passed the Senate.

Mr. Pavlov said he did not know whether enough votes existed to stop the bill in the Senate.

"We had 20 votes to convert to defined contribution in the Senate, and that's the only record we've got to look at," he said.

Battle Over Collective Bargaining Is On

Less than an hour after unions submitted more than double the signatures necessary for a proposal that would enshrine collective bargaining rights in the Constitution and nullify a series of laws passed in the last 18 months, business organizations announced an unprecedented coalition to oppose that proposal and several others that could appear on the November ballot.

Department of State officials have until September to analyze the signatures through a random sample to determine whether the Protect Our Jobs organization met the minimum number needed of 322,609.

"It far exceeded anyone's expectations," Protect Our Jobs spokesperson Dan Lijana said. "That's why we submitted them now. We had more than double what's required by the state."

The proposal is expected to be the biggest fight on the ballot this year. Already there is worry among House Democrats that union money that usually would go toward helping their campaigns will be focused on the collective bargaining measure.

The union effort has been shrouded in near total secrecy. Leaders of the proposal have refused to say what laws the proposal would void, other than a possible right-to-work law. Since the news conference to announce the proposal, the leader of Protect Our Jobs, Ken Brock, has declined all interview requests. The organization didn't even announce its plan in advance to submit its 684,286 signatures Tuesday.

Mr. Lijana said he did not know when the organization would begin television advertising and direct mail, saying its efforts had solely been focused to this point on collecting petition signatures.

Unions launched the collective bargaining proposal after seeing an avalanche of new laws passed by the Republican-led Legislature and signed by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } eliminating or curbing union rights.

Among the new laws unions found abhorrent:

*Enabling state-appointed emergency manager to void the contracts of local government and school district workers;
*Prohibiting university graduate student research assistants from unionizing;
*Barring several subjects from collective bargaining between teachers and school districts, such as performance evaluation systems and district policy for firing or disciplining employees subject to the tenure law; and
*Setting limits on how much public entities will contribute toward their employees' health benefits with the workers required to pay the rest.

The move also is a pre-emptive strike to prevent the Legislature and Mr. Snyder from enacting a right-to-work law that would bar mandatory union membership for employees of entities that have collective bargaining agreements with their workers. Some Republicans have called for pushing such legislation, but Mr. Snyder has resisted it and the movement toward a bill has faded in deference to fighting the ballot proposal.

Protect Our Jobs said in a statement that more than 85 percent of its signatures were collected by 41,000 volunteers.

Signatures for ballot proposals are due to the Department of State by July 9. There are at least 10 other proposals having petitions circulated, six of which have a realistic chance of getting the signatures needed to qualify for the ballot.

One advantage the collective bargaining proposal could have is that it would be at worst the second proposal listed on the ballot as opposed to being the last one voters have to sift through. If the referendum to repeal the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act, also known as PA 4 of 2011, fails to make the ballot because of legal battle over the point-size used on its petition heading, then the collective bargaining proposal would be the first one on that portion of the ballot.

Almost immediately after unions submitted the signatures, a huge coalition of business groups announced it had formed a unified committee, Citizens Protecting Michigan's Constitution, to oppose many of the proposed ballot measures. Gongwer News Service first reported business groups' plan to organize against the ballot proposals in this unusual fashion.

The members of the committee include the Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan, Business Leaders for Michigan, the Detroit Regional Chamber, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Michigan Association of Realtors, the Small Business Association of Michigan, and the West Michigan Policy Forum.

"Job creators and taxpayers are opposed to special interest attempts to manipulate the Michigan Constitution," said Rich Studley, president and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. "This coalition is committed to educating Michigan voters on the perils of these proposed initiatives and the risks involved if they pass."

At this point, the coalition is opposing the proposal requiring utilities to generate 25 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2025, the collective bargaining proposal, and the proposed constitutional amendment ensuring the state's home help workers can unionize, said Jim Holcomb, general counsel for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

So far, the coalition has not formally decided to support retaining PA 4 although all members of the coalition want to see the law kept in place. The coalition is taking a wait-and-see posture on the other proposals to see if they make the ballot, such as those that would restrict the ability of the Legislature to raise taxes, prevent new international border crossings without a public vote and expand the number of casinos in the state.

The strategy in general was to emphasize to voters to simply vote no on all proposals to avoid cluttering the Constitution. That would allow for a consolidated messaging and fundraising effort instead of trying to fight the proposals one by one.

"It's a natural extension," Mr. Holcomb said. "A lot of people have looked at these and thought how damaging these will be for the state of Michigan. It just makes sense to come together in a coalition format and fight them and to really take the message across the state of Michigan."

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy also denounced the collective bargaining proposal.

"This ballot measure is a radical constitutional amendment that makes government-sector unions more powerful than the Legislature," said Joseph G. Lehman, president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, which condemned the union proposal although it is not part of the coalition against multiple proposals. "If it passes, unions will set public policy in secret negotiations with their government employers. Lawmakers won't be able to override anything they decide."

Detroit Counsel's Lawsuit Over Consent Agreement Dismissed

MASON - Moving quickly Wednesday, Ingham Circuit Judge William Collette dismissed a lawsuit brought by Detroit's corporation counsel against the consent agreement the city had reached with the state, saying that only the mayor and city council could direct the counsel to bring the lawsuit.

"I've been a city attorney," Mr. Collette told lawyers as he listened, almost impatiently, to the arguments raised by Detroit deputy counsel James Noseda before ruling from the bench in the Ingham County Courthouse. "This lawsuit is not valid. It is dismissed."

The city has a consent agreement with the state, Mr. Collette said, and "people need to learn to live with this and move forward."

In a statement, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=105001&locid=1" } said with the decision, the state could continue to "work collaboratively" with the city on implementing its financial turnaround plan.

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing appeared relieved at the judge's quick decision.

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing told reporters the decision means the city can now return to the business of implementing major changes.

"This legal challenge has been an unfortunate distraction, but now it's time for the city to move forward," he said. "The city is still in a crisis, and we can't have all these distractions and think we're going to bring the city back."

Not said directly by Mr. Dillon was that the dismissal should also clear the way for up to $80 million in revenue sharing to go to the city. The Department of Treasury had said it would withhold those funds if the lawsuit continued.

Mike Hodge, the attorney hired by Mr. Bing to argue for dismissing the lawsuit, said that if the lawsuit was not dismissed, the city could see payless paydays and essentially no money to operate as early as Friday.

Speaking to reporters after the hearing that resulted in the case being dismissed, Mr. Noseda said he did not know if Corporation Counsel Krystal Crittendon would appeal the action.

Ms. Crittendon brought the lawsuit without either the Detroit City Council or Mr. Bing formally asking for it to be brought (although it later emerged that members of the council and Mr. Bing tacitly blessed the move in a closed meeting). And Mr. Noseda said to the court there was a question of law that should be heard if Ms. Crittendon could bring that action. He said it was disappointing that Mr. Collette had not heard arguments on that issue or ruled on that basis.

But Mr. Hodge said if Ms. Crittendon had a reasonable concern over her ability to bring the action, Mr. Collette decided that question for her. "If the corporation counsel is truly concerned about her ethical duties, this judge has decided it for her," Mr. Hodge said.

The case marked the latest incident in which Mr. Collette has made a major ruling regarding the state's emergency manager law or the process of instituting financial repair programs for communities.

He remarked on this, saying, "I don't know why I keep getting these."

His earlier rulings, related to the emergency manager appointed for Highland Park schools and for the financial review team for Detroit, had to do with whether the financial review team had to meet in public under provisions of the 1976 Open Meetings Act. He held they did, but was overturned by the Court of Appeals.

This situation was unique, and Mr. Collette said he had never had such a hearing.

From the moment he walked into the courtroom, it was clear that however he ruled, it would be with dispatch. Within the first minute, he granted a motion to allow Mr. Bing's attorney to intervene in the case.

Ms. Crittendon had argued in her lawsuit that the consent agreement was void because the state owed the city millions in revenue sharing monies, as well as funds for a variety of issues including parking tickets. Mr. Noseda said the city cannot have a contract with a creditor.

But Michelle Brya, representing the state, said many of the issues raised in the lawsuit were being handled administratively.

She also argued that the corporation counsel could not bring the action in the first place.

And it was on the ability of the counsel to bring the lawsuit without the authorization of either Mr. Bing or the council that Mr. Collette focused in his questioning of Mr. Noseda.

Under the city's charter, the Law Department is an independent agency and the counsel has the right to act "to remedy a charter violation," Mr. Noseda said.

In effect, he said, it was no different than the city pursuing people who did not pay their taxes. The mayor and council do not rule on those matters either.

But Mr. Collette said that position effectively gives the corporation counsel veto power over contracts.

A corporation counsel cannot have the ability the make decisions on suing, Mr. Collette said. That has to be the function of the mayor and council.

Most of the people watching the hearing were reporters, but a small busload of city residents was present and clearly unhappy with the ruling. As reporters spoke to the attorneys afterwards, one woman shouted out that Mr. Collette had "ruled against the people."

In his press conference, Mr. Bing said the city would make the $34 million bond payment as required Friday under a complex financing deal with the state that prevented the city from running out of cash in April and the Financial Advisory Board would hold its first meeting that same day at Cobo Center. The Detroit City Council has yet to appoint its two members to the board, but Councilmember Ken Cockrel Jr. said via his Twitter account he expected that to happen shortly. Mr. Bing said even if the council has not appointed its members, the board would still meet.

Mr. Bing said he held no personal animus toward Ms. Crittendon, saying she did what she thought was right.

"I am hopeful that all of us from a leadership standpoint here in this city can put this behind us and start concentrating and focusing on the work that needs to be done to bring our city back," he said.

House Panel Blocks Bridge Spending; Bridge Co. Attacks Pending N.I.T.C. Deal

A negative supplemental appropriation approved Wednesday morning by the House Appropriations Committee would now also block state spending on the expected interlocal agreement to build the New International Trade Crossing bridge.

The agreement is expected to include the Michigan Strategic Fund as a partner in the bridge, and the amendment adopted to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB87101" } would prevent any spending from the Strategic Fund on the bridge construction.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=175101&locid=1" } offered language to stop spending on New International Trade Crossing.

The amendment blocks spending of "state appropriations" on the bridge, which { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=175101&locid=1" } (R-Grandville), sponsor of the amendment, said would block any spending except potentially the tribal casino revenues in the Strategic Fund.

The money from the casinos is "a different animal," Mr. Agema said, and it would likely fall to the attorney general to decide if the amendment covers it.

The Strategic Fund would also be blocked, under the amendment, from entering into a contract regarding the bridge. Mr. Agema said it would again be up to the attorney general to determine if an interlocal agreement would be considered a contract under the language.

But he said his goal was not to block the bridge. "My goal is to stop spending money we didn't authorize," he said.

As to whether the language could block the agreement expected to be announced Friday, he said, "If it derails it, then it shouldn't have been entered into in the first place."

Sara Wurfel, press secretary for { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, said the new language was no different from past appropriations language on the bridge project.

"We've been clear all along that Michigan taxpayers would not pay for this bridge." Ms. Wurfel said. "There has been no additional money added to or appropriated for the bridge in the new budget. And no MSF funds would be used either. Period."

The bill moves a variety of funds, but overall cuts $259.66 million gross, $168.85 million general fund from the current year budget.

The largest change is $208.6 million ($105.33 million GF) cut from the Department of Community Health. Another $85.45 million ($75.73 million GF) is cut from the Department of Human Services.

The cuts reflect recent Revenue Estimating Conference projections of cash assistance and Medicaid caseloads.

The bill also replaces $4.2 million, all general fund, that was expected as savings from privatizing residential care aides at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home. The move is currently being challenged in court.

The panel dropped plans, approved by the Senate, to use $15 million general fund through the Strategic Fund to cover origination fees under the Agriculture Disaster Loan Program.

The committee also dropped $2.15 million ($1.85 million GF) to restore payments in lieu of taxes through the Department of Treasury.

The House included $50,000 to cover the potential costs of an appeal of the state's redistricting, but, under an amendment offered by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=31101&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) that divided the Republican caucus, the money would have to be returned to the general fund if the appeal is not filed (as Mr. Durhal expected it would not be) rather than being left in the department to be put to other use.

The bill was reported 22-0 with four members abstaining.

Meanwhile, owners of the Ambassador Bridge are showing no signs of doubt about their effort to amend the Constitution barring new international border crossings from being constructed without a statewide public vote even as an expected announcement Friday on a new bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, looms.

In a post on the website of The People Should Decide, the committee supporting the ballot proposal, backers of the effort said they would keep fighting and that any announcement Friday is meaningless.

"The governor said he plans to announce a 'deal' with Prime Minister Harper of Canada," the statement says. "Please note how hard he is trying to show by this announcement that his new Bridge deal is 'finalized,' and that the 'construction of the government bridge is underway.' Nothing could be further from the truth! You may ask ...what does this mean for our petition drive? The answer is simple... NOTHING - as a vote of the people trumps the intentions of a single bureaucrat."

Manuel "Matty" Moroun, the owner of the Ambassador, will need to collect more than 322,000 petition signatures before July 9 to get his proposal on the ballot. He is funding an unusual television advertising campaign urging voters to sign petitions. Those ads also serve the dual purpose of continuing to turn public opinion against the proposed new bridge.

"Remember the announcement by Gov. Snyder is nothing more than a political move of desperation," the website posting says. "His objective is to prevent the petitions from being completed because they will force Gov. Snyder to listen to the people of Michigan!"

Ms. Wurfel said she had no information to offer on the status of the bridge.

As Gongwer News Service reported Tuesday, Mr. Snyder and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper are expected to formally sign an interlocal agreement to set up an authority that would oversee the construction of the new bridge.

Senate Slows Pace on Detroit Lighting Authority Bills

Although it was slated to be voted on Wednesday, the Senate opted to wait on two bills that would establish a lighting authority for various municipalities, most notably Detroit, as well as a funding mechanism for that authority.

"We've got some people asking questions about it, what the board make-up is (for example)," Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (R-Monroe) told reporters after session adjourned. "If they're all appointed by the mayor of Detroit, is that okay or is that not okay? Should the Legislature and/or governor have some input into this too since we're approving it? Some of the monies in that city (Detroit) have disappeared or are not being treated with the kind of respect that I think we treat it with up here, so maybe we should just have somebody there."

Though the bills are not necessarily Detroit-centric, the city would greatly benefit from them given that their utilities pay a tax, and part of that revenue - about $12.5 million - would have to go toward funding Lighting Board activities such as replacing or installing new lighting throughout the city.

Currently the legislation ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB568801" }) calls for a five-member board to be appointed by the city's mayor and to be include professionals such as an engineer, lawyer and accountant.

"One suggestion was maybe you go from five members to eight members (on the board) with the governor, the speaker, and the majority leader appointing someone so that the Legislature and the administration has a look at it, maybe only in certain-size cities or something like that," Mr. Richardville said of discussions within the caucus.

But another Republican senator, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that the caucus also has some concerns that it doesn't have as much support from Senate Democrats as the GOP expects. Consequently, the bills - which also include { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB570501" } - would stand less of a chance of passing if they could not garner support from senators within those communities.

Mr. Richardville said he is hopeful that the Senate can take another crack at the legislation on its last day before summer recess tomorrow. If not, he again emphasized the next day the Senate is supposed to meet on July 18 as one that will be consumed with high-priority items such as these bills.

DETROIT INCOME TAX: The Senate also did not vote on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB97001" }, a bill that would freeze the city's income tax rate at 2.5 percent for residents and 1.25 percent for non-residents (subscribers please note: a story in some editions of the Tuesday Michigan Report inaccurately described the impact of the bill on the city's income tax rate).

Unemployment Rate Rises For First Time In A Year

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } and legislative Republicans have touted the steady decline in Michigan's unemployment rate for the past year as evidence their policies are working, but the state announced Wednesday the first uptick in unemployment since May 2011.

The state's unemployment rate edged up to 8.5 percent in May from 8.3 percent in April.

"Michigan's labor market in May and throughout early 2012 has been stable," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, in a statement. "The minor upturn in the state's jobless rate in May was partially due to individuals entering or re-entering the workforce looking for jobs."

Employment fell from April by 2,000 although it is still up 94,000 for the year. Unemployment rose by 6,000, but is still down 98,000 for the year.

In previous months, as the rate plummeted, Mr. Snyder would announce the new rate on his social media accounts prior to the release from DTMB. That was not the case this time. Democrats jumped all over the governor and legislative Republicans on the issue.

"We're seeing unemployment rise for the first time in a year, and the only place Lansing Republicans can look is in the mirror," said Zack Pohl, executive director of Progress Michigan. "A massive tax cut for big corporations was passed under the veil of job creation, but instead of creating more and better jobs, greedy CEOs are pocketing the profits."

Senate Democratic spokesperson Bob McCann said in a Twitter account post, "I assume @onetoughnerd will be taking responsibility for the rise in unemployment after doing same for recent small dips in it."

Job cuts were recorded in manufacturing (-4,000) and professional and business services (-3,000) while job gains were posted in financial activities (3,000), and trade, transportation, and utilities (3,000).

The state's largest region, the Detroit-Warren-Livonia metropolitan statistical area, saw its unemployment rate rise from 9.2 percent to 9.6 percent.

Despite the decline, the labor statistics bureau noted that the statewide job count for May was the same as the average for the first five months of the year.

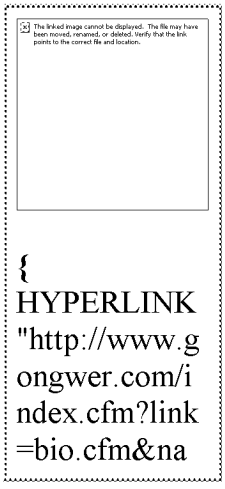
Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel disputed the contention from Democrats that the numbers show signs of trouble in the state's economic recovery.

"There are so many other signs that show that Michigan is in fact headed in the right direction," she said. "As an example right today we have a national economic gardening conference today right in Michigan and the excitement and enthusiasm for Michigan today was apparent."

Senate Clears Election Reform Package

The Senate passed several bills that will modify campaign finance laws and protect the integrity of elections, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=52301&locid=1" } said on Wednesday.

"I think it's really important because we want to encourage as many people as we can to register and to vote," she said, speaking with reporters during the session. "But we also need to protect the integrity in the system and that's why we call it our safe package for secure and fair elections."



meid=52301&locid=1" } spoke in support of the election reform package that cleared the Senate on Wednesday.

One of the bills, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB505801" }, which would prohibit a candidate committee from spending campaign funds on personal legal battles, passed unanimously. Another bill, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB505901" } modifies ballot questions and political party committee filing requirements. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township) was the only senator to vote against the bill earning a 36-1 vote.

A bill requiring photo identification to obtain an absentee ballot ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB506101" }), in addition to other provisions, cleared the Senate on a 26-11 party line vote.

"Recently the auditor general said we had 1,500 people, of the small number that they checked, that were either dead or in prison that had voted," Ms. Johnson continued on the package. "I think they're clerical errors, but again, it shows vulnerability in the system. We've also had the Department of Justice tell us they have far too many people registered to vote in 20 counties because not that many people live there. So we know we have vulnerabilities, and we know that if we have a good, Qualified Voter File, we're going to have good elections."

Some opponents have alleged the legislation amounts to "voter suppression," but Ms. Johnson dismissed the allegations as partisan politics.

"To tell you the truth, it's either partisan theatrics, drama, or they don't understand the bills," she said of the allegations. "Everything in there is to encourage people to vote. Everything that we're doing makes it convenient to vote."

Ms. Johnson said 99.5 percent of eligible voters in the state have some form of identification and that the 0.5 percent that may not were considered in the provision in HB 5061 that permits a voter to sign an affidavit assuring his or her identity.

The Senate also passed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB506201" } on a 36-1 vote, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161201&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) voting against the bill that calls for those who solicit people to register to vote to go through a training program first.

"This is widely supported by local clerks, both Democrats and Republicans," Ms. Johnson said. "What it is, is a 15-20 minute educational process for one person from the organization who will go back and spread the word."

Similar legislation in the Senate that would make multiple changes to election law did not fare as well, however.

The Senate concurred in House changes to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB75101" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB75401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB80301" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB82301" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB82401" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB82501" } on a 26-11 party-line vote with those bills now headed to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }. But { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB529701" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB75201" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB75301" }, also part of the package, received unanimous support 37-0. Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing) was absent from the afternoon session in which the Senate voted on these bills.

Senate Finance Moves Income Tax Reduction, Exemption Bills

House bills that would speed up an income tax rate reduction and increase the personal exemption from $3,700 to $3,950 were reported Wednesday from the Senate Finance Committee.

But the bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB569901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB570001" }) drew criticism from { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155301&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor). The bill would provide a 0.1 percent cut on an individual's income taxes on October 1, rather than on the currently scheduled January 1.

Ms. Warren questioned the estimated $28 that an individual would end up receiving a year, saying that a single person could "blow through" that kind of money and that perhaps it would be better spent invested in programs that could fund schools, police and fire departments.

"If you want to say that we should take this money and invest it into programs rather than entrusting the taxpayers to invest it as they see fit ... I'm going to strongly disagree with you," shot back { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001&locid=1" } (R-Vulcan), the bill sponsor..

The legislation was reported on a 6-1 vote, with Ms. Warren the only senator in objection to it and its counterpart, HB 5700.

That bill would increase the personal exemption from $3,700 per person to $3,950 on October 1. It would then increase by $50 effective January 1, 2014, and rise to $4,100 effective January 1, 2017.

Howard Ryan, the Department of Treasury's legislative liaison, spoke in support of both the bills.

"We are very much in support of the bill," he said. "We think it's a very fair and efficient way to deal with the tax structure."

Land Purchase Cap Headed To Snyder

A bill limiting the amount of land the state can own is on its way to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } after the House rejected a change from committee that altered a line in the state making a good portion of the bill deal only with the Upper Peninsula.

In the House Natural Resources, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee, an amendment from { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206201&locid=1" } (R-Traverse City) moved the line from north of the Mason-Arenac line to apply just to the UP, without altering the amount of land in that portion of the cap.

The House restored the language dealing with the line on Wednesday and the Senate concurred with the changes to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB24801" }. It restricts the state to owning no more than 3.91 million acres of land in that portion.

It passed the House on a 58-52 vote and cleared the Senate 24-12.

Also as part of the bill, the Department of Natural Resources is tasked with developing a land acquisition plan for each region of the state by October 1, 2014. It must then be approved by both the House and Senate. If that is accomplished, the bill states the intent is for the cap to then be removed, but if not, the cap stays in place.

Sara Wurfel, Mr. Snyder's press secretary, said the administration had been working hard with legislators to finalize an agreement.

"The governor thinks it's very important that we have to be good fiscal stewards of our land," she said.

MARRIAGE BILLS: The House unanimously passed a three-bill package that will allow local judges and magistrates to perform marriage ceremonies outside their home county.

The Senate unanimously passed the bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB69801" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB69901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB70001" }) in January.

The practice is allowed now, but only if the official seeks approval from the State Court Administrative Office.

Liquor License At Big House, 911 Fee Get Senate Stamp Of Approval

When it was not caucusing or recessing for committee meetings, the Senate approved numerous pieces of legislation on Wednesday, including granting the University of Michigan the ability to sell liquor at the Winter Classic hockey game it will host next year at Michigan Stadium.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB561101" } cleared the Senate unanimously 37-0, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park) absent at the time of voting.

The Senate also approved a bill that will force users of prepaid wireless phones to pay a 911 fee when purchasing their phones and any future minutes for it.

Previously the cost was charged at the wholesale level and customers then paid sales tax at the retail level, but now both will be paid at the retail level, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=282201&locid=1" } (R-Lawton), the bill's sponsor, has said (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=51085" }).

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } (D-Westland), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701&locid=1" } (R-Harrison Township), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101&locid=1" } (R-Mayville), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=52901&locid=1" }

(R-Hamburg), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001&locid=1" } (R-Grand Blanc) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" } (R-Sterling Heights) voted against the legislation that passed 29-7.

BRIDGE CARD REQUIREMENTS: Two pieces of legislation that tack on additional Bridge Card regulations cleared the Senate on Wednesday as well.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB472401" } , which would make people pay to replace a Bridge Card if lost a second time, moved 27-10 along party lines, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=43601&locid=1" } of Warren the only Democrat that voted for the bill.

"The whole issue of lost or stolen Bridge Cards is already in effect," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=209301&locid=1" } (D-Southfield). "The Department of Human Services deemed that they had the authority to implement this program some time ago, so it is already in effect. What this bill would do is it would put it into statute. My opposition to this is that if it is in statute, just as the department put it into effect, if they say this is not working or there is a better way of doing this, then now you can't do that. You must come back to the Legislature and have us vote to take it back out of statute again."

The Senate also ordered enrolled { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB10901" } , which would prohibit the use of Bridge Cards in casino ATMs.

"Cash assistance should be temporary and only for basic needs - not blackjack and booze," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge), sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "My measure is one of many that have been passed by the Legislature that will ensure assistance goes only to those who truly need it, not those who want to gamble away taxpayers' hard earned money."

HOME VISITATION: The Senate also passed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB557201" } , a bill that would require home visiting service providers to use evidence-based or promising program models to continue receiving state funding.

"We are thrilled that the House and Senate have approved this measure that will make such a positive impact on the lives of many Michigan children and families," Amy Zaagman, director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, said in a statement. "We look forward to Governor Snyder signing the legislation soon."

The bill was passed unanimously, 37-0, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park) absent at the time of voting.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284201&locid=1" } (R-Alto) sponsored the legislation and also issued a statement upon final passage of the bill.

"By improving the lives of Michigan's most high-risk families, home visiting models benefit children, parents and the community as a whole," she said.

The legislation returns to the House for concurrence before going to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }.

Capital Outlay Supplemental On Its Way To The Governor

A bill that would provide $613.1 million for 18 infrastructure projects at nine public universities and nine community colleges passed in the Senate on Wednesday after a near unanimous vote.

The projects were not included in the current year budget but had already been given initial approval by the Legislature (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=51111" }).The state's share of the bill will be $304.5 million while universities and community colleges will chip in $308.7 million.

The bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB554101" }) ultimately cleared on a 36-1 vote, as Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing) was absent from the afternoon session in which voting took place and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=52901&locid=1" } (R-Hamburg) voted no.

The bill is identical to the recommendations by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, but it does not include boilerplate language relating to reform of the capital outlay process as he had requested.

Natural Resources Trust Fund Debate Lingers

The conference committee on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB536401" } , which will discuss a supplemental to the current year budget, left some scratching their heads when they noticed a meeting for Wednesday night and moved it instead to tomorrow morning.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=95101&locid=1" } (R-Evart) could only say that he had heard through second-hand sources that an agreement on the supplemental (HB 5364) had been reached but as the day went on the deal was less certain.

The Senate did not fund four projects that the House had passed. Those projects would have enabled the Department of Natural Resources to purchase privately owned land otherwise surrounded by current DNR property.

Poll Finds Mixed Feelings On E.M.s In 4 Cities

A survey commissioned by Business Leaders for Michigan shows that voters in the four cities run by emergency managers disapprove of how those managers are running their community, but also think the managers have done a better job than previous elected city leadership.

The survey, conducted by Glengariff Group, asked 200 registered voters each in Benton Harbor, Ecorse, Flint and Pontiac. When assessing the results of all 800 respondents combined, the poll showed 31.4 percent approve of the job performance of their emergency manager while 47.8 percent disapprove.

Respondents also said services had not improved in the past year in their city. Just 13.6 percent said they had improved while 39 percent said they had worsened and another 43 percent said they stayed the same.

But there was some optimism among voters in these four troubled cities.

Some 41.5 percent said they expected conditions in their city to improve in the next year compared to 19.4 percent who said conditions would degrade and 30.5 percent who said they would stay the same.

And when asked who had done a better job managing the city budget, 42 percent said the emergency manager while 19.3 percent said the city council. Some 17.1 percent said neither and another 18.4 percent said they did not know.

In looking at the city-by-city results, it appears emergency managers in Benton Harbor and Ecorse are getting better reviews than those in Flint and Pontiac.

In Benton Harbor, the emergency manager has a 37.5 percent job approval rating compared to 40 percent negative. In Ecorse, 41.5 percent approve of the emergency manager's job performance compared to 38 percent disapprove.

But managers have gotten hostile receptions in Flint and Pontiac. In Flint, just 24 percent approve of the manager's job performance compared to 58 percent who disapprove. And in Pontiac, 22.5 percent approve of the manager while 56 percent disapprove.

However, even in Flint and Pontiac, the manager was given better ratings than the council on handling the budget although those numbers were within the margin of error in Pontiac.

"While the residents of the four cities with emergency managers may not like having an EM, the majority of residents in every case are optimistic about their city's future," said Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan, in a statement. "In fact, residents in these communities overwhelmingly believe that their city budget is better managed under the EM than by their city council."

The overall survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. The survey results for each individual city have a margin of error of plus or minus 6.8 percentage points.

Senate Committee Discusses Labor Strike Penalty Bills

Public employees would be fined one day's salary for participating in an illegal strike under legislation considered Wednesday by a Senate committee.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB116201" } would require that a public employee would be fined one day's pay for an illegal strike, and his or her bargaining representative would be fined $5,000 per day. A public employer would be fined $5,000 each full or partial day of a prohibited lockout.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB70401" } would mandate that a person who violated the prohibitions against preventing lawful work by mass picketing or obstructing the entrance to a place of employment, among others actions, be subject to a civil fine of $1,000 per day. A civil fine of $10,000 would be subject to a union or organization that sponsored or assisted in the prohibited activity.

Under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB116101" } potential employees taking the place of striking workers would not be notified with the fact they are replacing people who are on strike.

The Senate Reforms, Restructuring, and Reinventing Committee heard testimony on the legislation.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph), sponsor of SB 1161, said for 50 years the notice of strike legislation hasn't changed and has become antiquated.

Wendy Block, director of Health Policy and Human Resources at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, supports the bills. "The bills have a common thread: to make Michigan's labor laws more competitive and protect job providers and employees alike in our labor environment," she said.

She said a state's labor environment is an important factor that companies considered when they open a branch or relocate their companies.

She also said the bills are important because they would empower employers to seek legal remedies and relief, as well as provide a stronger deterrent to the laws that already make various strikes illegal.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161201&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) questioned since public employee strikes are already illegal, why go further for fines. Ms. Block responded that it is unfair to reward public employees striking with receiving taxpayers' money and if they think losing their daily pay for a strike is worthy, they can do that.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155301&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor) said prospective employees have the right to know whether they are replacing striking workers. For example, she said if workers are striking because their employer is not covering a particular benefit, the new workers should know.

Ms. Block said the requirement of a strike notice is unique to Michigan and could have a "chilling impact" on people who might apply for an open position. She said it would not impact future employees because "the employer has made the difficult decision to move forward and start a clean slate."

Charlie Owens, state director for the National Federation of Independent Business,

said the bills are necessary, because" it's difficult, expensive, and time consuming to penalize illegally striking employees as the current law is now constructed."

Due to time constraints, opponents to the bills did not get the chance to testify, but people from American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and United Auto Workers Local 6000 wanted to oppose the bills, and their testimony might be continued next week.

Ray Holman of UAW Local 6000 said in a post from his Twitter account that fining workers $1,000 a day for striking is wrong.

Stallworth Pushes Standards For Consent Agreements

Consent agreements to resolve financial emergencies for local governments would have to include set performance measures and an explicit end date under legislation introduced Wednesday by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=97101&locid=1" }.

Mr. Stallworth (D-Detroit) said the accountability being required of local governments is not being applied to communities operating under consent agreements.

Rep. Thomas Stallworth has introduced legislation to guide future consent agreements with financially struggling local governments.

"The issues with the consent agreement in Detroit have been appalling," Mr. Stallworth said. "We can't expect Detroit to survive and thrive without some credible process for permanence."

The goal is to create agreements that will improve the operations of communities in distress, said House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=230301&locid=1 " } (D-Battle Creek).

"Our communities have to emerge from a consent agreement better off than they were," Ms. Segal said.

While the legislation would allow the agreement to be amended, Mr. Stallworth said it was essential that it have an end date, a point at which the community's fiscal emergency is expected to be resolved.

The agreement also would have to include milestones for the manager to meet to show the plans in the agreement are working, Mr. Stallworth said.

And, as long as the agreement is in effect, residents should also know what are considered core services and what will be done to guarantee they are delivered, he said. The agreement would have to define those core services

If the milestones and goals are not being met, there also needs to be consequences for the manager, Ms. Segal said.

Mr. Stallworth said the current plan for Detroit has none of those elements. "What we've experienced going forward is an uncertain, unclear and undefined plan that many feel was coerced," he said.

The plan would not require the Detroit agreement be rewritten, but he said he hoped the leadership there would follow the accountability requirements in the bill anyway.

Mr. Stallworth said he currently has full support of the Detroit Caucus and many other members of the Democratic Caucus, but said he had not yet attracted any support from Republicans for the proposal.

Audit Calls For Improvements In 401(k) Controls

Financial controls over Michigan's 401(k) program need substantial improvements to prevent misstating values in the fund, a financial audit of the program released on Wednesday said.

The { HYPERLINK "http://www.audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/11_12/r071015612.pdf" \t "blank" } found that the lack of controls caused the fund to understate the value of its mutual fund investments in the 2010-11 fiscal year by $184.5 million and to overstate the value of common trust funds by the same $184.5 million.

The audit said these mistakes and others were brought to the attention of the fund, and substantial corrections were made.

The audit, which looked at the fund for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years, recommended improvements be made to prevent similar mistakes in the future.

The Department of Technology, Management and Budget, which oversees the plan, agreed with the finding, though it said there had been substantial improvements in the statement preparation procedure and process.

The 401(k) plan for the state was established in the mid-1980s. However, beginning in 1997 all newly hired state workers had to participate in the plan instead of being part of the state's pension system.

The total investments for the fund has been widely varied over the last several years, as the stock markets have gone through wide swings, and as the state has changed some retirement rules.

At the end of the 2010 fiscal year, the fund was up by $314.6 million to a total of nearly $3.1 billion. But with the market turmoil that occurred in August and September 2011 following the fight over raising the U.S. debt ceiling, and the fact that the state created an early retirement program for state workers, the fund was down by some $68 million to $2.996 billion at the end of the 2011 fiscal year.

D.N.R. Cited For Land Acquisition, Disposal Practices

The Department of Natural Resources is not always purchasing and selling land in ways that enhances its mission, and is not adequately melding former correctional facilities back into its recreation programs, a report released Wednesday by Auditor General Thomas McTavish said.

The { HYPERLINK "http://www.audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/11_12/r751015511.pdf" \t "blank" } of the DNR's real estate acquisition, disposition and land holding program, for the period October 2008 through August 2011, found that, as of the end that period, the DNR still held 55.3 percent of the acreage it had determined was non-essential in its review process that began in March 2005.

And, while the DNR had argued it was less costly to hold some of the parcels than sell them, auditors said the department had not conducted a cost-benefit analysis to support that assertion.

Auditors said 2,413 acres of the 9,390 acres would have been appropriate to send to the Land Bank Fast Track Authority.

The department is also still holding six former correctional facilities, including Camp Baraga that was abandoned in 1991, where it has not demolished buildings to meld the lands back into neighboring recreation areas.

"We visited the vacated Camp Waterloo and Camp Brighton correctional facilities and noted significant deterioration, vandalism, fire damage, open entry points in the fence surrounding the correctional facilities, and paperwork strewn about unsecured outbuildings," the report said. "Without appropriate restoration, the State-owned lands that these correctional facilities reside on do not align with DNR's mission and initiatives for natural resources conservation or outdoor recreation opportunities."

Noting that there were formal agreements with the Department of Corrections on some of the facilities requiring that it be responsible for maintaining or demolishing the buildings, auditors recommended that DNR work with Corrections, the Department of Technology, Management and Budget and the Executive Office to have the buildings removed.

But the auditors said the DNR's overall administration of land purchases and sales was effective.

Schuette: Law Allows Local Fireworks Sales Regulation

As long as a local ordinance does not prohibit sales of fireworks, local governments can regulate those sellers, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } said in an opinion released Wednesday.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge) asked the question on behalf of a township that has an ordinance requiring temporary vendors using sales tents to register, for a fee, with the township and allow fire department inspections of the facility. He wondered whether the ordinance conflicted with the statute.

Mr. Schuette said ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.ag.state.mi.us/opinion/datafiles/2010s/op10345.htm" \t "blank" }) the township can enforce the ordinance, and the fee, because they are not targeted specifically at fireworks and would not serve to prohibit sales.

"Its requirements regarding a permit, inspection, and payment of a fee before vendors may sell out of a temporary facility do not run afoul of the Act," he said. "Further, these local requirements are in addition to the requirements found in the Act since the ordinance requires that the vendor be 'in compliance with all applicable laws.' Thus, the terms of the ordinance and the Act may each be fully implemented."

D.N.R. Selling Fire-Damaged Timber

With the Duck Lake fire now completely contained, Department of Natural Resources officials announced Wednesday that they would sell some of the timber damaged in the blaze.

The sale will not only clear some trees felled during the fire, but will also help to prevent insect infestations and other damage to remaining trees, officials said.

Companies interested in purchasing the timber will have one week to review the fire zone and make a bid. Currently, most of the timber is red pine and jack pine, but further assessments could change that makeup.

The sale is scheduled for June 22 at 10 a.m. at the Newberry Field Office, 5100 State Highway M-123, Newberry.

Committee Roundup

PETITION BILL: The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee heard testimony Wednesday on requiring a ballot question petition to indicate whether an individual was being compensated to circulate it.

Specifically, if an individual were receiving compensation for circulating a petition to amend the Constitution, initiate legislation, or initiate a referendum, the petition would have to indicate the fact and the name of the person or organization that provides the compensation.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" } (R-Sterling Heights), the sponsor of the bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB8801" }), said that petition would provide name of individual or organization on the front of the petition in 10-point boldfaced type, and petitions that comply with the requirement would be valid.

Mr. Rocca also said since it is the first draft of the bill, it could see changes.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001&locid=1" } (R-Grand Blanc), the chairman of the committee, said he likes the bill because it provides more transparency.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161201&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) questioned whether the bill would affect this year's petitions. Mr. Rocca said nothing would affect petitions distributed this year.

Mike Batterbee, deputy director in the Department of State's Office of Government Affairs, said the department is neutral on this bill although he stated some concerns. He said it's unclear how the bill would work and circulators have no way of knowing petitioners were being paid or not.

Chris Thomas, director of the Bureau of Elections at the Department of State, expressed similar concerns and said there would be no additional public cost, in response to Mr. Young's question on whether there's significant cost for that.

Capital Notebook

STOCK SCAM: Hiep The Trinh of Fullerton California was charged Wednesday with 15 different counts related to an alleged scheme to sell shares of a non-existent company.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" }, whose department filed the charges, alleged Mr. Trinh used his ties to the Vietnamese community in the state to convince people to buy shares in a technology company called NRG. But the charges allege he merely kept the money.

Mr. Trinh faces a variety of felony fraud charges carrying penalties up to $10,000 and 10 years in prison as well as racketeering, which carries penalties of $100,000 and 20 years.

KRESNAK RETIRES FROM MICHIGAN'S CHILDREN CEO POST: Jack Kresnak, the CEO of Michigan's Children for the past four years, is retiring from that position. The longtime former Detroit Free Press writer, honored many times for his enterprising coverage of problems in the state's handling of child protection, plans to begin writing again. Taking over as interim CEO of Michigan's Children is William Long, a Lansing attorney and long-time consultant to the organization.

TRUSCOTT ROSSMAN ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS: The Truscott Rossman public relations firm announced Tuesday that it has promoted Josh Hovey, senior account executive, to vice president and Lauren Zdeba from associate account executive to account executive.

Appointments By The Governor

TALENT INVESTMENT BOARD: Tony Day of Union City is appointed to represent individuals with expertise relating to Native American programs. He is not replacing anyone on the board. His term expires at the pleasure of the governor and is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

TAX TRIBUNAL: Victoria Enyart of Jackson is reappointed for a term expiring June 30, 2016. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Listen to Daily News interview with Gov. Snyder

"Gov. Snyder sat down with Daily News editor Ralph Wirtz and reporter John Kennett to share his views on Michigan's economy, the new bridge to Canada, personal property tax and many other issues."

Source: *Midland Daily News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article_68fa5fe6-baea-11e1-8133-001a4bcf887a.html*

Plans target a part-time Michigan Legislature

"Most Michiganders will work indoors Mondays through Fridays during a summer of anticipated pristine weather to when the leaves turn glorious shades of red, yellow and orange this year."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120621/NEWS01/206210320/Plans-target-part-time-Michigan-Legislature?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Michigan to auction 2,400 acres of state land

*"**LANSING** — Michigan officials are offering over 2,400 acres of state land for sale through an auction ending Aug. 1."*

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/viewart/20120621/NEWS01/306210036/Michigan-auction-2-400-acres-state-land?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Snyder praised for signing anti-K2, Spice, bath salts bills into law

"

Holland —

Supporters are thrilled after Gov. Rick Snyder signed a package of bills barring over-the-counter sales of synthetic marijuana (called K2, Spice and other names) and other synthetic drugs."
Source: *Holland Sentinel* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.hollandsentinel.com/topstories/x836137011/Snyder-praised-for-signing-anti-K2-Spice-bath-salts-bills-into-law*

State fruit crop hit by frost, output low

"Stan Pankiewicz has never seen his fruit crops so devastated."

Source: *Port Huron Times Herald* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20120621/NEWS01/306210004/State-fruit-crop-hit-by-frost-output-low*

Snyder orders flags lowered for Van Regenmorter

"

Grandville - Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered that U.S. flags in Michigan fly at half-staff on Thursday in honor of former state Sen. William Van Regenmorter, who died Monday at 73.
"
Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.grandhaventribune.com/content/snyder-orders-flags-lowered-van-regenmorter*

Decision 2012: Democratic hopefuls vying to replace term-limited Constan

"DEARBORN/DEARBORN HEIGHTS — In four local races for the Michigan House of Representatives the contests fall into two distinct categories — those with an incumbent and those without."

Source: *Dearborn Press and Guide* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.pressandguide.com/articles/2012/06/21/news/doc4fe230a9b69e5631433760.txt*

Judge blocks law to stop health care union dues

"DETROIT (AP) — A judge blocked a new Michigan law Wednesday that's aimed at ending union dues paid by home health care workers who are not traditional state employees. "

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/statenews/x399013115/Judge-blocks-law-to-stop-health-care-union-dues*

Groups want emergency manager petitions certified

"DETROIT (AP) — A coalition of groups asked the state appeals court to force canvassers to put a measure on the November ballot calling for a repeal of Michigan's emergency manager law."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120620/NEWS03/120629981/groups-want-emergency-manager-petitions-certified*

Joe Young Jr. Former lawmaker championed Detroi

"Former Michigan lawmaker Joe Young Jr., who followed his father into politics and represented Detroit and its nearby suburbs for 24 years in the state House and Senate, has died. He was 61."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120621/NEWS01/206210569/-1/7daysarchives/Joe-Young-Jr-Former-lawmaker-championed-Detroit*

Michigan to auction over 2,400 acres of state land

"Michigan officials are offering over 2,400 acres of state land for sale through an auction ending Aug. 1."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120621/NEWS06/120621012/-1/7daysarchives/Michigan-auction-over-2-400-acres-state-land*

Emergency manager law opponents want repeal on ballot now

"Opponents of the state's emergency manager law want a court to force the Board of State Canvassers to immediately place the question to repeal Public Act 4 on the Nov. 6 ballot."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120621/NEWS05/206210445/Emergency-manager-law-opponents-want-repeal-on-ballot-now?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Wayne County pensions: Taxpayer-guaranteed safe harbor was created as market crashed

"September 2008 was one of the bleakest months in Americanfinancial history."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120621/NEWS02/206210562/Wayne-County-pensions-Taxpayer-guaranteed-safe-harbor-created-market-crashed*

Grand Rapids company's efforts to create Alzheimer's drug earns major federal backing

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI - A Grand Rapids firm has been awarded a major federal grant to fund research on its work to develop a drug that combats mild cognitive impairment associated with Alzheimer's and traumatic brain injury."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/06/grand_rapids_research_firms_wo.html*

Editorial: Pension funds another cloud over Ficano

"The depleted state of Wayne County's pension system, as detailed today by Free Press reporter John Wisely, adds another strike against Robert Ficano's stewardship in the county's highest post."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120621/OPINION01/206210426/Editorial-Pension-funds-another-cloud-over-Ficano*

Steelcase's profits skyrocket, next quarter looking even better

"KENTWOOD, MI – Strong U.S. sales grew Steelcase's profits dramatically in the first quarter of 2013."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/06/steelcases_profits_skyrocket_i.html*

Wayne County taxpayers on hook for $600M as generous pensions drain fund

"Wayne County taxpayers face a mounting bill -- now more than $600 million -- to cover the deficits in a county pension plan that was fully funded when County Executive Robert Ficano took office in 2003 but has since taken a steep dive."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120621/NEWS02/206210558/Wayne-County-taxpayers-on-hook-for-36-600M-as-generous-pensions-drain-fund?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Amway sues 3 eBay sellers for auctioning company's products online

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI - Amway likes it when people sell their products -- but not if those peddling its signature offerings from vitamins to soaps are allegedly doing it on eBay, or through other unauthorized avenues."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/06/amway_sues_three_who_are_selli.html*

Editorial: Lawmakers overreach on abortion

"House Republican leaders kicked a hornet's nest and, predictably, got stung. While still unable to modify public employee retirement benefits that are a multibillion-dollar state problem, they've managed to draw national notoriety, a Facebook protest site and 3,000 angry attendees to a performance of "Vagina Monologues" on the Capitol lawn."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/OPINION01/206210342/1008/OPINION01/Editorial-Lawmakers-overreach-abortion*

Political insider: Lansing gets a reputation

"The political fallout from "vagina-gate" continues for Republicans who run the state House and one Democrat who bucked her colleagues."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/POLITICS02/206210369/1022/politics/Political-insider-Lansing-gets-reputation*

Study: Michigan is one of 34 states under-funding pensions, with states looking at $757 billion hole

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI -- Michigan's liability for public employee pensions are rated as a "serious concern" by a Pew Center study, noting that the state is among those contributing to a national $757 billion hole affecting millions of workers."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/06/study_michigan_is_one_of_34_st.html*

Funeral arrangements set, flags to be lowered to honor Sen. Bill Van Regenmorter

"LANSING, MI – Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered all U.S. flags throughout the state be lowered to half-staff through Friday in honor of longtime state lawmaker Bill Van Regenmorter."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/funeral_arrangements_set_flags.html*

Taylor mayor holds back on accepting $8M grant for firefighters

"Taylor— While many communities are seeking grant money, one mayor is reluctant to accept $8.1 million in federal aid to rehire laid-off firefighters."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/METRO01/206210383/1409/metro/Taylor-mayor-holds-back-accepting-8M-grant-firefighters*

Gallup poll: Confidence in public schools at an all-time low

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Confidence in public schools is dropping and has hit an all-time low, according to a new Gallup poll."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/06/gallup_poll_confidence_in_publ.html*

Detroit Chamber, property groups back Walker Mayor Rob VerHeulen's state house bid

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Walker Mayor Rob VerHeulen's campaign for the Michigan state house's 74th District against Grandville Mayor pro tem Steve Maas has been endorsed by three prominent groups."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/detroit_chamber_property_group.html*

$3.6M for state health centers

"Detroit— Six community health centers in Michigan will share more than $3.6 million in federal funds to help expand services and hire new staff."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/LIFESTYLE03/206210393/1409/metro/-3-6M-state-health-centers*

U.S. Rep. Bill Huizenga has no faith in Attorney General Eric Holder due to 'Fast and Furious' program

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Zeeland Republican Bill Huizenga, who in March co-sponsored a no confidence resolution against embattled Attorney General Eric Holder, will vote next week to hold the country's top law enforcement leader in contempt of Congress."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/us_rep_bill_huizenga_has_no_fa.html*

Bing calls for council session to request top lawyer's firing

"Detroit— Mayor Dave Bing has called for a special City Council session Friday to request the dismissal of the city's top attorney, Krystal A. Crittendon."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/METRO01/206210386/1409/metro/Bing-calls-council-session-request-top-lawyer-s-firing

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Detroit awarded $10M to improve Eastern Market, link Dequindre Cut, Midtown and Hamtramck

*"**DETROIT, MI —** Detroit will have to keep waiting for that streetcar system, but a federal grant won by the city should facilitate more basic forms of transportation: Walking and biking."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/06/detroit_wins_10m_grant_to_impr.html

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Romney raises more than $1M, hears protests

"Troy— A day after stumping for votes Tuesday with rolled-up shirt sleeves on a small town bus tour, Mitt Romney suited up Wednesday to build up his campaign coffers."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/POLITICS01/206210388/1409/metro/Romney-raises-more-than-1M-hears-protests

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GM tops domestic rivals in annual quality survey

"DETROIT, MI- Cadillac received top honors for domestic brands in an annual quality study released today."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/auto/index.ssf/2012/06/gm_tops_domestic_rivals_in_ann.html

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Campaign aimed at legalizing marijuana in Michigan runs low on signatures, time

"LANSING, MI - Campaign organizers say they haven't given up, but it appears unlikely that a proposal to legalize marijuana in Michigan will make the November ballot."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/06/marijuana_legal_michigan.html

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More emails hint Mullin had edge for airport job

"Nearly two weeks before Jack Krasula was hired to conduct a search for a new Detroit Metropolitan Airport CEO, Turkia Mullin sent her resume and biography to him, emails obtained by The Detroit News show."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/METRO/206210387/More-emails-hint-Mullin-had-edge-airport-job?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Poll: Sen. Debbie Stabenow holds 9 percent edge over Pete Hoekstra

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – A poll out this week shows Sen. Debbie Stabenow continuing to hold an edge against Pete Hoekstra and Clark Durant in individual showdowns against the top candidates for the Republican nomination."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/poll_sen_debbie_stabenow_holds.html*

Quality study: Detroit Three continue to trail foreign automakers

"DETROIT, MI- The Detroit Three continue to trail many of their foreign competitors in quality, according to an annual report released today."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/auto/index.ssf/2012/06/quality_study_detroit_three_co.html*

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11 who made an impact: Our Michiganians of the Year

"Every year, The Detroit News salutes citizens who exemplify excellence, courage, determination and passion. From the executive who made profitable a once-bankrupt auto company, to the child abuse survivor now providing for the needs of at-risk children, these individuals work tirelessly to help make life in Michigan a richer experience."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/METRO/206210336/11-who-made-an-impact-Our-Michiganians-Year?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Michigan casino proposal to likely make November ballot; see how communities may be affected

"LANSING, MI — A coalition hoping to add eight casinos in Michigan believes it has enough signatures to get its proposal on the November ballot."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/06/michigan_casino_proposal_will.html

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DPS plans to cut 1,900 jobs for fall

"Detroit — Nearly 1,900 jobs are being slashed at Detroit Public Schools this upcoming school year as the district prepares to launch a new system of schools for a smaller set of students."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120621/SCHOOLS/206210403/DPS-plans-cut-1-900-jobs-fall?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Michigan businessman's $300K donation among highest to pro-Romney Super PAC

"The donation from William Keough of Novi, president and CEO of the Milford-based Atmosphere Group Inc., ranked as the sixth-highest to Restore Our Future."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/06/michigan_businessmans_300k_don.html

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Rep. Tim Walberg votes for contempt measure in 'Fast and Furious,' Eric Holder hearing

"U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg was among the majority as members of a House committee voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress in connection with the bungled "Fast and Furious" gun smuggling investigation."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/06/rep_tim_walberg_votes_for_cont.html

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Justin Amash votes to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Rep. Justin Amash, who sits on the federal Committee on Government Oversight and Reform, said today that Attorney General Eric Holder's defiance of a congressional subpoena earned him a contempt of Congress charge."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/justin_amash_votes_to_hold_att.html*

Rick Snyder OKs new laws on issues ranging from plastic to property taxes

"LANSING, MI - Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a wave of new Michigan laws covering a wide range of issues from property taxes to plastic containers."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/06/rick_snyder_bills_michigan.html*

Judge makes initial ruling in Internet sweepstakes cafe suit that can have statewide implications

"A Genesee County judge sided with the Attorney General by denying an Internet sweepstakes cafe's request to stay in operation without the threat of prosecution."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/06/judge_makes_initial_ruling_in.html*

Grand Rapids Democrats select political newcomer to run against party switching Rep. Roy Schmidt

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Winnie Brinks took out two Democrats in June and now it will be her job to beat a former one – election filing deadline party switcher Rep. Roy Schmidt – in November."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/grand_rapids_democrats_select.html*

Strong negative reaction at hearing over proposed merger of Saugatuck, Douglas

"SAUGATUCK, MI -- Residents and city councils told a State Boundary Commission hearing Wednesday they don't want the cities of Saugatuck and Douglas consolidated into one town."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/06/strong_negative_reaction_at_he.html*

Michael Brown likely out as Flint emergency manager if Public Act 4 is suspended

"FLINT, MI -- Michael Brown's former stint as temporary mayor of Flint could torpedo his future as the city's emergency manager should Public Act 4 be suspended."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/06/as_public_act_4_heads_for_ball.html*

Stores clearing shelves of 'spice' after governor Snyder signs bill to make synthetic drugs illegal

*"**SAGINAW, MI** — The Smoking Post owner Jim McGuire said there has been plenty of supply and demand for so-called "synthetic marijuana" or spice, though he never chose to sell it at his store on Bay Road in Saginaw Township."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2012/06/stores_clearing_shelves_of_spi.html

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MLive analysis: Motorcycle helmet or not? See the difference in rider crash injuries in Michigan so far

"Helmetless motorcyclists continue to suffer more serious injuries and are killed at greater rates than those with helmets, a new MLive Media Group crash analysis shows."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/06/mlive_analysis_motorcyclists_w.html

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Press Releases

STATEMENT BY REP. LEVIN REGARIDNG MITT ROMNEY'S ASSAULT ON THE MIDDLE CLASS

"

DETROIT – With Mitt Romney winding down a two-day campaign swing through Michigan at a high-dollar, closed-door fundraiser in Oakland County this evening"

Source: *Obama for America* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340225819_Obama1.pdf

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Amash Votes to Hold Holder in Contempt

"

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Justin Amash (R-MI), a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, voted to approve contempt charges against Attorney General Eric Holder over his stonewalling of the Committee's "Fast and Furious" investigation. The Committee approved the contempt charges with a 23-17 vote this afternoon."

Source: *U.S. Rep. Justin Amash* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340225778_Amash1.pdf

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Snyder signs bills to streamline tax collection

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed legislation to improve tax collection efficiency."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340223939_Gov4.pdf

Bipartisan Rogers Bill to Strengthen Pediatric Drug Research to Become Law

"

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 -- *Today the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill written by U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, MI-08, that would create a permanent structure for strengthening the testing of pediatric drugs and improving their safety. The Senate is expected to pass the bill next week, sending it to the president's desk for his signature. "*

Source: *U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340220381_Rogers1.pdf

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Michigan Judges Association Accepting Nominations for its Annual Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Awar

"

Michigan Judges Association ("MJA") President Timothy G. Hicks announced that the MJA is accepting nominations for its Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Award."

Source: *Michigan Judges Association* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340220346_Judges1.pdf

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Michigan Truth Squad finds Glenn news release accurate

"

Michigan Truth Squad, a watchdog team of six current or former journalists, Monday reviewed the Gary Glenn for Senate campaign's news release criticizing former nine-term Congressman Pete Hoekstra for joining then-Senators Obama and Stabenow in cosponsoring a 2007 bill that would have, by federal mandate, forced every state and local government in America to unionize its police, fire fighters, and paramedics -- giving government employee union officials more power and funneling hundreds of millions more in dues dollars into their pockets."

Source: *Gary Glenn for U.S. Senate* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340220290_Glenn1.pdf

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In Preparation for the SCOTUS Decision on the ACA

"

***MICHIGAN** – Know Your Care Michigan is teaming up with a number of organizations to make sure that Michigan media outlets have accurate, timely and factual information about the Supreme Court Decision regarding the ACA when it is announced. Please make a note that the following resources are available to you as soon as a decision is announced publicly.*

"

Source: *Know Your Care* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340220043_KYC1.pdf

SNYDER MEDIA ADVISORY for Thursday, June 21

"

Gov. Rick Snyder will offer remarks at the Southwest Detroit Business Association's community investment breakfast."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340219989_Gov3.pdf

Stabenow Follows Obama on Job Killing EPA Rule

"

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - U.S. Senate candidate Pete Hoekstra today issued the following statement after Senator Debbie Stabenow voted against S.J.Res. 37, a Resolution of Disapproval on the Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury and Air Toxic Standards Rule also known as the Utility MACT Standard."

Source: *Hoekstra For Senate* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340219951_Hoekstra1.pdf

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LETTER TO PRES. BARACK OBAMA SENT CHUCK STADLER FOR U. S. CONGRESS MI 10TH DISTRICT 2012

"

THIS LETTER WAS MAILED TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA AND ALSO PUT ON FACEBOOK. PLEASE SEE ATTACH FILE."

Source: *Chuck Stadler for Congress* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340219915_Stadler1.pdf*

Six MI Health Centers Receive Funding to Increase Access to Care

"

Today, June 20, 2012, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced nearly $129 million in Health Center new access point funding. "

Source: *Michigan Primary Care Association* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340219837_MPCA1.pdf*

Coalition Opposes Funding Bill that Cuts Great Lakes Programs

"

ANN ARBOR, MICH. (June 20, 2012) *– The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition today announced its opposition to a U.S. House of Representatives funding bill that cuts Great Lakes programs that clean up toxic pollution, prevent sewage contamination and protect drinking water for more than 30 million people. "*

Source: *Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340219786_HOW1.pdf*

Conyers Announces $300,000 Grant For Detroit Rescue Ministries' Homeless Veterans Programs

"

(WASHINGTON)—Today, Representative John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) announced that Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, located in Highland Park, MI, has received a $300,000 grant from the Department of Labor, which will help supplement its efforts to provide employment opportunities for homeless veterans. "

Source: *U.S. Rep. John Conyers* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340211702_Conyers1.pdf*

Census Bureau News -- Sharing A Household: Household Composition and Economic Well-Being: 2007-2010

"

In 2010, there were 22.0 million shared households in the United States, an 11.4 percent increase from 2007, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report. This total of shared households accounted for 18.7 percent of all households, up from 17.0 percent in 2007."

Source: *MI Department of Technology, Management & Budget* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340211669_DTMB1.pdf*

SBAM Opposes 25 Percent Renewable Energy Constitutional Mandate

"

The Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) strongly opposes the proposed ballot initiative mandating that Michigan energy providers produce at least 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025, association officials announced today."

Source: *Small Business Association of Michigan* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340211617_Sbam1.pdf*

Did Jack Hoogendyk Forge His "Statement of Candidacy" Form Filed with Federal Election

"

Kalamazoo, MI- *Recently, it was revealed that Congressional candidate Jack Hoogendyk left nearly half his campaign spending off his 1st quarter FEC report and then his campaign manager admitted Jack Hoogendyk falsely signed petitions as a circulator when he was not the circulator. "*

Source: *Upton for All of Us* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340205647_Upton1.pdf*

Is the Great Lakes Region Ready for a Fracking Boom?

"

A new legal analysis by the National Wildlife Federation examines whether laws in Michigan and Ohio are sufficient to protect the Great Lakes Basin from the risks of fracking. "

Source: *National Wildlife Federation' Great Lakes Regional Center* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340205613_NWF1.pdf*

Lansing, Ann Arbor mayors endorse clean energy campaign

"

LANSING – Mayors of two of the largest cities in Michigan have endorsed the ballot initiative to raise the state's renewable energy standard to 25 percent by 2025."

Source: *Michigan Energy, Michigan Jobs* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340205570_MEMJ1.pdf*

ICYMI: The Detroit News: Romney is wrong on what drives a recovery

"

Key Point: *"President Obama has a plan for dealing with our cyclical unemployment crisis. It is called the American Jobs Act…. Romney has no plan."""*

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340203061_MDP1.pdf*

Eight Police Organizations Collectively Endorse Andrea Cascarilla

"

Delta Township *– Andrea Cascarilla proudly announces the Michigan Association of Police Organizations' endorsement of her candidacy for State Representative. Cascarilla is a Democrat running in Eaton County's 71st State House seat. "*

Source: *Andrea Cascarilla for State Representative* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340202901_Cascarilla1.pdf*

Rep. Wayne Schmidt says female lawmakers were put in 'timeout' as punishment for floor remarks

"

LANSING - During a radio interview yesterday, State Rep. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) told host Michael Patrick Shiels that Reps. Lisa Brown (D-West Bloomfield) and Barb Byrum (D-Onondaga) were put in "timeout" as a form of punishment following a recent floor debate on a package of anti-abortion legislation."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340201332_Progress3.pdf*

Further Transportation Investment Would Create 11,000 More Jobs, Michigan Chamber Foundation Study

"

LANSING, MI-- On the heels of news that the Detroit River International Trade Crossing will be built and bring thousands of new jobs, the Michigan Chamber Foundation today announced a new economic report which concludes that fixing the rest of the state's deteriorating roads and bridges would create an additional 11,000 jobs."

Source: *Michigan Chamber of Commerce* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340201284_MCOC1.pdf*

Consumers Energy News Release

"JACKSON, Mich., June 20, 2012 – At a special event in Consumers Energy's hometown today, employees, retirees and their families celebrated the privilege of serving customers and the State of Michigan for 125 years."

Source: *Consumer's Energy* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340201183_CE.pdf*

Appointments made to Hispanic/Latino Commission

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointments of Raquel Castañeda-Lòpez, of Detroit, JoAnn Chavez, of Ann Arbor, and Jesse Venegas, of Royal Oak, to the Hispanic/Latino Commission."

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340201140_Gov2.pdf*

Desirable, state-managed land (at discounted starting bids) at auction June 20

"

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in collaboration with the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority (MLB), today announced the sale of 140 properties—over 2,400 acres of land throughout the state—in a sealed-bid auction at www.michigan.gov/landforsale."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340201107_DNR1.pdf*

Secretary of State offices to be closed for 4th of July holiday

"

*Secretary of State Ruth Johnson reminds customers that all branch offices and the Office of the Great Seal will close on Wednesday, **July 4** in observance of Independence Day. "*

Source: *MI Department of State* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340201028_SOS1.pdf

Series of Bad Air Quality Days tough on Southeast Michigan's Children

"

DETROIT, MI – The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality declared today an "orange" air quality day for the Detroit Metro area, which equals unhealthy air for children and those with respiratory problems, making it harder to breathe."

Source: *Clean Energy Now* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340200988_Progress2.pdf

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Environmental Advocacy Groups Speak Out Against Dangerous Coal Ash Sites

"

Coal ash sites are dangerous to the public, and many leak dangerous carcinogens. On the two-year anniversary of the agency announcing the intent to pass rules, environmental advocates are calling for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to prioritize public health and safety by finalizing federal protections for coal ash storage."

Source: *Clean Water Action* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340200924_Progress1.pdf

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UM Wolverine Caucus June 27th

"

This is a friendly reminder that the next Wolverine Caucus Forum, Same Extraordinary Medicine, New Extraordinary Building Transforming Pediatric Care In Michigan featuring Loree Collett and Dr. Chris Dickinson, UM CS Mott Children's and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital, will take place on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Christman/MML Building, 208 N. Capitol Avenue, First Floor in Lansing."

Source: *University of Michigan* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340200860_Uofm.pdf

Singh to Host Community Conversation TODAY to Discuss Investing in Education

"

EAST LANSING – Sam Singh, the former Mayor of East Lansing and Democratic Candidate for Michigan's 69th House District will be hosting a Community Conversation TODAY, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM in the Library of Haslett High School, at 5450 Marsh Road in Haslett. "

Source: *Sam Singh for State Representative* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340200792_Singh1.pdf*

Michiganders see critical need for entrepreneurs, want schools to help, new poll finds

"

It is increasingly clear that entrepreneurs are more vital than ever to communities' economic strength and quality of life"

Source: *Michigan Sense of Place Council* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340200756_SOP1.pdf*

You've Earned a Say Goes to Washington

"

Michigan AARP leaders visit Capitol Hill to continue conversation about the future of Social Security and Medicare"

Source: *AARP of Michigan* **Date:** *06-21-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1340200652_AARP1.pdf*

Momentum Builds for Dan Christ for Oakland County Circuit Court Judge

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Friday, July 13, 2012 11:01 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Finney in Midland: State of Michigan aiding business

"Michael Finney, head of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., says Michigan is making it easier to do business in the state while making smarter use of the state's resources."

Source: *Midland Daily News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article_7767c474-cc33-11e1-94bd-001a4bcf887a.html*

New master plan to cost Central Michigan University $1.6 million

"Central Michigan University's board of trustees unanimously approved to authorize the use of $1.6 million to develop a new campus facilities master plan at its board of trustees meeting Thursday."

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.themorningsun.com/article/20120712/NEWS01/120719880/new-master-plan-to-cost-central-michigan-university-1-6-million*

Jobless benefit claims plunge

"WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits plunged last week. But a big reason is that automakers have skipped some of their usual summer shutdowns to keep up with demand, causing fewer temporary auto layoffs."

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/business/x1301511555/Jobless-benefit-claims-plunge*

NOT GUILTY! Jury sides with teenager who carried gun through downtown Birmingham

"The 18-year-old Troy man who walked around downtown Birmingham with a loaded rifle strapped to his back did not break the law while doing so."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120712/NEWS03/120719897/not-guilty-jury-sides-with-teenager-who-carried-gun-through-downtown-birmingham*

Hoekstra urges Romney to 'be bold'

"Republican U.S. Senate candidate Pete Hoekstra on Thursday urged the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, Mitt Romney, to "be bold" on the campaign trail and advocate overhauling the IRS tax code and entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare."

Source: *Daily Tribune (Royal Oak)* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120713/NEWS01/120719885/hoekstra-urges-romney-to-be-bold-*

State lawmakers urged to act quickly after mandatory no-parole sentences for juveniles struck down

"Michigan legislators need to move quickly to adapt state law to a U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down mandatory no-parole sentences for juveniles, the head of a prosecutors group said Thursday."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120713/NEWS06/207130356/-1/7daysarchives/State-lawmakers-urged-act-quickly-after-mandatory-no-parole-sentences-juveniles-struck-down*

ACLU's pioneering lawsuit aims to ensure Michigan students learn to read

"Michelle Johnson's tone was somber Thursday as she described how her daughter, an 11th-grader at Highland Park High School, could read at only a third-grade level."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120713/NEWS02/207130443/-1/7daysarchives/ACLU-s-pioneering-lawsuit-aims-ensure-Michigan-students-learn-read*

Pestka-Thomas debate Monday in B.C.

"The Enquirer and WMUK-FM radio in Kalamazoo are hosting a debate Monday, July 16 between the two Democratic candidates for Michigan's 3rd Congressional District, Steve Pestka and Trevor Thomas. The debate begins at 6 p.m. at the Kendall Center, 50 W. Jackson St., in downtown Battle Creek."

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120712/NEWS01/307120018/Pestka-Thomas-debate-Monday-B-C-*

Financial board OKs Mayor Dave Bing's plan to slash pay, benefits for union workers

"In its first major action on righting the city's finances, Detroit's financial advisory board approved Mayor Dave Bing's plans Thursday for $100 million in cuts to the city's unionized workforce that his administration is expected to impose without negotiations."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120713/NEWS01/207130451/Financial-board-OKs-Mayor-Dave-Bing-s-plan-to-slash-pay-benefits-for-union-workers?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

EMU prez must come clean on drinking

"Eastern Michigan University, host of an annual "Ethos Week," a weeklong exploration of ethical issues, is now hoping that its leader marks the occasion with more than a rhetorical exercise."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/OPINION03/207130327/1008/opinion01/EMU-prez-must-come-clean-drinking

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Editorial: Schools should take budget bait

"Public schools in Michigan will need to meet several best practices if they wish to receive some extra funding from the state. Gov. Rick Snyder integrated this idea into last year's budget with wide success. This year's budget, however, requires schools to jump through more hoops for less money. Fewer schools may be tempted, but they should still capitalize on the opportunity."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/OPINION01/207130332/1008/opinion01/Editorial-Schools-should-take-budget-bait

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Fewer auto closings reduce US unemployment claims

"WASHINGTON — The number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits plunged last week. But a big reason is that automakers have skipped some of their usual summer shutdowns to keep up with demand, causing fewer temporary auto layoffs."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/auto/index.ssf/2012/07/fewer_auto_closings_reduce_us.html

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Michigan members of Congress in lockstep with Obama, Romney on tax cuts (poll)

"LANSING, MI – Democrats and Republicans in Michigan's congressional delegation appear to be in lockstep with their respective party lines after President Barack Obama's call this week for a one-year extension of Bush-era tax cuts to families earning under $250,000 a year."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/michigan_members_of_congress_i.html

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GOP pressing on with contraception lawsuit

"Lincoln, Neb.— Seven states trying to block part of the federal health care law that requires contraception coverage will continue with their lawsuit despite last month's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld most of the law, according to Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, who is leading the case."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/POLITICS03/207130386/1022/politics/GOP-pressing-contraception-lawsuit

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Flint voters could see marijuana legalization measure on November ballot

"FLINT, MI – Voters in November could be asked to decide whether or not to partially decriminalize marijuana possession in the city."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/07/flint_voters_could_see_marijua.html

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Hoekstra woos Metro Detroiters, says area key to Senate race

"Bloomfield Township — At a Starbucks in Oakland County, former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra draws some curious looks from patrons, who think they may recognize him, but aren't sure."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/POLITICS02/207130333/1022/politics/Hoekstra-woos-Metro-Detroiters-says-area-key-Senate-race

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Learn why Michigan Democrats criticize Steve Forbes endorsement of Clark Durant

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The state Democratic Party on Thursday bashed the backing Republican U.S. Senate candidate Clark Durant received from magazine editor and former presidential candidate Steve Forbes."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/07/learn_why_michigan_democrats_c.html*

Matthew Davis: Society, not government, must affect change in criminal behavior

"It's true that government cannot legislate morality, but unless society as a whole immerses its succeeding generations in time-tested virtues, such as honesty, self-respect, respect for human life, and compassion, then all that will be left to legislate is the number of prison beds we have."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/matthew_davis_should_governmen.html

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Bing hints he's not out in 2013

"Detroit— Mayor Dave Bing inched closer Thursday to saying he'll seek a second term by telling supporters at a private fundraiser that he may need "another four years" to implement reforms that will bring the city back."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/METRO01/207130339/1409/METRO/Bing-hints-he-s-not-out-2013

Fate of Flint emergency manager now rests with Michigan Supreme Court

"FLINT, MI -- The Michigan Supreme Court is set to decide whether a referendum of the state's emergency manager law will go on the November ballot -- a decision that could effectively remove Flint's emergency manager from office."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/07/fate_of_flint_emergency_manage.html

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U.S. Education Department: Percentage of Michigan residents with college degrees rises slightly, but must climb higher

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The number of Michigan residents between 25 and 34 with a college degree is up slightly, but U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan says the state – and nation – have far to go to meet goals."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/07/us_education_department_percen.html

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Report: A few Asian carp could populate all 5 Great Lakes

"Traverse City— Asian carp could find enough food and breeding areas to reach all five of the Great Lakes within 20 years if allowed to gain a foothold, a scientific report said Thursday."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/METRO/207130334/1409/METRO/Report-few-Asian-carp-could-populate-all-5-Great-Lakes

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Congressman Fred Upton told to 'move on' from Affordable Care Act repeal by Michigan Citizens Action

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI** — Local advocates from Michigan Citizens Action said Congressman Fred Upton needs to "move on" from the Republican effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/07/congressman_fred_upton_told_to.html

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Mackinac Center: Emergency managers lesser evil than municipal bankruptcy

"FLINT, MI -- When it comes to state-appointed emergency managers versus municipal bankruptcy, cash-strapped cities in Michigan "should be grateful" for Public Act 4, according to the Mackinac Center for Public Policy."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/07/mackinac_center_emergency_mana.html

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Some Michigan welfare recipients get reprieve

"When the long-awaited cash appeared in her Bridge card account June 29, Elizabeth Weaver had her list ready."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/some_michigan_welfare_recipien.html

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Bing hints he's not out in 2013

"Detroit— Mayor Dave Bing inched closer Thursday to saying he'll seek a second term by telling supporters at a private fundraiser that he may need "another four years" to implement reforms that will bring the city back."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/METRO01/207130339/1409/METRO/Bing-hints-he-s-not-out-2013

Calley to host workshop on Michigan law requiring insurance coverage of autism treatments

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI -- Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will help lead a workshop next week about the new Michigan law requiring insurers to cover intensive therapy for children with autism."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/07/calley_to_host_workshop_on_mic.html*

Detroit financial board OKs cuts to union contracts

"Detroit — The Financial Advisory Board took its first step toward restructuring the city's finances on Thursday by approving Mayor Dave Bing's proposal to change union contracts."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/METRO01/207130361/Detroit-financial-board-OKs-cuts-union-contracts?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

ACLU sues Michigan for depriving Highland Park students of their 'right to read'

*"**HIGHLAND PARK, MI** — The American Civil Liberties Union is challenging the state's obligation to students."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/07/aclu_sues_michigan_for_deprivi.html*

Class sizes may grow in Detroit Public Schools

"Detroit— Class sizes in Detroit Public Schools could get much larger this fall — up to 61 students each in grades 6-12 and 41 students in grades kindergarten through 3 — before school officials take action to level them out."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/SCHOOLS/207130335/Class-sizes-may-grow-Detroit-Public-Schools?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Michigan Department of Human Services doesn't live up to Gov. Snyder's transparency pledge

"“As Governor, I will ensure that government is open, fair, and accountable to the citizens by making Michigan a national leader in transparency and ethics.” That's what Rick Snyder pledged on the campaign trail two years ago."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/state_department_doesnt_live_u.html*

See how your Michigan legislator ranks on environmental report card issued by League of Conservation Voters

"LANSING, MI - How friendly to the environment is the Michigan Legislature? Not friendly enough, according to the Michigan League of Conservation Voters."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/no_rave_reviews_for_michigan_l.html

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Amazon reportedly eyes same-day delivery while Michigan retailers continue to fight for online sales tax law (with poll)

"LANSING, MI — The clash between Amazon.com and brick-and-mortar retailers continues as the e-commerce giant looks to set up more distribution centers nationwide with the goal of offering same-day delivery."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/07/amazon_tax_same-day_delivery.html*

Detroit financial board OKs cuts to union contracts

"Detroit — The Financial Advisory Board took its first step toward restructuring the city's finances on Thursday by approving Mayor Dave Bing's proposal to change union contracts."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/METRO01/207130361/Detroit-financial-board-OKs-cuts-union-contracts?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Michigan lawmakers to review implications of juvenile lifer ruling

"LANSING, MI - A Michigan House subcommittee plans to take testimony next week to review implications of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision banning mandatory life sentences for juveniles."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/juvenile_lifer_hearing_michiga.html

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Persistent violence fosters fear, frustration in city

"Detroit — Customers interrupted during late-night meals at Olympia Coney Island grabbed for towels and tried in vain to save a man who was carjacked and fatally shot in the parking lot."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120713/METRO01/207130363/Persistent-violence-fosters-fear-frustration-city?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Research murky on danger of Asian carp invasion of Great Lakes

"HAVANA, Ill. (AP) — As scientists aboard a research boat activate an electric current, the calm Illinois River transforms into a roiling, silvery mass."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/research_murky_on_danger_of_as.html

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Tim Skubick: Which state lawmakers did Americans for Prosperity challenge on 'Obamacare'?

"Isn't the Internet grand!"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/07/tim_skubick_which_state_lawmak.html

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With 2 percent of Michigan principals rated 'ineffective,' experts say job will get tougher as student growth is factored into evaluations

"LANSING, MI – Less than 2 percent of the state's principals were deemed "ineffective" by their school districts last year, but educators say that number is likely to climb as they adopt new evaluation methods linked to student performance."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/07/with_2_percent_of_michigan_pri.html

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Press Releases

DTE Energy Announces Retirement of Harbor Beach Coal-Fired Power Plant

"

LANSING – In a major victory for clean air and public health in Michigan, DTE Energy announced today its plans to retire the dirty Harbor Beach coal-fired power plant in Harbor Beach, Michigan."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342126261_Progress2.pdf

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cting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank to Participate in Opening of First-Ever U.S. Patent

"

WASHINGTON – Tomorrow at 10:30 AM EDT, Acting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank will help launch the opening of the first-ever U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) satellite office in Detroit, Michigan."

Source: *U.S. Rep. John Conyers* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342124889_Conyers2.pdf

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DURBIN, CONYERS: CORPORATIONS MUST PUT WORKERS AND RETIREES FIRST IN BANKRUPTCY

"

[WASHINGTON, DC] – Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL) and House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers (D-MI) introduced legislation today to curb abuses that deprive employees and retirees of their earnings and retirement savings when businesses collapse. "

Source: *U.S. Rep. John Conyers* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342124838_Conyers1.pdf

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Eric Pelton reappointed to Board of Law Examiner

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder has reappointed Eric Pelton, of Bloomfield Hills, to the State Board of Law Examiners. "

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342123752_Gov1.pdf

Pete's Solutions Tour

"

Team Hoekstra is pleased to announce the latest stops on Pete's Solutions Tour! These events are a great way to network with other grassroots activists who share Pete's vision for real solutions for Michigan and America."

Source: *Hoekstra For Senate* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342122683_Hoekstra1.pdf

Michigan Environmental Scorecard Rates State Legislature on Conservation Record

"

ANN ARBOR --- The Michigan League of Conservation Voters (Michigan LCV) released its Michigan Environmental Scorecard today, which scores all sitting State Representatives and Senators on their conservation and environmental voting records."

Source: *Michigan League of Conservation Voters* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342121556_MLCV1.pdf*

Snyder makes appointment to Corn Marketing Committee

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Blaine Baker, of Clayton, to the Michigan Corn Marketing Committee. "

Source: *Office of the Governor* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342121512_Corn1.pdf*

INKSTER JUDGE'S ETHICS CASE TO BE HEARD BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT ON JULY 18

"LANSING, MI, July 12, 2012 – The Michigan Supreme Court will hear oral arguments next week in the case of an Inkster judge accused of violating judicial ethics rules."

Source: *Michigan Supreme Court* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342121467_MSC1.pdf*

OFA-MI TRUTH TEAM TO DISCUSS NEW INFORMATION REGARDING ROMNEY'S BAIN DEPARTURE

"

DETROIT – In light of this morning's blockbuster Boston Globe report that Mitt Romney stayed on at Bain Capital for three years longer than he claims – a three-year period where Bain was directly involved in both a series of business failures as well as the outsourcing of American jobs – the Obama for America Michigan Truth Team will host a press conference call this afternoon."

Source: *Obama for America* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342120206_Obama2.pdf*

Medicaid expansion -- a deal we can't afford to turn down

"

"An estimated 431,000 Michiganders without health insurance would get needed coverage under the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion."

Source: *Michigan League for Human Services* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342120163_MLHS1.pdf*

Congressional candidate Daniel Marcin responds to John Dingell's position change on DOMA

"

ANN ARBOR – Congressional candidate Daniel Marcin today responded to John Dingell's position change on the Defense of Marriage Act. "

Source: *Daniel Marcin for Congress* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342117612_Marcin2.pdf*

Michigan Democratic Party Calls on Voters to Reject Schmidt, Write In Brinks

"

***LANSING** – Michigan Democratic Party Chair Mark Brewer today called on Democratic primary voters in the 76th House District to support Winnie Brinks, who is challenging party-switcher Rep. Roy Schmidt, and write in her name for the Aug. 7 primary."*

Source: *Michigan Democratic Party* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342117054_MDP1.pdf*

Appellate Defender Commission Selects Valerie R. Newman for First "Thomas Award for Excellence

"

The Appellate Defender Commission (ADC) has selected Valerie R. Newman, Assistant Defender at the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), for the first "Thomas Award for Excellence in Appellate Advocacy.""

Source: *Appellate Defender Commission* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342117006_ADC1.pdf*

PRESS CALL: OFA-MI TRUTH TEAM CALLS ROMNEY OUT ON HIS BIG BAIN LIE

"

DETROIT – In light of this morning's blockbuster Boston Globe report that Mitt Romney stayed on at Bain Capital for three years longer than he claims – a three-year period where Bain was directly involved in both a series of business failures as well as the outsourcing of American jobs – the Obama for America Michigan Truth Team will host a press conference call this afternoon."

Source: *Obama for America* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342114938_Obama1.pdf

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Steve Forbes, Publishing Entrepreneur and Conservative Leader, Endorses Durant

"

DETROIT, MI *- The Clark Durant campaign landed a big endorsement today, announcing that Steve Forbes, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Forbes magazine, has endorsed Durant for U.S. Senate. Forbes will be in Michigan on July 31st to fundraise and campaign for Durant. (Durant has received several big endorsements in recent weeks including, Right to Life of Michigan, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce PAC, Gun Owners of America, former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson, and now Steve Forbes.)"*

Source: *Clark Durant for Senate* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342112297_Durant1.pdf

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Statement from AFT Michigan President David Hecker on the Lawsuit Filed by the ACLU

"

AFT Michigan and our members have been calling attention to the unequal educational opportunities received by Highland Park students for years, and we appreciate the attention these issues are receiving"

Source: *AFT Michigan* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342112247_Progress1.pdf

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We Are the Kalamazoo: Citizens to Stand Up Against Dirty Tar Sands Oil

"

On July 25, 2012, We Are the Kalamazoo events will be staged across North America to memorialize the two year anniversary of the largest and costliest inland oil spill in the history of United States. The tar sands spill occurred when a pipeline operated by Enbridge Inc. dumped approximately 1.2 million gallons of corrosive diluted tar sands bitumen (dilbit) into a wetland that overflowed into the Kalamazoo River, contaminating nearly 40 miles of the watershed."

Source: *Sierra Club Michigan Chapter* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342110938_Sierra1.pdf*

Bentivolio Calls For Apology From Write-In

"

Milford, MI - Kerry Bentivolio is fired up about winning the September 5 special primary election in Michigan's 11th Congressional District. He has mobilized over 50 unpaid volunteer petition circulators and is pushing hard to collect over 1,000 valid signatures over the next week."

Source: *Kerry Bentivolio for U.S. Congress* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342110901_Bentivolio.pdf*

Michigan state parks offer plenty to see, do and learn this summer

"

Michigan state parks are the perfect place to enjoy the long, lazy days of late summer. The Department of Natural Resources encourages visitors to escape the heat with a day at the beach, cool off with a paddle down a scenic river, or doze in a hammock under a shady tree."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342110848_MDOT1.pdf*

Wow!

"

Your response to the emails from Kerry and me earlier this week about the TV ad was incredible. We have raised $4095 since Monday morning - more than double our $2000 goal."

Source: *Sam Singh for State Representative* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106691_Singh1.pdf*

Kennedy calls special election "a waste of taxpayers' dollars"

"

Wixom, Mich. – July 11, 2012 – Nick Kennedy, long-time community volunteer and candidate for State Representative in Michigan's new 39th District, calls the 11th District Congressional special election "a horrendous waste of taxpayers' dollars." "

Source: *Nick Kennedy for State Representative* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106654_Kennedy1.pdf*

Complete Streets Advisory Council to meet July 26

"

July 12, 2012 *-- The Complete Streets Advisory Council will meet at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 26, at the Capitol Commons Center, 400 S. Pine St., in Lansing. The meeting is open to the public."*

Source: *MI Department of Transportation* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106578_MDOT1.pdf*

Campaign Co-Chair for Martin Howrylak for State Representative

"

Troy, MI *– Today, the Howrylak for State Representative campaign, announced that Jan Zikakis will serve as Co-Chairperson for the campaign. She will be joining Audre Zembrzuski who is also serving as Co-Chairperson."*

Source: *Martin Howrylak for State Representative* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106545_Howrylak1.pdf*

Bridget Mary McCormack Honored by Cooley Law Review with 2012 Distinguished Brief Award

"

Bridget Mary McCormack, Dean of Clinical Affairs at the University of Michigan Law School and a candidate for the Michigan Supreme Court in November, received a Distinguished Brief Award from the Thomas M. Cooley Law Review Wednesday evening in Lansing. The prestigious awards are presented annually in recognition of the most scholarly briefs filed before the Michigan Supreme Court. "

Source: *Liz Boyd Public Relations* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106502_Boyd1.pdf*

Exciting new features on Public Sector Consultants website!

"

We are happy to unveil our new website at the familiar address, www.pscinc.com. Please take a spin for easy access to our recent and archived reports, staff photos, and PSCers' commentary in the media. "

Source: *Public Sector Consultants* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106413_PSC1.pdf

Michigan Lawyer Who Argued For Citizens United, Admits Elections Are Bought

"

Billionaire Matty Moroun has come out swinging with astounding sums of money in response to Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signing a deal to build a new bridge spanning from Detroit to Canada, and even the staunchest supporters of corporate speech are admitting Mr. Moroun may be buying an election."

Source: *Move to Amend* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342106373_MTA1.pdf

RetakeOurGov Endorses Kerry Bentivolio for Congress

"

RetakeOurGov Tea Party announces its endorsement of Mr. Kerry Bentivolio for Congress. Mr. Bentivolio (R) is running for Congress in Michigan's 11th Congressional District."

Source: *RetakeOurGov* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342105201_Rog1.pdf

Nancy Cassis Announces Candidacy for Special Election

"

Novi, MI - Nancy Cassis, conservative Republican candidate for Congress, today announced she will run in the September 5 Special Election to represent the current 11th congressional district."

Source: *Nancy Cassis for U.S. Congress* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342105165_Cassis1.pdf

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Congressional Candidate Daniel Marcin (MI-12) statement on recent extreme weather

"

ANN ARBOR – Congressional candidate Daniel Marcin today responded to new data on the climate and extreme weather hitting Michigan and the country."

Source: *Daniel Marcin for Congress* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342105139_Marcin1.pdf*

U.S. Rep. Gary Peters Applauds President Obama for Taking Action to Help Small Business

"

Congressional Action Still Necessary to Help Small Businesses Create Jobs and Compete for Federal Contracting Opportunities"

Source: *U.S. Rep Gary Peters* **Date:** *07-13-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1342105106_Peters1.pdf*

GroupWise Users Note: If an underlined link does not work, highlight the entire link, then right-click on it and select "Go to".

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2012 3:53 PM
To: Michigan_HTML@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Snyder Seeking Replacement Law For PA 4

News Update

Friday, August 3, 2012, 03:52 PM

Snyder Seeking Replacement Law For PA 4

The administration of Governor Rick Snyder is urging the Legislature to adopt a new emergency manager law that would replace and upgrade the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act once it is suspended upon certification of the referendum against it to the November ballot.

Treasurer Andy Dillon, meeting with reporters minutes ago, said the Legislature could act on a replacement law as soon as its next session August 15. It was not immediately clear whether the Snyder administration is specifically calling for action on that date.

In the past, Mr. Snyder has said such a replacement statute would only be in place pending the outcome of the referendum on 2011 PA 4.

Mr. Dillon also said upon certification of the referendum, which means the suspension of PA 4 pending the November election, the old 1990 PA 72 will return, and Mr. Snyder will appoint emergency managers now serving in three of the four cities with them to the post of emergency financial manager. In the fourth city, Flint, Mr. Snyder will have to name a replacement for Michael Brown because he is ineligible to serve as an emergency financial manager under PA 72.

Meanwhile, Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan said he would nominate the three people serving as emergency managers for school districts to be named as emergency financial managers.

Mr. Dillon said all decisions made by emergency managers, or other actions taken under PA 4 prior to its suspension, remain in force despite the suspension of the law.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in today's Michigan Report.

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2012 8:22 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 9:06 AM
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Muxlow prevails in thrilling race

"Incumbent Paul Muxlow defeated Bob Eick for the Republican nomination in Michigan's 32nd House District."

Source: *Port Huron Times Herald* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.thetimesherald.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/308080011/Muxlow-prevails-thrilling-race?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Pete Hoekstra wins spot in Senate race, will oppose Debbie Stabenow

"Pete Hoekstra has won the Republican nomination over Clark Durant and Randy Hekman. He moves on to the Nov. 6 ballot against Democratic U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who is seeking a third six-year term."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/08/08/news/politics/doc5021c51e6e359355395330.txt*

Tea Party backed-Bentivolio easily defeats write-in Nancy Cassis for West Oakland House nod

"Bentivolio, a Tea party favorite, won the Republican primary for the seat abandoned by former Rep. Thaddeus McCotter."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2012/08/08/news/politics/doc5021eb983678d828758253.txt*

Stamas wins over Mosca in 98th District Republican race

"Stamas, R-Midland, represents the 98th District, which includes portions of Midland and Bay counties, including the City of Midland."

Source: *Midland Daily News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.ourmidland.com/news/article_21720366-e107-11e1-a219-0019bb2963f4.html*

Big night for House incumbents

"The hotly contested race between House Democrats, Reps. Lesia Liss and Jon Switalski of Warren, turned into a big victory Tuesday for the coolly confident Switalski on a night when incumbents across the county notched primary election wins by huge margins."

Source: *Macomb Daily* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.macombdaily.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/120809577/big-night-for-house-incumbents

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Michigan, Livingston GOP voters go with Hoekstra to challenge Stabenow

"Former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra beat Republican challenger Clark Durant on Tuesday night in the Michigan primary election, winning the right to face two-term incumbent U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in the fall's general election."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/208080321/Michigan-Livingston-GOP-voters-go-Hoekstra-challenge-Stabenow?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

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Primary night good for Livingston County's Rogers brothers, Denby (with photo gallery)

"Livingston County's incumbent GOP lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and in Lansing are advancing to November's general election."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/208080309/Primary-night-good-Livingston-County-s-Rogers-brothers-Denby-photo-gallery-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

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Jamo, Ross advance in 30th Circuit Court race

"Two attorneys will vie for a retiring judge's seat on Ingham County's 30th Circuit Court."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120807/ELECTIONS06/308070058/Jamo-Ross-advance-30th-Circuit-Court-race?odyssey=mod|breaking|art10

Michigan Democrats pick Taj for McCotter's seat

"CANTON TOWNSHIP — Syed Taj (SAH-Yehd Tazh) has won the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House seat formerly held by Republican Thaddeus McCotter."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/viewart/20120807/ELECTIONS04/308070057/Michigan-Democrats-pick-Taj-McCotter-s-seat

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Damrow loses GOP primary

*"**UPPER THUMB** — Though Incumbent Kurt E. Damrow garnered the majority of votes in Huron County during Tuesday's primary election, he did not win enough in Tuscola County to serve another term as 84th District State Representative."*

Source: *Huron Daily Tribune* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.michigansthumb.com/articles/2012/08/08/news/local_news/doc50224edfd47b5721370895.txt

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Low turnout in primary

"

Holland —
At 5 p.m. Tuesday, only 89 of the 1,482 registers voters in Holland's 5th Precinct in the 2nd Ward had cast a ballot."
Source: *Holland Sentinel* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.hollandsentinel.com/topstories/x132294462/Low-turnout-in-primary

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ELECTION: Hoekstra, Upton win Republican primary elections

"

Holland —
Holland's Pete Hoekstra will be the Republican to go toe-to-toe with incumbent Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow in the November general election."
Source: *Holland Sentinel* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.hollandsentinel.com/topstories/x1225370663/Hoekstra-Upton-win-Republican-primary-elections

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Pagel cruises in 78th

"Dave Pagel appeared headed toward an easy victory Tuesday in the Republican primary for the 78th District state House seat."

Source: *Herald Palladium (St. Joseph/Benton Harbor)* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/local/pagel-cruises-in-th/article_f6b3c9af-1e15-5c4c-89ec-52705399fd23.html

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Hahn prevails in 79th House primary

"James Hahn, a retired carpenter, vocational educator and union official, prevailed Tuesday in the Democratic primary for the 79th District House seat, over Mary Brown, a Benton Harbor teacher."

Source: *Herald Palladium (St. Joseph/Benton Harbor)* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/local/hahn-prevails-in-th-house-primary/article_236930e6-fd01-5576-9c66-e6e27a80b3b4.html*

Upton landslide

"ST. JOSEPH - U.S. Rep. Fred Upton tallied a resounding win Tuesday night to gain the 6th District Republican nomination over challenger Jack Hoogendyk."

Source: *Herald Palladium (St. Joseph/Benton Harbor)* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/local/upton-landslide/article_6e899192-d458-59f2-8bc7-ca9a54122cb5.html*

Michigan gas prices ease at around $4 after damaged pipeline reopens

"Gas prices began falling around Metro Detroit on Tuesday, the same day a damaged oil pipeline in Wisconsin reopened."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/BIZ/208080318/1001/biz/Michigan-gas-prices-ease-around-4-after-damaged-pipeline-reopens*

Spyker suit: GM unlawfully blocked Saab sale

"Dutch carmaker Spyker Cars NV is suing General Motors Co. for $3 billion, after the Detroit automaker blocked its sale of Saab Automotive AB to a Chinese buyer."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120807/AUTO0103/208070320/1148/auto01/Spyker-suit-GM-unlawfully-blocked-Saab-sale*

Movie tie-ins boon for Chrysler

"Chrysler Group LLC is looking to woo customers at movie theaters and at home by partnering with two of this summer's blockbuster movies and touting the tie-ins in TV advertising."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/AUTO0101/208080330/1148/auto01/Movie-tie-ins-boon-Chrysler*

Govs to promote auto issues

"A bipartisan group of four governors, including Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, is forming an autocaucus to support policies aimed at boosting the U.S. auto industry."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/AUTO01/208080319/1148/auto01/Govs-promote-auto-issues*

Dodge to quit NASCAR after 2012 season

"Dodge was left hanging after its factory-backed team, Penske Racing, announced in March that it would race with Ford in 2013."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/AUTO0101/208080317/1148/auto01/Dodge-quit-NASCAR-after-2012-season*

Analysts: Car sales to keep rising

"Acme —Economists see a continued upswing for U.S. car and truck sales over the next several years, with some forecasts flirting with 17 million in annual sales — a figure not seen in more than a decade."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/AUTO01/208080369/1148/auto01/Analysts-Car-sales-keep-rising*

Miller praises decision not to close bases; Selfridge was likely target

"Washington— U.S. Rep. Candice Miller on Tuesday praised the decision of the Pentagon to abandon plans for a new round of U.S. base closings next year."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS02/208080340/1409/metro/Miller-praises-decision-not-close-bases-Selfridge-likely-target*

Board of State Canvassers to meet on emergency manager law

"Lansing— Michigan boards are expected to meet to put a possible repeal of the emergency manager lawon the November ballot and re-appoint emergency managers in at least three cities."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/METRO/208080377/1409/metro/Board-State-Canvassers-meet-emergency-manager-law*

Rep. Sander Levin marries professor in private ceremony

"Washington— Rep. Sander Levin has married Penn State University professor Pamela Cole.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS02/208080339/1409/metro/Rep-Sander-Levin-marries-professor-private-ceremony*

Newcomer Bentivolio wins, will face Taj

"With U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter's political implosion and abrupt resignation, the 11th Congressional District's new GOP candidate will beKerry Bentivolio,areindeer rancher who's never heldpolitical office."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080367/1409/metro/Newcomer-Bentivolio-wins-will-face-Taj*

Conyers fends off his challengers

"Detroit— Despite running in a new district and facing a feisty set of challengers, U.S. John Conyers coasted to an easy victory in Tuesday's Democratic primary in the reconstituted 13th Congressional District."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080366/1409/metro/Conyers-fends-off-his-challengers*

Peters beats Clarke in redrawn district

"

It's one of two minority-majority districts in Mich.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080368/1409/metro/Peters-beats-Clarke-redrawn-district*

Detroit council rejects request to put police tax on ballot

"Detroit— The City Council on Tuesday rejected a plan to put a tax proposal on the November ballot to raise $56 million for the city's cash-strapped police department.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/METRO01/208080347/1409/metro/Detroit-council-rejects-request-put-police-tax-ballot*

Citizenship question sets off controversy at polls

"Lansing— An initiative by Secretary of State Ruth Johnson's office seeking to affirm voters' U.S. citizenship led to confusion at the polls Tuesday and claims some registered voters were denied ballots."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080370/*

Incumbents mostly find easy victories

"

Napoleon, Patterson, Bouchard winning handily in primary

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080362/*

Jury selection to begin today in Kilpatrick corruption case

"Detroit— The jury selection process starts Wednesday in the City Hall corruption case against ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, his father and two others."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/METRO/208080374/Jury-selection-begin-today-Kilpatrick-corruption-case?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Bentivolio tops Cassis, Peters beats Clarke in congressional races

"Political newcomer Kerry Bentivolio defeated write-in candidate Nancy Cassis in the Republican primary race for the 11th Congressional District seat vacated by Thad McCotter, while U.S. Rep. Gary Peters beat fellow U.S. Rep. Hansen Clarke in the neighboring 14th District."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080373/Bentivolio-tops-Cassis-Peters-beats-Clarke-congressional-races?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Metro Detroit passes DIA tax; Hoekstra to face Stabenow

"Metro Detroiters gave a vote of confidence to the Detroit Institute of Arts on Tuesday, with a millage intended to keep the doors of the museum open passing handily in Oakland and Wayne counties and squeaking by in Macomb."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120808/POLITICS01/208080371/Metro-Detroit-passes-DIA-tax-Hoekstra-face-Stabenow?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Rashida Tlaib defeats Maureen Stapleton in closely watched House primary race

"State Rep. Rashida Tlaib defeated fellow Detroit Democrat, Rep. Maureen Stapleton, in one of the most closely watched House primaries Tuesday."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120807/NEWS15/120807105/State-Rep-Tlaib-holds-slim-lead-in-House-primary

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Raise Detroit property taxes by 8 mills to pay for more cops? No way, City Council says

"The Detroit City Council this afternoon roundly rejected a proposal brought by the city's Board of Police Commissioners to raise property taxes to pay for more public safety workers in the cash-strapped city."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20120807/NEWS01/120807060/Detroit-City-Council-rejects-proposed-public-safety-tax

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Detroit's Lemonade Kid, 9, presents check to city

"Joshua Smith, the 9-year-old Detroit boy who earned national attention for setting up a lemonade stand to help raise money for his cash-strapped city, presented a check to the city today for $2,832.64 with his family."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120807/NEWS01/120807039/Boy-9-who-raised-cash-for-Detroit-with-lemonade-stand-presents-check-to-city*

Panel to meet Wednesday to put emergency manager law repeal on ballot

"LANSING -- A state elections panel is set to vote Wednesday to place the repeal of Michigan's beefed-up emergency manager law on the November ballot, effectively suspending the law until after the vote."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120807/NEWS15/120807053/Panel-meet-Wednesday-put-emergency-manager-law-repeal-ballot*

Detroit City Council rejects putting public safety proposal on ballot

"The Detroit City Council made it clear that it's not willing to ask voters for a major tax hike to increase the number of public safety workers in the cash-strapped city."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/308080062/Detroit-City-Council-rejects-putting-public-safety-proposal-on-ballot?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Rep. Fred Upton answers conservative challenger in 6th District

"In western Michigan's 6th District, veteran Rep. Fred Upton of St. Joseph won a rematch over Jack Hoogendyk, a former state representative from Kalamazoo County whom Upton handily defeated two years ago."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/NEWS06/308080175/Rep-Fred-Upton-answers-conservative-challenger-6th-District*

Stephen Henderson: Fall election is crucial for Hoekstra

"Quick: Name someone who has lost two statewide races and come back to win a third."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/COL33/308080172*

Pete Hoekstra wins right to face Debbie Stabenow for Senate

"Former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra beat Republican challenger Clark Durant on Tuesday, winning the right to face two-term incumbent U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in the general election this fall."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/NEWS15/308080167/Pete-Hoekstra-wins-right-face-Debbie-Stabenow-Senate*

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ohn Conyers and Gary Peters on track back to U.S. House

"Metro Detroit voters took the first step Tuesday to sending two incumbent Democrats back to Washington: U.S. Rep. John Conyers, the veteran Detroit lawmaker, won easily; U.S. Rep. Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township won a tighter race against U.S. Rep. Hansen Clarke in the only race pitting two incumbent congressmen in Michigan."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/NEWS15/308080173/John-Conyers-Gary-Peters-track-back-U-S-House*

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nkster Judge Sylvia James placed first in election despite ouster

"Despite being ousted from the bench, former Inkster 22nd District Judge Sylvia James placed first in Tuesday's vote, according to results from the Wayne County Board of Elections."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/NEWS02/120808012/Inkster-Judge-Sylvia-James-placed-first-election-despite-ouster*

Political newcomer Bentivolio wins GOP primary battle over Cassis

"It's not the way some local Republican leaders envisioned the race for the 11th Congressional District playing out, but Tuesday night, Kerry Bentivolio of Milford became the GOP nominee."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120808/NEWS06/308080104/Political-newcomer-Bentivolio-wins-GOP-primary-battle-over-Cassis*

Grand Rapids state rep in party-switching furor wins GOP primary

"LANSING – A Grand Rapids state representative who switched political parties and recruited a patsy candidate for him to face in the Nov. 6 election successfully fended off a strong write-in challenge in the Republican primary Tuesday."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120807/NEWS15/120808001/Grand-Rapids-state-rep-party-switching-furor-wins-GOP-primary*

DIA millage passes; admission now free to Wayne, Oakland and Macomb county residents

"A crucial millage for the Detroit Institute of Arts passed easily in Wayne and Oakland counties — but was approved by the slimmest of margins in Macomb County as the final votes were tallied."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20120807/ENT05/120807090/DIA-millage-passes-admission-now-free-Wayne-Oakland-Macomb-county-residents*

Voters approve millage for Detroit art museum

"DETROIT (AP) — Voters in southeastern Michigan have approved a special millage to support the Detroit Institute of Arts."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/120809646/voters-approve-millage-for-detroit-art-museum*

Widowed US Rep. Levin weds psychology professor

"The Royal Oak Democrat said that he and Pamela Cole married July 21 at the home of Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, who presided."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20120808/NEWS01/120809645/widowed-us-rep-levin-weds-psychology-professor*

Gov. Snyder OKs changes to Michigan dune protection

"LANSING — Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation that makes the first significant changes to Michigan's sand dune law since the state established protections for critical areas more than two decades ago."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/viewart/20120807/NEWS01/308070027/Gov-Snyder-OKs-changes-Michigan-dune-protection*

Hoekstra wins GOP nomination for Senate

"Former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra on Tuesday won the right to face two-term incumbent U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow in the fall and appeared prepared to cruise to an easy victory int eh Republican primary."

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120807/NEWS01/308070031/Hoekstra-wins-GOP-nomination-Senate*

Thomas concedes in District 3 primary

"Trevor Thomas has conceded victory to Steve Pestka in the Democratic primary in Michigan's 3rd Congressional District."

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20120807/NEWS01/308070030/Thomas-concedes-District-3-primary*

Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson scrap tests of high-profile Alzheimer's drug

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI -** Pfizer Inc. and Johnson & Johnson announced that they were halting further intravenous trials of a high-profile drug, after it failed to help Alzheimer's patients in a late-stage clinical trial."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2012/08/pfizer_johnson_johnson_scraps.html*

Dodge goes on indefinite hiatus from NASCAR

"DETROIT, MI -- It was "with a heavy heart" that Dodge SRT and Motorsports president and CEO Ralph Gilles told media in a Tuesday afternoon conference call that the brand would no longer be sponsoring a NASCAR team, beginning with the 2013 season."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/detroit/index.ssf/2012/08/dodge_goes_on_indefinite_hiatu.html*

Automotive expert says peak recovery still to come, along with pricier vehicles

"Cars might cost $50,000 on average by 2025. Vehicle sales in the United States may never bounce back to the levels of a decade ago. And electric vehicles aren't likely to catch on with consumers for years, if at all."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/08/forecasting_a_slower_pricier_c.html*

Michigan higher education receives failing grades for transparency issues

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI** – Michigan lawmakers and higher education leaders are receiving failing grades for transparency, accountability and policy on the Institute for a Competitive Workforce 2012 Report Card."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/08/michigan_higher_education_rece.html*

Galesburg-Augusta plan to drug-test students backed by 2002 Supreme Court ruling

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI --** A controversial plan by Galesburg-Augusta High School to start random drug-testing of students this fall may not be popular, but it appears to be legal."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/08/galesburg-augusta_plan_to_drug.html*

Candidate for U.S. Congress to return money to restaurant owner facing deportation

"WESTLAND, MI -- A candidate for U.S. Congress is giving back a $1,000 campaign contribution that came from a local restaurant owner who is facing deportation and a charge of lying to federal agents, according to the Westland Observer."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/08/candidate_for_us_congress_to_r.html*

Full West Michigan primary 2012 election coverage: See results on Congress, State House, other local elections

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI -- Here is a roundup of our primary election coverage and results from across West Michigan."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/08/full_west_michigan_primary_201.html*

Congressman Fred Upton wins by large margin over challenger Jack Hoogendyk in GOP primary

*"**ST. JOSEPH, MI** — Congressman Fred Upton reaffirmed his place in Southwest Michigan Republican politics on Tuesday with a decisive victory against Jack Hoogendyk's second primary challenge."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/08/upton_hoogendyk_election_night.html*

Democrats: Winnie Brinks will be on November ballot in 76th District

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The only mystery left for Winnie Brinks – whose Democratic write-in effort for the 76th District state House seat succeeded Tuesday night – will be who she will face in November between Republican incumbent Roy Schmidt and write-in challenger Bing Goei."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/08/democrats_winnie_brinks_will_b.html*

Gary Peters wins incumbent battle with Hansen Clarke in Michigan's 14th Congressional District

"Democratic U.S. Rep. Gary Peters is poised to return to Washington for a third term after defeating fellow Rep. Hansen Clarke in one of Michigan's most competitive primaries."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/gary_peters_wins_incumbent_bat.html*

Former East Lansing Mayor Sam Singh bests Susan Schmidt in State House District 69

"Call it David and Goliath."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2012/08/former_east_lansing_mayor_sam.html*

Steve Pestka wins primary, looks to end 38 year Democratic drought in 3rd Congressional district by challenging Justin Amash

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Steve Pestka gained the will of Democrats Tuesday with an 18-percent win in an acrimonious primary challenge from Trevor Thomas in the Third Congressional District."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/08/steve_pestka_wins_primary_look.html*

Links: Detroit-area primary election results

"Here are some stories you may have missed as election results rolled in Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning:"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/08/links_detroit-area_primary_ele.html*

Expert: Charter schools face growing backlash unless quality is increased

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Charter schools in general have not produced the dramatic results predicted when the movement started, and a brewing backlash should force authorizers to focus on adding only the highest quality schools, an educational expert told a group responsible for overseeing charters."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/08/expert_charter_schools_face_gr.html*

Onekama provides test case on government consolidation

"Most Michigan voters who find their ways to the polls today will be making decisions on who will run their governments and how they'll fund such operations."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/onekama_provides_test_case_on.html*

Law pushes Westboro Baptist Church back at fallen marine's Holland funeral

"HOLLAND, MI – President Barack Obama on Monday signed legislation restricting protests at military funerals – just as Westboro Baptist Church announced it would protest outside of a Zeeland-area marine's funeral this weekend."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/08/law_pushes_westboro_baptist_ch.html*

Tasers, now legal and fashion friendly, at a Michigan gun store near you

*"**SOUTHFIELD, MI** — Michigan residents can now match their Taser with their attire."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/08/tasers_now_legal_and_fashion_f.html*

Emergency manager referendum set to be certified for ballot, in wake of Supreme Court ruling

"LANSING, MI — The state Board of Canvassers plans to meet on Wednesday to certify the emergency manager referendum for the November ballot."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/emergency_manager_referendum_s.html*

Guest column: Consolidating government easier said than done

"With the citizens of the village of Onekama and Onekama Township voting today on whether to merge – and with local governments across Michigan looking for ways to save dollars while continuing services – Michiganians might be wondering: Will consolidation be coming to my community anytime soon?"

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/guest_column_consolidating_gov.html*

Citizenship check box on ballot application creates confusion in Michigan primary election

"A ballot application check box asking Michigan voters to confirm their U.S. citizenship caused confusion at polling locations around the state this morning and prompted Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to send a clarifying directive to local election workers."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/08/citizenship_checkbox_creates_c.html*

The wealthy love Jeep; it's only American-made brand in list of best-selling cars in richest zip codes

"It's no surprise that Mercedes and BMWs are some of the most popular vehicles in America's wealthiest areas, but Jeep also made the list in some well-to-do zip codes."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/auto/index.ssf/2012/08/jeep_is_only_american-made_bra.html*

Report: Black students suspended at higher rate than white students, Michigan's disparity among the highest

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Black students in Michigan are suspended at a higher rate than white students – and the gap between the two ranks among the highest in the nation, according to a new report."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/08/report_black_students_suspende.html*

State officials to name replacement for Flint emergency manager, reappoint EMs in other cash-strapped cities

"FLINT, MI -- As Flint emergency manager Michael Brown is likely ushered out of office Wednesday on a technicality, a panel of the state's top finance officials will be convening to name his replacement."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/08/state_board_likely_to_replace.html*

Liss uses bologna, but her factual claims aren\'t baloney, rules Truth Squad

"In a recent video posted on her campaign website, Liss makes a number of factual claims about her record, Switalski and the race in general."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/liss_uses_bologna_but_her_fact.html

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Michigan U.S. Senate seat: Pete Hoekstra wins Republican primary; Stabenow up next

"PONTIAC, MI - Former U.S. congressman Pete Hoekstra was easily holding off a challenge Tuesday, winning Michigan's Republican U.S. Senate primary and setting up a November showdown with incumbent Democrat Debbie Stabenow."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/hoekstra_senate_michigan.html

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Republican Clark Durant loses bid for U.S. Senate 22 years after 1st attempt

"BINGHAM FARMS, MI - The "rebel with a cause" lost his second bid for U.S. Senate on Tuesday, 22 years after his first go-around."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/clark_durant_michigan_senate.html

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U.S. Rep. John Conyers wins contested Democratic primary in bid for 25th term

"Democratic U.S. Rep. John Conyers has survived his most-significant primary in years, defeating a host of experienced challengers in Michigan's new-look 13th District."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/us_rep_john_conyers_wins_conte.html

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Millage passed, free admission to the Detroit Institute of Arts starts at 10 a.m. Wednesday

"DETROIT, MI - The Detroit Institute of Arts millage election passed Tuesday night in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and it gives free general admission to those residents for the next 10 years."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/detroit/index.ssf/2012/08/wayne_oakland_macomb_residents.html

Reindeer farmer Kerry Bentivolio, Dr. Syed Taj win primaries in Thad McCotter's district

"The shocking inability of McCotter, a five-term Republican, to qualify for the ballot in his suburban Detroit district left the door open for a newcomer to go to Congress in 2013-14."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/reindeer_farmer_kerry_bentivol.html

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Roy Schmidt narrowly survives primary write-in challenge after election scandal, says voters 'want me to do some more explaining'

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Rep. Roy Schmidt survived a Republican primary write-in challenge from Bing Goei on Tuesday, but the Grand Rapids state legislator said voters sent a message to him that they don't approve of his attempt to undermine an election."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *08-08-2012* **Link:** *http:/*

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 5:25 PM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Emergency Financial Managers appointed under PA 72
Attachments: PR.120808.EFMAppts.docx

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

Governor Contacts: Sara Wurfel wurfels@michigan.gov or Ken Silfven silfvenk@michigan.gov - 517-335-6397 Treasury Contact: Caleb Buhs buhsc@michigan.gov - 517-241-2623 Education Contact: Martin Ackley ackleym@michigan.gov - 517-241-4395	**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Wednesday, August 8, 2012

Emergency Financial Managers appointed under PA 72

Appointments will ensure continuity in financially troubled communities, schools

LANSING, Mich. – Emergency financial managers (EFMs) were appointed today in the four cities and three school districts under a financial emergency. Appointments to the cities were made by the Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board and appointments to the school districts were made by the governor.

The actions were taken following the Board of State Canvassers certification of petitions for the referendum of Public Act 4 of 2011, the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act. The Canvassers certification placed the repeal of PA 4 on the November ballot and immediately suspended the act and reinstated its predecessor, PA 72 of 1990.

Attorney General Bill Schuette issued a formal opinion Monday, Aug. 6, stating that, upon suspension of PA 4, "1990 PA 72 is revived until certification of the November 2012 general election results."

"My administration is deeply committed to addressing the needs of struggling communities and schools," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "This is not just about finances but the quality of life for citizens and ensuring public safety, health and welfare."

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board appointed EFMs Joyce Parker in Ecorse, Joe Harris in Benton Harbor, Louis Schimmel in Pontiac and Ed Kurtz in Flint. Parker, Harris and Schimmel all were serving as emergency

managers under PA 4 and Kurtz replaces Mike Brown in Flint, who was ineligible to serve under PA 72 because he previously served as interim mayor.

"The action taken today was necessary to ensure continuity in these communities experiencing financial emergencies," said Deputy Treasurer Roger Fraser. "The three EFMs who were re-appointed have been making positive changes to return their respective cities to prosperity. Mr. Kurtz has proved his ability to assist struggling cities in the past and will be a steadying hand through this period of transition in Flint."

Snyder appointed Roy Roberts in Detroit Public Schools, Donald Weatherspoon in Muskegon Heights Schools and Joyce Parker in Highland Park Schools as EFMs to continue oversight for the struggling school districts. In compliance with PA 72, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan made recommendations to the governor for EFMs at Detroit Public Schools, Highland Park Schools and Muskegon Heights Public Schools. Under the law, the superintendent submits to the governor the names of not more than three nominees for the governor's consideration.

In addition to the names of those who have been serving as emergency managers in those districts, Flanagan submitted the names of two education experts from the Michigan Department of Education for the EFMs at Detroit Public Schools and Highland Park Schools.

"Our utmost priority is providing the students of these three school districts with the quality education they need and deserve," Flanagan said. "For that to happen, the schools must be financially sound. MDE is committed to supporting and assisting the work of every emergency financial manager to help the students in those districts achieve and succeed."

The suspension of PA 4 is prospective only. Actions taken by an EM under PA 4, or Consent Agreements reached prior to the suspension of PA 4, remain in effect.

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board consists of Treasurer Andy Dillon, state Budget Director John Nixon, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Director Steven Hilfinger. The board was assigned by Snyder the responsibility to manage the financial emergencies per PA 72 of 1990.

#####

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

Governor Contacts: Sara Wurfel wurfels@michigan.gov or Ken Silfven silfvenk@michigan.gov - 517-335-6397 Treasury Contact: Caleb Buhs buhsc@michigan.gov - 517-241-2623 Education Contact: Martin Ackley ackleym@michigan.gov - 517-241-4395	**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Wednesday, August 8, 2012

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 7:47 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Muskegon County's state legislative team to be headed by two Democratic women next year

"MUSKEGON, MI – Muskegon County voters are sending a different team to Lansing after Jan. 1."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2012/11/muskegon_countys_state_legisla.html#incart_river*

Right-to-work issue heats up

"A "tit-for-tat" between teachers' unions and the Republican-led Legislature led to anti-union bills and a failed ballot proposal to make collective bargaining a constitutional right, said David Campbell, Livingston Educational Service Agency superintendent."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20121113/NEWS01/211130317/Right-work-issue-heats-up?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Bay County politicians who sparred to gather with board today; Republican still seeks charges

*"**BAY CITY, MI —** Two political rivals who exchanged physical blows and battled for votes on election day will gather in the same room today."*

Source: *Bay City Times* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2012/11/bay_county_politicians_who_spa.html#incart_river*

Michigan treasury announces lower fees for college savings plan

"LANSING, MI — Families face lower fees for their investments in the Michigan Education Savings Program.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2012/11/michigan_treasury_announces_lo.html#incart_river_default

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With emergency manager law defeated, Flint City Council continues fight against Public Act 72

"FLINT, MI -- According to the Flint City Council, the fight against state-appointed managers isn't over."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/11/with_emergency_manager_law_def.html#incart_river_default

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Tim Skubick: Single women voted overwhelmingly for Obama, and here's why

"What's the difference between a married and unmarried women?"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/11/tim_skubick_single_women_voted.html#incart_river_default

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Gambling expansion may come to Michigan - at the horse racing track

"LANSING, MI – Michigan's horse racing industry has been in decline for decades, overshadowed by casinos and other forms of gambling that have become more prominent across the state."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/11/michigan_horse_racing_legislat.html#incart_river_default

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Flint's Bishop International Airport sees $16.8M expansion

"Flint — Travelers at Flint's Bishop International Airport will see the results of a $16.8 million expansion."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121113/METRO/211130364/1409/metro/Flint-s-Bishop-International-Airport-sees-16-8M-expansion

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State of Michigan wants new look at jobless aid for ex-assistant attorney general

"Lansing — State officials are asking a judge to reconsider a decision granting unemployment benefits to a former assistant attorney general who was fired after hounding a gay student leader at the University of Michigan."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121113/METRO/211130365/1409/metro/State-Michigan-wants-new-look-jobless-aid-ex-assistant-attorney-general

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Michigan's Rogers emerges as potential new CIA leader

"In the wake of the resignation of CIA director David Petraeus, one Michigan name has been floated as a possible successor."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121113/POLITICS03/211130356/Michigan-s-Rogers-emerges-potential-new-CIA-leader?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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WSU starts search for next president

"Detroit — The Wayne State University Board of Governors on Monday established a committee, hired a consultant and announced community forums for a national search to replace President Allan Gilmour, who will step down next year."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121113/SCHOOLS/211130341/WSU-starts-search-next-president?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Troy councilman named mayor until 2013 after Daniels recall

"Troy — The city has a new mayor until November 2013."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121113/METRO02/211130360/Troy-councilman-named-mayor-until-2013-after-Daniels-recall?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Howes: EM law loss gives Detroit few options

"Michigan\'s controversial Emergency Manager Law is dead, but the financial crises plaguing cash-poor Detroit and other municipalities remain very much alive."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121113/OPINION03/211130321/

For back-to-work Congress, more unfinished business

"WASHINGTON -- Congress returns today to a crowded agenda of unfinished business overshadowed by the urgent need for President Barack Obama and lawmakers to avert the economic double hit of tax increases and automatic spending cuts."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121113/NEWS07/311130053/For-back-to-work-Congress-more-unfinished-business*

Leonard Pitts Jr.: Can the GOP adapt to the real America?

"There are no smiles among the Republicans, however, only a pressing question: Can the GOP fix itself? Can a party whose appeal is wholly white and mainly male learn to appeal to a rainbow electorate that is neither? Especially after it has spent so many years denigrating that rainbow, drawing lines in sand, placing chips on its shoulder."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121113/OPINION05/311130023/Leonard-Pitts-Jr-Can-the-GOP-adapt-to-the-real-America-?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Highland Park anti-corruption activist group wins lawsuit against charter school district

"Citizens United Against Corrupt Government, led by Highland Park activist Robert Davis, won its suit accusing the Highland Park Public School Academy system of violating the Open Meetings Act."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121113/NEWS02/311130035/Highland-Park-anti-corruption-activist-group-wins-lawsuit-against-charter-school-district?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Michigan House takes up Blue Cross Blue Shield change in status today

"At least one consumer group plans to ask Michigan lawmakers today to put on the brakes as the legislators consider allowing Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to become a mutual insurance company, much like others in Michigan."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121113/NEWS15/121112069/blue-cross-blue-shield-mutual-change-in-status?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Detroit finances may get even worse, fiscal board is warned

"Detroit's financial condition is deteriorating more quickly than projected, and without an infusion of money from the state, the city could run out of cash by mid-December, a top city official told the board that has significant oversight of the city's finances."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-13-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121113/NEWS01/311130065/Detroit-finances-may-get-even-worse-fiscal-board-is-warned?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

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Congressman wants extension of benefits

"WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, authored a letter to House and Senate leaders along with one of his colleagues pleading for an extension of federal unemployment benefits set to expire Dec. 29."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20121206/NEWS01/212060308/Congressman-wants-extension-benefits?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Legislation targets conflicts of interest on school boards

"Legislation requiring school board members to abstain from certain votes is advancing, but Michigan lawmakers aren't proposing the same rule for themselves or local government officials."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20121206/NEWS01/212060305/Legislation-targets-conflicts-interest-school-boards?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Flint emergency financial manager Ed Kurtz stays in office after judge's ruling

"FLINT, MI -- Emergency financial manager Ed Kurtz remains in office for now after a judge dismissed a lawsuit challenging the state's ability to appoint managers under Public Act 72."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2012/12/flint_emergency_financial_mana_9.html#incart_river_default*

'Right-to-work' debate intensifies

"Without even a bill to dissect, the debate over making Michigan a so-called right-to-work state is already drawing a sharp focus on the state Capitol, a possible sign of more hostility to come."

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20121205/NEWS01/312050033/-Right-work-debate-intensifies

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Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel pushes regionalism in State of the County address Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel pushes regionalism in State of the County address

"CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI -- Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel focused on regionalism in his State of the County address Wednesday night, repeatedly pointing out Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Detroit Mayor Dave Bing in the crowd."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2012/12/macomb_county_executive_mark_h_1.html#incart_river_default

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Right-to-work ballot issue likely in Michigan if lawmakers do not act now

"LANSING, MI - If Republicans decide against passing right-to-work legislation in the waning days of 2012, it very likely will end up back in their laps in 2013."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/12/ballot_issue_likely_up_next_if.html#incart_river_default

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A year of death and injury: Inside one biker club, where the helmet debate has real-life meaning

"MUSKEGON, MI -- Rick Van Dam wears one. So do Tyson Cesaretti and Jeremy Gradisher."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/a_year_of_death_and_injury_ins.html#incart_river_default

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Right to work: Demonstrators expected to crowd Michigan Capitol today as decision looms

"LANSING, MI - As hundreds of union members and others seeking to block possible right-to-work legislation left the Michigan Capitol on Wednesday evening, they had one last protest chant:"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/12/right_to_work_opponents_suppor.html#incart_river_default

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Tim Skubick: Write down 1 sentence on why Mitt Romney did not win

"It's been almost a month since the election and most sensible folks are still trying to recover from not being bombarded with the images of Barack and the Mittser on the tube. And now comes another post-election story?"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/12/tim_skubick_write_down_1_sente.html#incart_river_default

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Michigan House committee hears testimony on bill banning cellphone use by new drivers, but vote is uncertain

"LANSING, MI — Time could run out for the Michigan House of Representatives to consider a bill banning cellphone use by new drivers."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/state_house_democrats_confiden.html#incart_river_default

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Judge: Emergency financial manager law, Public Act 72, remains in effect

"LANSING, MI -- An Ingham County Circuit Court judge today dismissed a lawsuit challenging the state's appointment of emergency financial managers in Michigan's cash-strapped cities and school districts."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/12/judge_emergency_financial_mana.html#incart_river_default

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Watkins: Building the bridge to China

"Gov. Rick Snyder could catapult Michigan forward in his State of the State address by calling for the teaching of Chinese in all our schools. The reinvention of Michigan may well require that students learn Chinese and much more about "the Middle Kingdom.""

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/OPINION01/212060335/Watkins-Building-bridge-China?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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A classroom for teachers

"Great teachers are not born — they're taught. That philosophy is the impetus behind a two-week teaching lab held annually at the University of Michigan's School of Education, where the teacher and her methods are under study by educators, policymakers and others who hope to learn more about what makes a great educator."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/SCHOOLS/212060328/A-classroom-teachers?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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Howes: How Snyder handles possible Detroit bankruptcy, right to work will deeply affect economic recovery From The Detroit News:
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/OPINION03/212060339#ixzz2EH4je2X7

"Gov. Rick Snyder is hurtling toward two decisions that would define his legacy and, depending on the path he chooses, fundamentally alter the civic fabric of Michigan and its largest city."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/OPINION03/212060339/Howes-How-Snyder-handles-possible-Detroit-bankruptcy-right-work-will-deeply-affect-economic-recovery?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Detroit union files complaint alleging law firm has conflicts

"The city's largest union has filed a complaint with the state's Attorney Grievance Commission, alleging a conflict with the controversial Miller Canfield law firm because it represented the city and the state in a $137 million bond sale last year.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/METRO01/212060396/Detroit-union-files-complaint-alleging-law-firm-has-conflicts?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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City contracts tied to favors, cash, trips

"Detroit — A wealthy local contractor says he lavished former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick with gifts and free trips on a private jet to preserve his multi-million business dealings with the city."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/METRO/212060386/City-contracts-tied-favors-cash-trips?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Kilpatrick is due in court over finances

"Detroit — Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, facing racketeering charges in federal court, is set to appear next week in Wayne County Circuit Court for another hearing about the proceeds of his autobiography."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/METRO/212060389/Kilpatrick-due-court-over-finances?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Hope, despair in Detroit: Tale of two cities

"Look right, Detroiters: Mike Ilitch wants to build a fabulous $650 million arena and entertainment complex to rejuvenate downtown, or someplace nearby."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/OPINION03/212060388/Hope-despair-Detroit-Tale-two-cities?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Murders mounting in Detroit

"Detroit — Mayor Dave Bing on Wednesday unveiled his latest effort to curb crime in a city awash in violence, hours after four more people were shot and killed on the east side."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/METRO01/212060382/Murders-mounting-Detroit?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Finley: No avoiding right-to-work showdown

"One way or another, a right-to-work showdown is coming in Michigan."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/OPINION03/212060330/*

Hundreds fill Capitol to protest right-to-work legislation

"Lansing — Republican lawmakers Wednesday got a taste of the type of protests and legislative wrangling that could ensue if they pursue a right-to-work law before year\'s end."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121206/POLITICS02/212060381/Hundreds-fill-Capitol-protest-right-work-legislation?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Gov. Rick Snyder's administration drafts bill to address shortcomings of current emergency manager law

"Gov. Rick Snyder's administration has drafted a new emergency manager law it hopes will replace Public Act 4 of 2011, which was rejected by voters Nov. 6."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS15/312060228/Gov-Rick-Snyder-s-administration-drafts-bill-to-address-shortcomings-of-current-emergency-manager-law

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Obama heading to metro Detroit on Monday

"WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama never made it to Detroit during the last presidential campaign."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS15/312060102/Obama-heading-to-metro-Detroit-on-Monday

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House panel OKs bills to eliminate some personal property taxes

"LANSING -- The House Tax Policy Committee approved a raft of bills Wednesday aimed at eliminating the personal property tax on commercial and industrial office furniture and equipment, despite pleas from local government leaders that the legislation is moving too quickly."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS15/312060104/House-panel-OKs-bills-to-eliminate-some-personal-property-taxes

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Right-to-work bill may be introduced today

"LANSING -- Expectations are high that a right-to-work bill could be introduced in the state Capitol today after more than a week of lawmakers and interest groups battling over the issue that has stirred huge controversy across the state."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS15/312060242/Right-to-work-bill-may-be-introduced-Thursday

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Ilitch development proposal for Detroit remains a concept

"Despite tremendous public interest, Detroit's chief development officer cautioned Wednesday that the Ilitch family's highly touted proposal for a new $650-million arena and entertainment district that would be new

home ice for the Ilitch-owned Red Wings is still just a concept requiring multiple approvals at all levels of government."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/BUSINESS06/312060165/Ilitch-development-proposal-for-Detroit-remains-a-concept?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

House Dems refuse to vote for transit bill

"A Regional Transit Authority for metro Detroit may get derailed by the politics surrounding right-to-work."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS15/312060244/House-Dems-refuse-to-vote-for-transit-bill?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Emergency financial manager or no, 3 candidates say they'd still run for Detroit mayor

"Three major-name candidates who are either running or weighing bids to become Detroit's next mayor said Wednesday that the potential appointment of an emergency financial manager who could take power from the city's top elected officials will not deter them from running."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS01/312060225/Emergency-financial-manager-no-3-candidates-say-they-d-still-run-Detroit-mayor*

State tells Detroit that it's out of time to fix fiscal mess; begins emergency manager process

"Out of patience with Detroit's failure to reverse its falling revenues and slash rising expenses, the state delivered an abrupt ultimatum to the city Wednesday: Move quickly toward reform, or an emergency financial manager will be appointed."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/NEWS01/312060238/State-tells-Detroit-s-out-time-fix-fiscal-mess-begins-emergency-manager-process*

Rochelle Riley: Detroit about to get a checkup from Dr. Michigan

"If Detroit's financial crisis were a basketball game, then state Treasurer Andy Dillon would be the referee who kept giving warnings instead of calling foul."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/COL10/312060227/Rochelle-Riley-Detroit-about-get-checkup-from-Dr-Michigan*

Editorial: Here's that rainy day, Detroit

"It has been a long time coming. Wednesday's announcement that Gov. Rick Snyder is on the verge of appointing an emergency financial manager to take charge of Detroit's troubled finances should come as a surprise to no one -- no one who has been paying attention, at any rate."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/OPINION01/312060114/Editorial-Here-s-rainy-day-Detroit*

Brian Dickerson: Snyder -- making the most of his doubters' doubts

"What does Rick Snyder really want for Christmas?"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/COL04/312060117/Brian-Dickerson-Snyder-making-most-his-doubters-doubts*

Stephen Henderson: If the state wants to run the city, it needs to make it work

""Hope" was the word I used last March to describe the state-administered consent agreement to manage Detroit's finances."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20121206/COL33/312060240/Stephen-Henderson-If-the-state-wants-to-run-the-city-it-needs-to-make-it-work?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Press Releases

Republicans Delay Right to Work Vote as Workers Crowd Capitol to Voice Outrage

"

Lansing – Republican Senators delayed a potential vote on so-called "Right to Work" legislation today as hundreds of workers crowded the State Capitol and rallied against this latest and most egregious anti-worker effort being pushed through the Legislature. Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer applauded the workers for standing up and speaking out against the Republican agenda and encouraged them to maintain their efforts as the legislation could be brought up for a vote as early as tomorrow."

Source: *Michigan Senate Democrats* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354751983_crowd.pdf*

MI Businesses Call on House to Quickly Pass Health Insurance Reform, Bring Relief to Small Business

"

LANSING ***(Dec. 5, 2012)*** *- The Michigan Business and Professional Association (MBPA) and its sister organization the Michigan Food and Beverage Association (MFBA) today called on the full state House to quickly approve a plan to reform Michigan's outdated health insurance system."*

Source: *Michigan Business and Professional Association (MBPA)* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354751510_MBPA.pdf*

Nurses, Laborers, Other Workers Urge Gov. Snyder to Stop Harmful "Right to Work" Push

"

Registered nurses, laborers and food and commercial workers from across Michigan are urging Gov. Snyder to stop the politically motivated attacks on working families by publicly pledging to veto any so-called "right to work" legislation that reaches his desk."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354747131_nurse.pdf*

Original survey maps of Michigan township parcels now available online

"

The Archives of Michigan today announced that the original survey maps of Michigan's 1,400 individual township parcels have been scanned and are now available to search, browse and print at www.seekingmichigan.org."

Source: *Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354746994_parcel.pdf*

Statement from Michigan Republican Party Concerning Pres. Obama's Scheduled Visit to Michigan

"

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 5, 2012 *– Michigan Republican Party Chairman Bobby Schostak issued the following statement regarding Pres. Obama's planned visit to Michigan, scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10, 2012."*

Source: *Michigan Republican Party* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354746756_miR.pdf*

House Democrats: Right to Work is wrong for Michigan

"

LANSING — Members of the Michigan House Democratic Caucus spoke out today against right-to-work legislation being proposed in the state Legislature. Such a law would have several negative consequences, including reduced wages and benefits, poorer working conditions and job losses."

Source: *House Democratic Caucus* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354746697_RTWHD.pdf*

Snyder signs bill to diversify investment options for public retirement systems

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today signed legislation to modernize the Public Employee Retirement System Act."

Source: *Executive Office, Governor Rick Snyder* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354746621_snyder125.pdf*

Michigan Manufacturers Association praises House Tax Policy Committee for moving critical PPT reform

"

LANSING, Mich. – Mike Johnston, vice president of government affairs

for the Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA), today issued the

following statement praising House Tax Policy Committee members for

passing reforms to phase out the industrial personal property tax:"

Source: *Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA)* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354735709_MMA.pdf*

EPIC-MRA PRESS RELEASE

"This statewide survey includes favorability ratings on President Obama, Governor Snyder, and several other groups and organizations, a job rating on Governor Snyder, and an in-depth test of the Right to Work issue, which is currently under discussion in Lansing. All of the survey results and history on questions are in a separate frequency report. "

Source: *EPIC-MRA* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354732413_EPIC.pdf*

DNR announces change to burn permit call system

"

The Department of Natural Resources today announced that starting Friday, Dec. 7, residents in the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula who call the DNR's toll-free number to check if burn permits are being issued will be connected with a new, automated, interactive voice-recognition system."

Source: *Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354731781_burn.pdf*

Equality Michigan Announces Respect for Equality Campaigns

"

DETROIT – Michigan's only statewide anti-violence and advocacy organization serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities has introduced a set of multi-year policy initiatives to advance equality for LGBT people in Michigan. The Respect for Equality campaigns focus on family equality, adoption rights, marriage equality, prevention of workplace discrimination, and reduction in hate violence.

"

Source: *Equality Michigan* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354731735_eqmich.pdf*

Media Roundtable Today: Update on Personal Property Tax Bills in State House

"

***WHAT**: Media roundtable to discuss new House bills to reform the business personal property tax (PPT). Though language for the complex package of bills was provided only yesterday, the bills were rushed to the House floor today by the House Tax Policy Committee."*

Source: *Michigan Municipal League* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354731654_replace.pdf*

Michigan Businesses, Elected Officials, Sportsmen and Environmental Groups Urge Congress to Extend W

"

ANN ARBOR – More than 45 Michigan groups joined in a national effort to urge Congress to extend critical tax incentives that encourage renewable energy production and energy efficiency. Cumulatively, 152 businesses, elected officials, sportsmen, farmers and environmental groups from all over the U.S. urged action in a letter to Congress today. "

Source: *Environment Michigan* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354731583_wind.pdf*

December Statewide Survey 600 sample

"This statewide survey includes favorability ratings on President Obama, Governor Snyder, and several other groups and organizations, a job rating on Governor Snyder, and an in-depth test of the Right to Work issue, which is currently under discussion in Lansing. All of the survey results and history on questions are in a separate frequency report. "

Source: *EPIC/MRA* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354729592_EPIC.pdf*

Economists to Discuss Potential Negative Impact of So-Called "Right to Work" Laws on Michigan Today

"

LANSING – Economists with the University of Michigan and the nonpartisan Economic Policy Institute will host a press conference call at 3pm today to discuss the potential negative impact of a so-called "Right to Work" law on Michigan's economy."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354723563_progumich.pdf*

Republican Senators to Try to Sneak Right to Work Legislation through Today

"

LANSING—Despite Michigan residents' overwhelming opposition to enacting so-called "Right to Work" policies, Michigan Senate Democrats have learned that Republican Senators may vote to pass legislation to force this anti-worker policy on our state's workers today with little or no advance notice to the public. Should a vote take place, members of the Senate Democratic Caucus will be available to speak to media immediately following that vote taking place."

Source: *Michigan Senate Democrats* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354723497_sdems.pdf

Meadows to Hold Final Coffee Hour as State Representative

"

LANSING – State Representative ***Mark Meadows*** *(D-East Lansing) is inviting residents to join him for his final coffee hour as state representative. The last coffee hour on his "Final Four Tour" will take place on* ***Friday, Dec. 21, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. at Ellie's Country Kitchen, 130 E. Grand River Ave. in Williamston."***

Source: *Rep. Mark Meadows* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354723446_meadows.pdf

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Schuette Charges Redford Woman with Embezzlement from Vulnerable Adult

"

LANSING *– Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced that he has charged a Southeastern Michigan resident, Renee Bullock, 31, of Redford with one felony count of embezzlement from a vulnerable adult. An Attorney General investigation led to allegations that she used more than $140,000 of her father's funds for her own personal use. "*

Source: *Attorney General Bill Schuette* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354717498_AG.pdf

Santa to Dick DeVos: Coal for Christmas

"

GRAND RAPIDS – With the Michigan Legislature in the lame duck period, ultra-right-wing politicians and their corporate cronies across the state have aligned to unravel the middle class, flatten wages and crush workers' rights with so-called 'right-to-work' legislation. Unwilling to stand by while billionaires bankroll an attempt to attack nurses, teachers, police officers and other hardworking Michiganders, nearly 100 community members are expected to gather at the Amway Hotel in downtown Grand Rapids tomorrow afternoon at 2 PM to deliver a simple message to Dick DeVos."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *12-06-2012* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1354717389_santa.pdf

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 06, 2013 9:42 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Americans face higher prices, flat wages in 2013

"DES MOINES, Iowa -- The new norm will be the same as the old norm for most American households this year: financial suffering and a continued slow recovery from the Great Recession."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130106/BUSINESS07/130106004/Americans-face-higher-prices-flat-wages-2013?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Pushed by great recession, entrepreneurs are landing on their feet

"The real estate business was Joel Stempien's life for years. Then came the great recession, and Realtors like him saw their companies implode."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130106/BUSINESS06/301060268/Pushed-by-great-recession-entrepreneurs-are-landing-on-their-feet?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Wayne County Register of Deeds Bernard J. Youngblood could challenge Robert Ficano in 2014

"Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano doesn't face voters for another 20 months, but some potential competitors may be ready to test the waters."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130104/NEWS02/301040092/Wayne-County-Register-Deeds-Bernard-J-Youngblood-could-challenge-Robert-Ficano-2014*

Wayne County short on cash, but not on appointees

"Cash-strapped Wayne County spends almost $50 million a year on appointee salaries and benefits, providing its 288 appointed county government workers an average salary of $95,381, according to data obtained by the Free Press."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130106/NEWS02/301060266/Wayne-County-short-on-cash-but-not-on-appointees?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Reading Works: 3 'miracles' saved this Detroit businessman's life, including learning to read

"Derrick Gilford was supervising his construction crew last September as they put a new roof on the historic Belle Isle Aquarium."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130106/COL10/301060270/Rochelle-Riley-reading-works?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Youngest Eyde son leads Knapp's redevelopment project in Lansing

*"**MERIDIAN TWP.** — At one point or another, George Eyde tried to convince all six of his children to join the family business."*

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20130106/BUSINESS/301060071/Youngest-Eyde-son-leads-Knapp-s-redevelopment-project-Lansing?nclick_check=1

Hazen Pingree: Quite possibly Detroit's finest mayor

*""It is always the big thief who shouts the loudest about the little thief." — Hazen S. Pingree
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130106/METRO/301060302#ixzz2HCouOVNc

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Republican Party seems as divided, angry as ever

*"Boston — The Republican Party seems as divided and angry as ever.
"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130106/POLITICS03/301060318#ixzz2HCoZMZDb

Ferguson asks court to delay bid-rigging retrial

"Detroit — Ex-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's friend Bobby Ferguson wants to delay being retried on bid-rigging charges, in part, because the City Hall corruption trial is taking too long and because the government might file new charges, The Detroit News has learned.
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130106/METRO01/301060314#ixzz2HCoD1yNH

Rep. Bentivolio focusing on debt, constituent service

"Washington — Metro Detroit's newest member of Congress is trying to find his way around the Capitol and looking for ways to save on office expenses.
"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130106/POLITICS03/301060313#ixzz2HCo1mBcy

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Corvette will hog the spotlight at Detroit auto show

"Now, how is this supposed to be fair?"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130106/AUTO01/301060303#ixzz2HCnphACx

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Talk of GOP primaries follows 'fiscal cliff' vote

"DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Republicans in Congress who took the politically risky step of voting this week to raise taxes now find themselves trying to fend off potential primary challenges next year from angry conservatives."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/01/talk_of_gop_primaries_follows.html#incart_river

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Renowned academics, authors and business leaders heading to UM-Flint for Critical Issues Forum

"FLINT, Michigan — The University of Michigan-Flint's 2013 Frances Willson Thompson Critical Issues Forum kicks off in March."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/01/renowned_academics_authors_and.html#incart_river

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New complaint in Flint water rate lawsuit claims service charge violates state law

"FLINT, MI -- A new complaint in a lawsuit attempting to reverse Flint water rate increases alleges the city's water service charge violates state law."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/01/flint_water_rate_lawsuit.html#incart_river

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Marijuana still a crime: Grand Rapids police crime log

"After a voter initiative, marijuana was supposed to be decriminalized in Grand Rapids by now. Kent County Prosecutor William Forsyth changed all that, at least temporarily, with a lawsuit to be heard Tuesday in Kent County Circuit Court."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2013/01/marijuana_still_a_crime_grand.html#incart_river*

Veteran TV reporter Jim Herrington dies at 84

"DETROIT, MI -- Jim Herrington, who hosted "Spotlight on the News" on Detroit's WXYZ-TV for 20 years, died Thursday, thestation announced last night."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2013/01/veteran_tv_reporter_jim_herrin.html#incart_river

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Detroit listed No. 7 among American cities with most burglaries

"Detroit was listed No. 7 among American cities with the most burglaries in a CNBC report based on FBI statistics this week."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2013/01/detroit_listed_no_7_among_amer.html#incart_river_default

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Youths demonstrate at 8 Mile and Woodward for 'truly regional' transit

"DETROIT, MI -- A crowd of young activists gathered at a busy intersection at the dividing line between Wayne and Oakland counties Saturday to demonstrate for regional transit."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2013/01/youths_demonstrate_at_8_mile_a.html#incart_river_default

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300,000 gallons of raw sewage spilled in Kalamazoo wetlands won't have long term impact on area, official says

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI** – The blockage that caused more than 300,000 gallons of sewage to overflow into wetlands near Nazareth Road may have been present since Dec. 29, an official said."*

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2013/01/300000_gallons_of_raw_sewage_s.html#incart_river_default

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Rick Haglund: Right to work is latest panacea meant to transform Michigan's economy

"I used to be a sucker for the next big thing that would turbocharge Michigan's economy."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2013/01/rick_haglund_right_to_work_is.html#incart_river_default

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Tim Skubick: Gov. Snyder will face a less welcoming crowd for his 3rd State of the State speech

"Having digested 42 State of the State speeches over the years, most are memorable for not being memorable. There was the one in which Gov. Jim Blanchard called for a tax increase and one lonely Democrat in the back of the room applauded."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/01/tim_skubick_gov_snyder_will_fa.html#incart_river_default

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SELWESKI: Welcome to the corporate welfare world of 2013 (Part 1)

"In these days of despair over our dysfunctional political system, the most damaging piece of evidence that Congress has not changed its ways, despite near-universal derision from the public in recent weeks, was the package of tax scams folded into the fiscal cliff bill."

Source: *Macomb Daily* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.dailytribune.com/article/20130105/OPINION03/130109669/selweski-welcome-to-the-corporate-welfare-world-of-2013-(part-1)

NHL, union reach tentative agreement

"NEW YORK (AP) — The NHL and the players' association reached a tentative agreement early Sunday to end a nearly four-month-old lockout that threatened to wipe out what was left of an already abbreviated season."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2013/01/06/sports/doc50e96add45cd1685773680.txt

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Atlanta businessman accused of defrauding Pontiac, Detroit pension funds

"Atlanta businessman Roy Dixon Jr. has been indicted by a federal grand jury in a case involving a Pontiac pension fund that lost $3.8 million after investing in Dixon's private equity fund. "

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://theoaklandpress.com/articles/2013/01/06/news/local_news/doc50e89c763925b048600977.txt

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Sens. Reed, Levin visiting Afghanistan, Pakistan

"PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Rhode Island U.S. Sen. Jack Reed and U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin are in Afghanistan for a trip that will also take them to neighboring Pakistan to review security and political developments and their impact on America's national security."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *01-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.macombdaily.com/article/20130105/NEWS03/130109632/sens-reed-levin-visiting-afghanistan-pakistan

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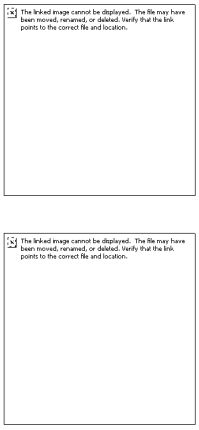
Volume #52, Report #7 -- Thursday, January 10, 2013

M.E.D.C. On R.T.W. Ad: 'Business Marketing' Is Not New

As reactions poured in over the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's decision to attach the Pure Michigan logo to an advertisement touting the recently passed right-to-work law, MEDC CEO Michael Finney reiterated one thing Thursday: This is not something new.

"We really are continuing the business marketing that we've been doing," Mr. Finney said in a phone interview. "As policies change in our state that are favorable to businesses, we would look to promote those. We think it's a very effective brand."

But legislative Democrats and liberal organizations such as Progress Michigan have continued to express outrage over the use of what many saw as a divisive issue - right-to-work - and linking it to one with mostly bipartisan support, the tourism-oriented campaign associated with Pure Michigan.



MEDC CEO Michael Finney defended the right-to-work ad against criticism from Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&na

meid=60101&locid=1" } and other top Democrats.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing) called on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } to come clean about why the campaign "is being improperly used to advance his own political agenda," a statement from her office said.

The governor's office directed all calls to the MEDC on Thursday.

"Pure Michigan has always been about uniting our state around what makes us great: our natural resources, our communities and our people. It's simply offensive that Governor Snyder would corrupt that message and use it to advance his own political agenda," Ms. Whitmer said. "I'm calling on the Governor today to answer to the people of Michigan who have overwhelmingly expressed their disapproval with what he's done to the Pure Michigan campaign."

Mr. Finney said the full-page ad in Tuesday's Wall Street Journal cost $144,000 but that the MEDC did not use state-appropriated dollars for it but instead "MEDC corporate dollars." The ad, which Mr. Finney said ran as "part of the overall business marketing campaign," highlights Michigan becoming the newest right-to-work state and also points to other policies the state has adopted such as the redoing of incentives and regulatory processes, as well the elimination of industrial personal property tax and the move to a flat 6 percent Corporate Income Tax.

He also said the Pure Michigan brand has seen "an incredible reception" both from businesses and tourism, and that the continued "business marketing" of Pure Michigan in ways similar to the controversial Wall Street Journal ad would be favorable.

"A lot of really favorable business things have happened in our state and we've been communicating all of those in the Pure Michigan business plan," he said. "It really is a total marketing effort, not just strictly an advertising campaign we have going."

The MEDC does in fact use Pure Michigan logo as part of its business efforts, such as in Pure Michigan Business Connect, considered the hub for all business activity the MEDC oversees.

Ms. Whitmer, however, was joined in her concern by Robert Kolt, a former top aide to ex-Governor James Blanchard and a 20-year instructor in advertising and public relations at the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University. He is also the president and CEO of Kolt Communications in Okemos.

"Linking Pure Michigan's paid advertising to an issue as politically sensitive as right-to-work is actually insulting to many people and simply an error in judgment," Mr. Kolt said in a statement. "This new ad focus is a dramatic change in promotional strategy for Michigan that could seriously backfire, resulting in damage to the positive brand image and value of our state's business climate, especially our successful tourism industry."

House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn

Hills) also released a statement alongside { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=280501&locid=1" } (D-Grand Rapids) expressing their discontent with the advertisement, with Mr. Dillon calling it a "pure perversion" of what Michigan residents want to see from their leaders.

"The 'Pure Michigan' campaign is an award-winning, successful effort to showcase the best of what our state has to offer. It used to be something all Michiganders could be proud of," Mr. Dillon said. "Now it's being used to push a divisive issue and as another front for the special interests that have taken hold in Lansing."

Mr. Finney said he has received mostly anonymous calls from individuals both in favor of and in opposition to the advertisement. He said it was too soon to tell what kind of effect the advertisement has had or will have, but that regardless of whether the calls are good or bad, he merely continues to explain what the state can offer to businesses.

"We spent time communicating what our strategy was. This is a campaign that's been under way for more than two years," he said, saying right-to-work is just one of the most recent changes it now includes in its marketing to businesses. He said the MEDC communicates "a variety of policies and laws" as they pertain to the company or individual, including the talent base and the quality of living.

H.F.A., Nixon More Optimistic On Fiscal Future

Michigan's economy should continue to grow, the House Fiscal Agency projected Thursday, as the U.S. economy continues to slowly pull itself forward, auto sales continue to rise, inflation stays relatively low, job growth continues, and state revenues, therefore, continue to increase.

The forecast came one day before the Revenue Estimating Conference, and a week after the Senate Fiscal Agency cast some warnings about the economy.

Budget Director John Nixon, in a newspaper interview, also voiced more optimism than did the SFA, saying the administration's projected numbers were higher than the SFA's.

Mr. Nixon will not formally be part of the review and deliberation held by Treasurer Andy Dillon, SFA Director Ellen Jeffries and HFA Director Mary Ann Cleary when the estimating conference kicks off at 9 a.m. Friday. The three fiscal directors will decide on the revenue totals { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } must use when making his 2013-14 budget presentation to the Legislature either later this month or in February.

Conference-watchers know that typically the SFA is the most conservative of the three agencies in making predictions, while the HFA is the most optimistic with Treasury in the middle but tending mostly to the House side. As it never does before the meeting, Treasury did not again this week release its forecast.

Nor did Mr. Nixon, in an interview with the Detroit Free Press, release any of the numbers the department forecasts.

The SFA forecast, issued last week, caught many people by surprise by the depth of its pessimism. The agency said the state is growing more slowly than forecast back in May, when the last conference was held. The SFA's latest forecast predicts a sharper drop in general fund revenues for the current 2012-13 fiscal year from a year ago and much slower growth for the School Aid Fund.

Going forward, the SFA expected the schools fund to actually be in deficit in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

But the HFA did not have the same negative forecast.

The HFA did forecast a drop in general fund revenues for the current year, as the state absorbs the full effect of the 2011 business and personal income tax changes enacted. But it did not see as sharp a drop in those revenues as its Senate counterpart.

And it forecast stronger growth for the School Aid Fund.

The forecast expected 2012-13 General Fund revenue to total $8.8 billion, a drop of 4.7 percent from the 2011-12 revenues of $9.3 billion. The SFA had forecast a drop of 6.5 percent in general fund revenues.

But the HFA projected that a 2.6 percent increase in school revenues, to $11.16 billion, close to what the SFA had projected. The General Fund and School Aid Fund together should total slightly more than $20 billion for the year.

Looking ahead to 2013-14 - the budget year Mr. Snyder will provide a plan for to lawmakers - the HFA forecast a total of $20.86 billion.

The General Fund should increase by 5.6 percent that year to $9.3 billion, while the SAF should be up by 3.2 percent to $11.5 billion.

And projecting to the 2014-15 fiscal year, the agency anticipated total revenue, for the two funds, of nearly $21.8 billion.

That year, the General Fund should total almost $9.9 billion, an increase of 5.5 percent, while the School Aid Fund should bring in $11.9 billion, up 3.2 percent.

While the forecast does not project dramatic growth for the state, and does not suggest the state will recoup all the jobs it lost in the decade of the 2000-2010, it does say the state will continue to grow.

That is suggested by several figures. In terms of state unemployment, the forecast says the state should see it fall from a monthly average of 8.9 percent in 2012 to 8.6 percent this year and falling further to 7.9 percent in 2014 and then 7.2 percent in 2015.

Income growth will slow slightly from the 3.4 percent growth in 2012 to 2.8 percent in 2013. But then it should see stronger growth of 4.5 percent in 2014 and then 4.8 percent in 2015.

Inflation will increase, but should still be moderate, the forecast said.

And of particular importance to Michigan residents, car sales are expected to continue to show growth. Totaling an estimated 14.4 million in 2012, the forecast said they should grow to 15.3 million in 2013, then to 15.7 million in 2014 and finally to 16.3 million in 2015. And, the market share of domestic producers should go up slightly.

The HFA numbers follow somewhat Mr. Nixon's pronouncement in the interview that the "economy is doing well." It is fragile, he said, but showing growth.

He also said the state should not have to make any budget cuts during the upcoming year, but be able to invest in various programs.

Wolf Hunting Likely To Be Localized

Even with a new law designating wolves as game animals in the state, a wolf hunt is not guaranteed in 2013. And if it does happen, it will likely be limited to areas with the most reports of wolves attacking livestock, officials told the Natural Resources Committee on Thursday.

Commission members warned that the department needs to be sure it can resolve those conflicts in other ways if the commission recommends against a wolf hunt.

Adam Bump, furbearer expert for the department, presented a process that would have recommendations for structuring a hunt by June. He said that would allow sufficient time to conduct a hunt before the end of the year if the commission does approve one.

Legislation approved during the lame duck session ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB135001" }, PA 520) would authorize the hunt and set license fees. But it leaves it to the commission to set the rest of the regulations for a wolf hunt.

Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason said the department would not go out of its way to recommend a hunt.

"We have a wolf management plan that we intend to follow very closely," Mr. Mason said.

Commission members committed to working on a possible hunt.

"It's going to be a process and we're going to go through it," said Commissioner J.R. Richardson (R-Ontonagon), chair of the commission. "I realize there's going to be a lot of emotion on this."

Commissioner John Madigan (R-Munising), chair of the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries that heard the presentation, said it was incumbent on the department to find some way to satisfy residents that it was working to resolve conflicts between people and wolves.

"If there are these conflicts out there and we don't deal with them effectively ... it might be worse for the wolf," he said.

Mr. Bump said a hunt to resolve conflicts was most likely, as that was where the department's Wolf Forum was able to reach consensus.

The forum, which helped to develop the current wolf management plan, could not reach consensus on how to structure a recreational hunt, he said.

But the key factor in allowing a hunt, under the forum's consensus, was a showing that current methods for resolving human/wolf conflicts are not working. That, he said, requires a look at local, rather than statewide, wolf populations.

"So it pushed us to look at management on small scale, not large scale," he said.

For instance, there have been continuing issues in Gogebic County that current efforts, lethal and nonlethal, have not resolved. Mr. Bump said there are some similar problems in other isolated areas around the Upper Peninsula.

Mr. Bump said predation on livestock would also likely be the key driver in deciding whether a hunt was needed to reduce local wolf populations. He said livestock predation complaints can be directly tied to wolf populations in an area.

Dog predation, however, appears to be more random, he said.

While the goal of a hunt would be to reduce the wolf population in an area, the fact of a hunt could also change wolf behavior and potentially make them more cautious of humans and their livestock, he said.

Under the current schedule, the department would begin its population survey, planned before the new law, yet this month. But it will now also begin discussions with tribal governments over the possibility of a wolf hunt.

General public forums around the state, which would include both an information session and public comment, would begin in March, he said.

"We know this is a very passionate issue and we want to make sure everyone has a chance to have their voice," Mr. Bump said. "I'm sure not everyone may like the answers, but I want people to see that we used the information."

But one group praised at least the process. "We commend the DNR for acting swiftly to outline a transparent and scientific process for moving forward with a wolf season," said Erin McDonough, executive director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

There are also at least two Wolf Forum meetings before May, Mr. Bump said. That group would be a primary source for developing the structure of a wolf season.

The law gives the NRC final say in regulating quotas and methods of take, so the commission would have to approve any proposal before a hunt would happen.

In their inaugural wolf hunts in 2012, Wisconsin saw 117 wolves taken, one more than the quota, from a population of at least 762 wolves as of April, and Minnesota saw 413 taken from a population of about 3,000.

Michigan's population of about 600 wolves is three times the federal recovery goal, Mr. Bump said.

REFERENDUM: At the same time, the Humane Society of the United States, a key national anti-hunting group, announced a new coalition, Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, would launch a referendum drive on the legislation.

"Wolves have been on the protected list in Michigan for nearly 50 years. There are fewer than 700 wolves in Michigan and their numbers are only now starting to recover," HSUS President Wayne Pacelle said in an email announcing the ballot drive. "Yet, shockingly, the Michigan Legislature has passed reckless legislation that would allow trophy hunters to slaughter hundreds of wolves in Michigan for their trophy collections, using painful methods such as steel-jawed leghold traps."

The other group involved in the coalition is the Doris Day Animal League, though that group's { HYPERLINK "http://www.ddal.org/" \t "blank" } indicates it is largely a front for HSUS activities.

The ballot campaign, according to its { HYPERLINK "https://secure.humanesociety.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=5829&autologin=true&em_ha011013&JServSessionIdr004=228n7rqd24.app306b" \t "blank" }, is currently in the process of recruiting petition circulators.

HSUS is the same group that was successful in 2006 in repealing the state's dove hunt through referendum.

FISH NETTING: The netting season will begin a little earlier this year, now that the DNR is charged with regulating the activity, officials said. The department is proposing an order that would essentially adopt the regulations that had before been in statute, but it would combine the hand netting and dip netting regulations into one order and, at the request of a key community for dip netting, would move the start date to March 20 from April 1 that had been in statute.

PURE MICHIGAN HUNT: The public will meet the winners of the 2013 Pure Michigan Hunt at the February commission meeting, but Mr. Mason called the three winners recently to congratulate them. He found, though, that some Michigan hunters are a bit cautious.

One of the winners is a law enforcement officer who, after Mr. Mason's call, contacted his buddy in DNR law enforcement.

Mr. Mason said shortly after his round of calls, he got a visit from the DNR deputy law enforcement chief to report a call he got from a friend.

"Some guy saying he was Russ Mason called to say I had won the Pure Michigan Hunt," the deputy told Mr. Mason. "You've got some malfeasance going on there," the deputy was told.

Mr. Mason said the deputy chief assured his friend, "Sometimes good things happen to good people."

Schauer Giving Gov. Run 'A Lot Of Thought'

Former U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, one of the potential Democratic candidates for governor, said Thursday he is considering the race.

Mr. Schauer, who served in the Legislature from 1997-2008 and then in the U.S. House from 2009-10, said Thursday of the 2014 gubernatorial race that he is "giving it a lot of thought."

A month ago, after getting pepper sprayed while participating in a protest of the right-to-work legislation at the Capitol, Mr. Schauer said only about the possibility of running that the direction in which { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } and the Republican legislative majority had taken the state upset him and that he planned to work in some fashion to reverse the policy.

"I am very unhappy with what the Legislature and what the governor did particularly in the last month or so. We need an economic policy that will grow our economy," he told "Michigan's Big Show," a syndicated talk radio program hosted by Michael Patrick Shiels, on Thursday. "I don't feel we're on the right track in Michigan so it has given me some pause to think on it, but I haven't started a campaign now, let me say that."

Mr. Schauer is one of several Democrats under watch as a possible gubernatorial candidate. Also on the list of possibilities are Board of Education President John Austin of Ann Arbor, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=7801&locid=1" } of Bloomfield Township, Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } of East Lansing and Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, who lost to Mr. Snyder in the 2010 election.

Mr. Schauer, of Battle Creek, lost his re-election bid in the 2010 Republican wave to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=87801&locid=1" } (R-Tipton), whom Mr. Schauer ousted in a Democratic wave in 2008. Since then, he has worked with a variety of labor organizations, such as the BlueGreen Alliance.

Mr. Schauer said he is not giving himself a timetable to make a decision. Signatures are not due until May 2014.

"What is important is that people coalesce in this state and they take stock of what Republicans in Lansing are doing, the course that they have charted for our state," he said. "We need to focus on that. It's way too early for campaigns."

In a separate interview, asked about his comments, Mr. Schauer said many people have been talking to him about the race.

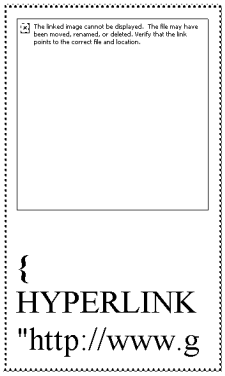
"I definitely haven't closed the door, and I'm giving it a lot of thought," he said. "What I think is important is that there be a broad movement dedicated to reminding the public what the Republican Legislature and Governor Snyder have done over the last two years, particularly to the middle class, particularly during the lame-duck session. I think that's what's important."

Horse Racing, Landlord-Tenant Bills Fall To Pocket Veto

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } will pocket veto a bill that would allow customers at horse race tracks to play a new style of gaming where they make bets on historical races and sit and watch the outcome at a video terminal.

Supporters said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB554601" } would aid the state's ailing horse racing industry, but Snyder spokesperson Caleb Buhs said Mr. Snyder views it as unconstitutional without an affirmative vote by statewide voters as well as those in the jurisdiction of tracks using the new feature.

The bill technically will not be pocket vetoed until Friday because that is when the 14-day period Mr. Snyder has to sign or veto it expires. By not signing it, the bill is pocket vetoed.



ongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } has now made decisions on all bills from the 2011-12 term.

Mr. Buhs said he was not sure why Mr. Snyder had chosen a pocket veto instead of vetoing the legislation outright with a message to the Legislature. But the Snyder administration was upfront about its issues with the bill, he said.

"The administration had major concerns on that one and they had outlined those to the Legislature," he said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210101&locid=1" } (R-Lum), the sponsor of the bill, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Mr. Snyder has now wrapped up work on all bills sent to him by the 96th Legislature. Thursday saw the official pocket veto of the other bill in the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan package, something the administration previously said it would do. Mr. Snyder also allowed the pocket veto today of a bill addressing landlord-tenant issues ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB426301" }).

That bill was designed to allow landlords to clear out a deceased tenant's belongings if family members or friends do not wish to take ownership.

Rep. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage), who sponsored the bill, said there were some concerns about it from the governor's office, but the bill had already passed the Legislature before she could address them.

Mr. Buhs said the bill would not accomplish its purpose. The bill did not allow enough time for estranged family members to get a death notice and get to the home to take ownership of the deceased's belongings, he said.

Ms. O'Brien said the bill would have saved landlords thousands of dollars by being able to dispose of a deceased tenant's property without having to go to probate court.

"You could have someone who has nothing of significant financial value and no one wants it," she said. "It would not be an often used procedure because in most situations family members or friends want to come take care of the belongings."

Ms. O'Brien said she was told a few days ago the bill most likely would not be signed. She said she will be working on a new bill this year that addresses the concerns.

"I think it's a great situation when someone says 'I can't support your bill as is, but I want to work with you,'" she said. "I have great respect for the governor, and I look forward to working with him."

Snyder Signals No Decision Imminent On E.F.M. For Detroit

Talk once again was building that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } was getting ready to name an emergency financial manager for Detroit, but Mr. Snyder sought to quiet that chatter Thursday.

Mr. Snyder said in a statement that he wanted the review team examining Detroit's finances to take into account the actions this week by the Detroit City Council to undertake several moves the state had asserted were key milestones for the city to achieve.

"I commend the collaboration and the difficult, but necessary, actions taken by Mayor Bing and the Detroit City Council earlier this week," he said. "While these were noteworthy steps in helping Detroit move forward, I am asking the Detroit Review Team underway to analyze whether the actions taken Tuesday were sufficient to actually address the city's short-term cash crisis."

Mr. Snyder also said he is asking the review team to "consider the depth and breadth of (Detroit's) long-term liabilities, and potential options for addressing them. A strong and successful Detroit is essential to a strong and successful Michigan."

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing welcomed Mr. Snyder's comments.

"I have continually stated that my focus is on implementing my restructuring plan for the City of Detroit," he said in a statement. "I have also recently acknowledged a renewed collaboration with City Council. I welcome the Governor's decision today to ask the Review Team to acknowledge the progress being made by the City."

'The Daily Show' Strikes Moroun, Bridge Debate

Manuel "Matty" Moroun got the treatment Wednesday night from Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," which delivered a takedown of his failed attempt to force a statewide and local vote on international border crossings in a bid to stop the proposed New International Trade Crossing and preserve traffic to his Ambassador Bridge.

Among those featured in the piece are Roy Norton, the Canadian consulate in Detroit, and Malik Shabazz, a longtime militant activist in Detroit who sided with the Morouns in trying to pass { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/programming/politics_ballotissuedetail.cfm?&year=2012&ballotid=4201" }. "The Daily Show" said officials from the Detroit International Bridge Company, owned by the Moroun family, declined to participate.

Race For Vacant Senate Seat Interests Both Flint Reps

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=224601&locid=1" } is set to make his announcement Saturday that he will run for the 27th Senate District special election, vying for the position against fellow Flint Democrat { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" }, who has already announced he will run.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } on Wednesday called for a special election to be held for the seat on May 7, with a primary on March 12.

Mr. Stanley hinted at the news on his Twitter account on Thursday, tweeting: "Yesterday I got my floor seat number 110, I like that it struck me as symbolic, look forward to making my announcement on Sat."

He was unable to be reached for further comment Thursday, though his staff had essentially confirmed that the news on Saturday would be about his decision to run for the seat left vacant by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=53401&locid=1" } (D-Flushing). Mr. Gleason became the Genesee County clerk/register of deeds after the New Year.

Mr. Gleason is slamming Mr. Snyder about the special election schedule, saying the governor should have set the special primary for August and special election for November when there are local elections already taking place in the city. With no elections in March and May on local ballots, communities will have to pay to run the elections.

"What a dink. I told the folks in the guv's office that Flint was broke financially," Mr. Gleason wrote in a Facebook post Wednesday night. "I asked several times that he schedule my special election for the 27th senate seat in conjunction with other Flint elections. Like August and November. When we normally have elections. So like he is (wont) to do, he has selected my replacement's election for March 12 primary and May 7 general election. WHAT!? March and May? Hey guv-you gave Flint an emergency manager because they are broke. So now Flint needs ballots and poll workers. Items not scheduled or budgeted. Hmm?? Fiscal conservative? He is driving Flint into more financial strife. He's a liar and irresponsible."

In his statement announcing the special election schedule Wednesday, Mr. Snyder said it was important to ensure representation for the district.

"This special election ensures that area residents will have full representation as soon as possible while helping keep costs for local communities to a minimum," he said.

Meanwhile, fellow Flint contender { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } on Thursday announced that the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters had endorsed him for the special election.

"I'd like to thank the Carpenters for their support and confidence in me," Mr. Ananich said in a statement. "They know I've got a strong record of bringing people together to solve problems and protecting the middle-class."

The Genesee/Shiawassee/Lapeer Building Trades have also previously announced their support for Mr. Ananich to take the position.

While both men live in Flint and have deep roots in the city, Mr. Stanley's district is wholly contained within the city. Mr. Ananich's district also reaches into some suburbs.

Gongwer Unveils New Blog

Gongwer News Service debuted a new blog Thursday on its website that will feature quick takes on Capitol happenings by Gongwer's staff.

The blog, available at { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/programming/blogindex.cfm" }, also is available for elected officials and others in the Capitol community to submit posts, published at Gongwer's discretion.

The blog is available to all visitors to the website and will not require a username and password for access.

Gongwer anticipates updating the blog at least daily.

N.R.C. Planning Calendar Of Issues

Beginning next month, the Natural Resources Commission will be setting aside a portion of its meeting to deal with some key issues it and the department face, with those issues set out in advance.

The commission will be looking at the department's land strategy and the program goals for the various divisions at the February meeting, but it is also planning to set dates for consideration of a laundry list of other topics at future meetings.

"It'll help us get focused rather than the flavor of the month," commission Chair J.R. Richardson (R-Ontonagon) said. "What we're trying to do is when we take time ... the priorities are what the commission wants to look at and what the director would direct us toward."

Mr. Richardson said the commission would consider a special meeting segment the day before its regular meeting next month to pare down the list of 15 likely topics presented by DNR officials Thursday to between six and 12 and schedule those for coming meetings.

Among those topics is trails, coordinating planning between programs, economic development, long-term funding, scorecards, and the perennial recruitment and retention of hunters and anglers.

Commissioners also opened it to the public to suggest additional topics to be considered.

"Just because we pick them doesn't mean these are the things that ought to be on the list," Mr. Richardson said.

But he indicated that some topics, like program goals, might wind their way through any or all of the other topics.

"We're going to look at the major program goals because that's what's going to roll out of our conversations," he said.

Federal Court Reverses Decision Denying Deaf Man Lifeguard Position

The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals has sent a case that affirmed Oakland County's decision to deny a deaf man a lifeguard position back to a lower court to determine if an accommodation could be possible for him in the position.

The court, in *Keith v. Oakland* ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/13a0011p-06.pdf" \t "blank" }), said the U.S. District Court was wrong in ruling that Nicholas Keith had to show what a reasonable accommodation might be for him to obtain the position.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that Mr. Keith simply point out that an accommodation could be possible, not what the accommodation needed to be, Judge Jeffrey Sutton, Judge Richard Griffin and Judge Helene White decided.

Mr. Keith had been deaf since birth, and had undergone training to be a lifeguard. County officials were willing to hire him for the post, provided he passed a physical. At his physical, though, the physician raised questions if Mr. Keith's deafness would pose liability issues to the county.

While a number of proposed solutions to provide Mr. Keith with assistance in various settings were made, ultimately the county refused to hire him as a lifeguard. Mr. Keith then sued, alleging discrimination under the ADA.

The trial court granted summary disposition, but the circuit panel ordered the case back to determine if actual accommodations were possible to allow Mr. Keith to work as a lifeguard.

Capitol Jobs Marketplace Updated

Gongwer News Service's Capitol Jobs Marketplace page, a feature Gongwer is pleased to offer advertising jobs available around the Capitol, has been updated.

For details on the new job posting and how to have a job from an organization posted, see { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/programming/jobs.cfm" }.

Capital Notebook

RICHARDVILLE NAMES DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF: Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=55701&locid=1" } (R-Monroe) on Thursday named Jordan Hankwitz deputy chief of staff.

"Jordan has been an integral part of my office for the past two years. This new position and title more accurately reflect the level of work and commitment Jordan has shown since first joining my team," Mr. Richardville said in a statement. "Jordan is exceptional. He is a consummate professional. He is strong leader; efficient and loyal. I just can't say too many good things about Jordan."

Mr. Hankwitz is not replacing anyone as there is currently no one named to this position for the majority leader. He previously worked for former Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom from 2008-10 and recently took leave from the Senate to work on Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign. Mr. Hankwitz is a graduate of Michigan State University and originally from Ludington.

MUSKEGON ABORTION CLINIC CLOSED: An abortion clinic in Muskegon has been closed due to multiple health violations.

The clinic allegedly had a leaking roof; several containers of hazardous materials not stored in cabinets; storage in mechanical and electrical room blocking electrical panels and furnace; used hypodermic needles in unsecured containers; and "uncovered buckets containing unknown fluids," among other things, a statement by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge) noted Thursday.

"These violations are proof that the legislation passed late last year was completely necessary," Mr. Jones said in a statement, referring to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011HB571101" } (PA 499 of 2012). "Reports of blood on the floor and walls and uncovered buckets containing unknown liquids is what I would expect on the set of a horror movie, not a medical facility."

SIERRA CLUB SCORECARD: The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter failed both legislative chambers on their voting records for the environment in releasing its scorecard on Thursday.

The Senate voted only 40 percent of the time to protect the environment under the club's { HYPERLINK "http://michigan.sierraclub.org/politics/articles/2012Scorecard.html" \t "blank" }. The House did slightly better at 46 percent.

"2011-2012 was by far the most anti-environmental Legislature we've had in Michigan for decades. It's extremely frustrating that the environment has become a partisan political issue," Mike Berkowitz, the Michigan legislative director for the group, said in a statement announcing the release. "Environmental protections are a no-brainer for all Michigan residents. Our members find it hard to believe that so many of our lawmakers are voting against Clean Air, Clean Water, and Public Health. We hope that incoming lawmakers will see our scorecard and be motivated to get rid of this anti-environment attitude in the 2013-2014 legislative session."

As expected, Democrats did better on the scorecard, averaging 96.1 percent in the Senate and 83 percent in the House. Republicans averaged 23.7 percent in both chambers.

In the House, former Rep. Shanelle Jackson (D-Detroit) was the sole perfect record, while in the Senate, that was shared by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=36301&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=35001&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } (D-Westland), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=41301&locid=1" } (D-Taylor), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=43601&locid=1" } (D-Warren), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155301&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor) and Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing). { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101&locid=1" } (R-Mayville) took bottom honors in the Senate at 9 percent, a score bested by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266801&locid=1" } (R-Harrison Township) at 8 percent.

DETROIT SCHOOL BOARD: A ruling could come soon on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" }'s challenge to the members of the Detroit Public Schools board elected by district. Wayne Circuit Court Judge John Gillis heard testimony on motions to dispose of the case (to dismiss the case by the school district and to oust the board members by the Department of Attorney General) and has taken the case under advisement.

Mr. Schuette filed the case arguing that Detroit was no longer a first-class district due to population loss when the most recent board elections were conducted, so it had no authority to elect board members except at-large as other districts do. The district has argued it is still the largest in the state by far and so should have some special provisions.

Appointments By The Governor

BOARD OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY: Jeffrey Weingarten of Grosse Pointe Woods replaces Vasu Divi, who resigned, to represent physicians for a term expiring December 31, 2013. Patrisha Mervenne of Bloomfield Hills replaces Lizbeth Stevens to represent professionals, Melissa Pynnonen of Ann Arbor replaces Jeanette Meyer to represent physicians and Lynee Wells of Grand Rapids replaces Thomas Koepe to represent the general public, all for terms expiring December 31, 2016. The appointments are subject to Senate consent.

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Michigan Report for Friday, January 11, 2013

Steady Revenues Should Reduce Budget Drama

Snyder Seems Leaning Towards Registration Tax Increase For Roads

No Bids On Boot Camp Facility

Legislative Dems See Similar Treatment On PAs To Past Terms Of One-Party Rule

Newsmaker Friday: Freshmen Seeking Bipartisanship

Kahn Suggests User Fees For Additional Revenue

Dems: Forecast Shows Republican Policies Not Increasing Jobs

E.A.A. Seeks Financial Assistance

State Seeking 'Freedom To Work' Analyst

Harris Replaced As Benton Harbor E.F.M.

Warren Gregory, 68, Economist Caught Up In H.F.A. Scandal, Dies

Services Set For Chuck Harmon, Former Romney Spokesperson, Department Director

Stanley Sounds Off On Senate Run

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Steady Revenues Should Reduce Budget Drama

Revenues tracking with expectations - a modest decrease in the current fiscal year followed by more moderate growth in the upcoming one - should allow the state to avoid any major budget reductions and even increase spending in some areas, Budget Director John Nixon said Friday after the Revenue Estimating Conference.

Mr. Nixon, House Fiscal Agency Director Mary Ann Cleary and Senate Fiscal Agency Director Ellen Jeffries agreed on revenues for the current 2012-13 and upcoming 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal years that essentially split the difference between the HFA's more optimistic and the SFA's more pessimistic forecast. The consensus forecast was close to what the Department of Treasury projected.

"Really where we are today is there's no big surprise. The good news is the economy is up a little bit, and we are actually adding more money than we had anticipated in both '13 and '14," Mr. Nixon said after the conference. "Not a huge change from what we were expecting and anticipating,"

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Budget Director John Nixon was pleased with the revenue numbers.

Mr. Nixon filled in for Treasurer Andy Dillon, who had a scheduling conflict, as chair of the conference.

Between the state soon closing its books with $200 million more than expected in revenue as well as $90 million lapses from unspent money by departments, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } and the Legislature have $290 million in extra money to build the 2013-14 budget, Mr. Nixon said.

For the 2012-13 fiscal year, the conference forecast net general fund revenues to fall 5.1 percent from the previous year to $8.792 billion. That is down $177.7 million from the May revenue conference. For the same year, net School Aid Fund revenue will rise 2.3 percent to $11.128 billion. That is down $41.7 million from the May estimate. The downward revision resulted almost entirely from tax policy changes passed after the May conference, such as the speeding up of an income tax rate cut and increase in the personal exemption.

For the upcoming 2013-14 fiscal year, general fund revenues will rise 5.4 percent to $9.264 billion. That is up $5.4 million from the May conference. For the same year, the School Aid Fund will rise 2.7 percent to $11.433 billion. That is down $38.9 million from the May conference.

Mr. Snyder will unveil his budget recommendation for the 2013-14 fiscal year to a joint session of the House and Senate Appropriations committees on February 7.

One of the concerns raised by the SFA's estimate was the possibility of needing to cut aid to schools because it projected a more than $200 million shortfall for 2013-14 in the School Aid Fund.

Mr. Nixon downplayed any possibility of K-12 cuts.

"We're in structural balance," he said of the School Aid Fund. "We're steady at this point, and we have a little extra money."

One question foremost on the mind of legislators and organizations following the budget is the fate of the so-called one-time spending in the current year budget. Mr. Snyder has developed a budget where certain expenditures are labeled one-time to signal the view from the administration and Legislature that there should be no expectation of that funding continuing the following fiscal year.

Mr. Nixon said those one-time expenditures would be taken out of the budget for 2013-14 and then evaluated for possible continuation in the governor's recommendation.

"There is some revenue available to make those strategic investments," he said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the reduction in revenues in the current year will be "masked a bit" by the additional money from the 2011-12 fiscal year.

If revenues fall as expected in the 2012-13 fiscal year, that will show up as more of a concern for 2013-14, Mr. Kahn said.

A big concern, several said, is how the federal government handles the coming debate on raising the debt limit, the so-called sequester of major budget cuts and potential disallowments of aid to states in certain circumstances.

"I believe one of our biggest risks is the federal government," Mr. Nixon said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=205901&locid=1" } (R-Holland), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said the numbers announced Friday are encouraging.

"We have continued growth," he said. "2013 looks like a steady budget year, we just have to be careful not to increase spending. 2014 and 2015 look like we're coming out of it. I'm very happy with what I heard today. I prefer steady growth to valleys."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=217601&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), whom Democrats have asked House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall) to name as minority vice chair on the Appropriations Committee, said the falling revenues in the general fund for the current fiscal year reflect bad tax policy from Mr. Snyder and majority Republicans.

"When Michigan families and seniors file for state returns this year, they will feel the pain from the Republican tax policy changes, including the college tuition, child tax credits and tax on pensions," she said. "These tax changes are slowing down Michigan's economic recovery by taking money out of the pocketbooks of Michigan families and handing it over to corporations in the form of tax cuts."

The conference projects declining numbers of pupils in traditional K-12 public schools as a result of the trend in the school-age population as well as more parents opting not to send their children to traditional public schools.

Local school districts will see their population fall by 25,060 in the current fiscal year, 23,100 in the 2013-14 fiscal year and 23,000 in the 2014-15 fiscal year. Those are declines of about 1.6 percent each year.

But charter schools, under new laws allowing considerable growth in their number, will see significant increases - 8.7 percent in the current year to 130,300, 13.6 percent in 2013-14 to 148,000 and 11.5 percent in 2014-15 to 165,000.

Again, the state expects to remain well below the revenue limit set by the Headlee Amendment - $6.9 billion below it in 2012-13, $7.223 billion in 2013-14 and $7.253 billion in 2014-15.

Snyder Seems Leaning Towards Registration Tax Increase For Roads

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } appears to be leaning towards calling for an increase in Michigan's vehicle registration tax in his State of the State address on Wednesday as a way of boosting funds for the state's roads.

How much Mr. Snyder will call for as an increase, sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not know. There have been reports that a proposed increase would be as much as $125 per vehicle.

But supporters of more funding for the state's roads are also beginning to lay the political groundwork for justifying an increase, saying it would be more progressive than an increase in the state's fuel tax because it would be based on the value of a vehicle, that it would assure all vehicle owners pay an increased tax (since owners of electric vehicles would be unaffected by an increase in fuel taxes), and that it could have a major payoff to the state in terms of an expanded economy.

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s new transportation funding proposal is much anticipated.

A spokesperson for Mr. Snyder said the administration is not going to discuss topics of the address before the State of the State.

Sources interviewed said it was still not certain that Mr. Snyder would in fact propose an increase in the registration tax. In 2011, he at first floated the idea of an average vehicle registration fee hike of $120 a vehicle, and then got behind an alternative plan for an average increase of $60 with more revenue raised from a revised gasoline tax.

But Mr. Snyder himself has said he will make a transportation proposal of some sort next week at his third State of the State address.

And sources said it seemed more likely a registration tax increase would be proposed over a fuel tax increase.

Such an increase would raise more than $1 billion for Michigan's roads, highways, bridges and other transportation services. One source said the increase was critical just to continue to maintain the state's system, though it would not allow for building new roads or expanding roads to ease traffic congestion.

In recent years, state funds for roads and transportation have fallen off due to the economy with fewer people driving, and those who are driving going fewer miles, and because of more fuel efficient vehicles.

Michigan last raised fuel taxes in 1997, and no serious effort has been made to increase revenues since, despite repeated calls from business groups and studies that urged additional revenues.

In 2011, Mr. Snyder issued a special message on transportation which outlined a series of proposals to increase revenues. Nothing has happened on those proposals.

One source said Mr. Snyder was trying to be respectful of the Legislature and allowing legislators to start the action to boost revenues.

The Legislature did not apparently get the hint, the source said.

That special message did call for increases to both fuel taxes and the registration tax.

But it is now a good time to take action, the source said. The state has taken steps towards seeing a new bridge built between Detroit and Canada and on getting a regional transportation authority set up for the Detroit area, the source said. With those two major transportation goals on the way, the time is now to look at revenues, the source said.

Plus, 2013 is a good year to tackle the issue since it is not an election year, the source said.

Presuming a proposal is made, it will likely begin in the Senate, sources said. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township) held a series of task force meetings on transportation and has said the issue will likely be a major topic for the year.

Even though 2013 is not an election year, supporters were confident the argument for increasing a tax could be made, especially by focusing on much more progressive such a tax is over increasing the gas tax.

And sources said there will be a big push on how much the increase could drive economic development, especially in the construction industry.

No Bids On Boot Camp Facility

The Department of Corrections' boot camp-style facility in Chelsea will remain state-run after a legislatively inspired effort to put the program up for bid drew no bids from private companies.

Russ Marlan, department spokesperson, said Director Dan Heyns visited the Special Alternative Incarceration Facility on Thursday to personally inform the camp's personnel.

Mr. Marlan said he did not know exactly why no companies responded to the request for proposals, but suspected it has to do with the intricate nature of the program.

"If I had to guess, it's a very small, it's like a 480-bed camp, and it's probably one of the most diverse," he said. "It's got males, it's got females. It's got prisoners. It's got probationers. It's a complicated and small program. I don't know if folks looked at that like the juice wasn't worth the squeeze on that one. Typically, when private providers are looking to bid on something, they like bigger institutions because you look at per diem costs or per prisoner costs and when you have more prisoners, you can divide the operating costs across more bodies."

Republican lawmakers had raised concerns about the high per prisoner per day cost at the facility, but Mr. Marlan said what has to be kept in mind is that prisoners completing the program can be released within 90 days. Those are prisoners who otherwise would be incarcerated for up to three years, so there is a significant savings, he said.

Legislators have said each prisoner at the facility costs $62,500 per year, about double the cost at a regular facility. Corrections officials have said the facility saves the state between $30 million to $50 million a year because inmates who successfully complete it receive automatic parole under statute and graduates of the program have a recidivism rate that is 6 percent better than the general population.

Mel Grieshaber, executive director of the Michigan Corrections Organization, the union for corrections officers, said the facility's staff was thrilled with the news. Mr. Grieshaber said he did not know of any private companies that could replicate what the Special Alternative Incarceration Facility does.

"We're very pleased there were no bids," he said.

The department is still going through the bidding process on prison food service and prison health care. Mr. Marlan said it has received bids for those services, and he expects that process to conclude by the end of February at the latest.

Legislative Dems See Similar Treatment On PAs To Past Terms Of One-Party Rule

Of the 948 bills signed into law in the 2011-12 legislative term, Republican sponsors had their names tied to about 92 percent over the two years, leaving Democrats with a slim 8 percent margin of victory, according to a Gongwer News Service analysis of the public acts from the term.

That dominance of Republican bill sponsors dominating the public acts is in line with the two most recent examples of when one party controlled the Legislature and the governor's office - 1999-2000 and 2001-02. Republicans had total control in both those terms.

In fact, the 1999-2000 term was worse than 2011-12 by a couple measures, with just 6.7 percent of the 782 public acts coming from a Democratic sponsor, according to a Gongwer analysis. Like 2011-12, that was a highly charged term that saw a ton of controversial legislation.

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } had more public acts than any other legislator in the 2011-12 term.

Meanwhile, for the most recent term, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton) was able to get the most bills signed by the governor - a total of 38 bills, 27 of which came in 2012. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge) was second, getting 34 bills signed, 28 in 2012 alone. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township) was third at 27 bills becoming public acts. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701&locid=1" } (R-Escanaba) barely missed a tie, getting a total of 26 bills signed over the 2011-12 term (he had one vetoed bill in 2012).

The House had more bills signed over the course of 2011-12, 483 to the Senate's 465.

In the House, former Rep. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) earned the most signatures by the governor at 23. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206701&locid=1" } (R-Livonia), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville) and Rep. Matt Huuki (R-Atlantic Mine) picked up 18 bill signatures each over the full term.

In 2012 alone, 33 legislators - more than 85 percent of whom were Democrats - did not have any public acts signed.

Democrats have blasted the 2011-12 term as the most partisan in state history. And certainly in the scope and substance of the legislation passed, the term is the most significant since immediately following the adoption of the 1963 Constitution when the Legislature and then-Governor George Romney built what is now the modern structure of state government.

But in terms of participation by Democrats in getting bills passed and signed, 1999-2000 was worse.

So bad was the 1999-2000 term for Democrats that it was not until April 22, 1999, when the House passed the first bill to have a Democratic sponsor, prompting Democratic members to blow noisemakers on the House floor in sarcastic celebration. That term, each Democratic legislator averaged 0.78 public acts. In 2011-12, Democratic legislators averaged 1.29 public acts.

In 2011-12, the first Democratic bill passed the House on February 10, 2011.

In 2001-02, according to a Gongwer News Service analysis of the public acts from that term, 16 percent of the 1,027 public acts were sponsored by a Democrat. Minority Democrats averaged 2.6 public acts each during the term.

That seems much better in terms of public acts for Democrats compared to 2011-12. But it's a bit misleading because that term saw huge packages of relatively mundane bills altering bonding laws that were divvied up to include many Democrats. So that inflated their total.

Still, anyone around the Capitol during the 1999-2000 and 2001-02 terms would say unequivocally that the 2001-02 term saw more bipartisan work on major legislation than 1999-2000. In the House, the relationship between then-House Speaker Chuck Perricone and then-Minority Leader Michael Hanley was toxic. In 2001, then-House Speaker Rick Johnson and then-Minority Leader Kwame Kilpatrick got along well, and Mr. Kilpatrick's goal was more to get Democratic bills passed than to fight partisan battles.

Buzz Thomas became the minority leader in 2002 after Mr. Kilpatrick took office as Detroit mayor, and while he and Mr. Johnson lacked the rapport Mr. Johnson and Mr. Kilpatrick had, it was not rancorous.

From 2003-06, power was split between Democratic Governor Jennifer Granholm and the Republican-led Legislature. So comparing 2011-12 to those years to examine treatment of minority caucuses is flawed. Ms. Granholm could make deals for Republicans to take up Democratic bills. And then from 2007-10, when Ms. Granholm was still in office, the House was led by Democrats and the Senate by Republicans, so minority House Republicans and minority Senate Democrats could count on their brethren in the other chamber helping out with their bills.

Newsmaker Friday: Freshmen Seeking Bipartisanship

Freshmen { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=323601&locid=1" } are ready to set aside any partisanship that may still linger from the end of last term and get to work.

The pair, Mr. Kosowski (D-Westland) and Mr. Pagel (R-Berrien Springs), are among the 26 House members serving their first term who were sworn in Wednesday. Unlike the 84 other members who have previously served, these freshmen lack the same battle scars from fierce fights over legislation.

"There are a lot of good people working here. I would like to see less of that partisanship," Mr. Pagel said. "I will walk across the aisle and try to get too know people. I will also try to develop relationships in the committees I am on."

Mr. Kosowski said bipartisanship is what he looks forward to most during his first term.

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Two of the 26 new members to the House, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601&locid=1" }

and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=323601&locid=1" }.

"We are going to have to work together to get a lot of things passed for our great residents," he said.

Mr. Kosowski also said he didn't anticipate partisanship to be as big an issue this term and that the workings of the House will become a lot more transparent.

"It is my anticipation that our numbers are close so we became a little more relevant," he said in reference to the new 59-51 Republican majority, a tighter margin than the 64-46 one from the previous term. "Obviously they can pass anything they want without our help. But a lot that is on our agenda they are in on it too. I think that by working together we can come up with feasible budgets to get things passed."

Mr. Pagel said many people asked him, during his campaign, why he was getting into state politics. He said many believed the political realm in Lansing was "ugly and nasty."

"My first impression of most of the people in Lansing is very positive," he said. "A lot of good people were elected and trying to do the right thing for their constituents. I think it will be a good experience. Hopefully we can shine a better light on politicians."

Mr. Pagel said the first day was mostly ceremonial.

"The whole swearing in process and getting to meet all of the other legislators was exciting," he said. "It is always a thrill to go on the House floor. It is a beautiful, beautiful building. I have a lot of anticipation for this term."

Mr. Kosowski said it is an exciting time to be sworn in to the Michigan Legislature.

"A lot of it was ceremonial. I thought it was very well organized," he said. "Obviously it is a day that I will never forget. Just to start my career in Michigan government made it a great day."

Mr. Kosowski comes from a background heavy in municipal government as the former parks and recreation director in Westland. The issues most important to him are education, transportation and public safety, he said.

He said the biggest issue with transportation and education is being able to reallocate the money to pay for it.

"We're going to have to really dig deep into how we are going to improve the roads," he said.

In terms of public safety, collaboration can often be the answer, he said. Merging departments in neighboring communities is one way to get things done, he said.

"It saves both communities a lot of money," he said. "I think that is one way to do it. Look at services and how we can better serve our residents."

Mr. Pagel began his career in agriculture, he said. He owns his own business where he stores, grows and ships apples. Now that he is a legislator, his son helps with the business so he can come to Lansing, he said.

When his daughter was in kindergarten he became president of the school board, and remained in that role for 14 years. He then ran for the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, where he served for four years, all of them as chair.

Mr. Pagel said he has a reputation of being fair and a good listener and he plans to bring those qualities to Lansing.

"With my backgrounds I will be able to bring a lot of common sense to the committees I serve on," he said. "I have a lot of context and I will be able to draw on expertise from a lot of different areas."

Although Mr. Pagel said his areas of expertise would be agriculture or education, he is willing to work wherever he is needed.

"I am trying to broaden my horizons and serve where I can be best," he said. "I have a lot of life experience."

Kahn Suggests User Fees For Additional Revenue

After listening to the presentations at Friday's Revenue Estimating Conference, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" }, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the state will have a few choices in front of it as it tries to create the 2013-14 fiscal year budget, but in those choices should be another look at how the state uses user fees.

Through the current fiscal year budget, the state will have enough money to pay for its activities but what's left, agency reports indicate, becomes slimmer and slimmer beginning in the 2013-14 fiscal year budget forecast and worse yet in the 2014-15 forecast.

Like any forecast, the numbers are subject to change depending on several factors both at the state and federal level. Even so, Mr. Kahn said, the state will have a few choices, which include "belt-tightening," decreases in spending and generating additional revenue - the last of which Mr. Kahn expects will be the hot topic in budget discussions this year.

One route the state will inevitably have to consider is generating additional sources of revenues, and for that he said the state could also look at fees in the way that former Governor John Engler did, he said.

"Historically speaking, the Engler administration believed in user fees. That is the people who use something ought to pay the cost of the regulations and inspections attended to that," he said. "We've gotten away from user fees in the last couple years and we ought to re-look at that idea. I think it's absolutely appropriate and fair to have user fees looked at."

Otherwise, the typical options exist to generate more revenue. He said the uncertainty at the federal level is certainly no help, but the state should be busy enough trying to both decrease spending in some areas - the departments of Corrections, Human Services and Community Health being the usual suspects - and working to fill holes, such as with the shortfall in the Health Insurance Claims Assessment tax.

In the last term, Mr. Kahn introduced a bill that would revisit the health insurance claims tax, but found little support. In late November, Mr. Kahn said the bill would need re-drafting, vowing to bring it back for this term (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=512360103" }) when it was ready.

He again revisited that point on Friday, noting the state either needed to come up with the then-estimated $130 million shortfall or else find a way to reduce Medicaid expenditures. He added that the fix was particularly important since federal match dollars are attached to the state's ability to fund its share of the costs.

Dems: Forecast Shows Republican Policies Not Increasing Jobs

Democrats seized on economic data unveiled at Friday's Revenue Estimating Conference as evidence that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s economic policies are failing to produce significant job growth.

The consensus forecast showed employment would increase 0.9 percent in 2013, down from projected growth of 1.3 percent in 2012. And growth in 2014 would be 1.2 percent, the forecast said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=39501&locid=1" } (D-Westland), the minority vice chair on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the numbers at the conference were about what he had expected when Mr. Snyder and the Republican-led Legislature approved "massive tax cuts and elimination of the (Michigan Business Tax) without having any strings attached to it." He pointed to the lack of major uptick in job gains in the state in 2012.

"I think that's directly attributable to the fact that folks that got those tax cuts put the money in their pockets or spent them on something else rather than reinvesting them into jobs," he said, adding that was probably the biggest take-away from the conference. "Hopefully some people will learn some lessons from it."

Mr. Anderson said the forecasts show Mr. Snyder's policies are not working the way they were supposed to work. Without strings tied to those tax cuts, he said, businesses have no reason to hire more people, which means fewer people will have money to spend on the goods and services being produced by businesses.

"We have to get people back to work otherwise they're not going to be able to buy the products," he said. "And then we're also seeing too that the revenue increases that have taken place already, most of that has been from the taxing of pensions. So those are things we expected would be the case but I think proves it from what we heard today."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=217601&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), whom Democrats have asked House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall) to name as minority vice chair, said the policies passed by the governor reduce confidence in middle class families to spend money.

"A lot of the policy changes have made more working families very uneasy," she said. "What I hear in my district is people think these policies are very pro-corporate and anti-working families."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, dismissed the criticism as "politics."

"People take pot-shots at you before the ink is dry when you sign your name," Mr. Kahn said of the criticism. "If you're going to do anything, it takes time for it to have an effect. But to be specific here, changes we have done in the state of Michigan that are going to result in more jobs and more income for the people of Michigan will take a while to have an effect."

He said his best answer for how long that could be would only be years, but as to how many years, he could not say with certainty.

"But I think it's unreasonable to expect businesses to make decisions within a one-year or two-year point of view," he said. "Furthermore, us guys in Lansing, as important as we think we are, we're dwarfed by the federal government. The federal uncertainties add just a tremendous amount to the uncertainty that business has on whether or not they want to expand. So until the federal government has clear policies, our policies - which are a plus for job growth and business growth - are less effective."

Nationally, the conference agreed that the unemployment rate would be 7.8 percent for 2013, 7.5 percent for 2014 and 7.1 percent for 2015. While job growth will be slow, that growth will be driven by the housing and auto sectors.

The conference projected light vehicle sales to rise 4 percent in 2013 to 15 million vehicles and then 2.7 percent in 2014 to 15.4 million and 2.6 percent to 15.8 million in 2015.

The Detroit Three share of those sales will be about 45 percent in each of those years.

George Fulton, director and research professor with the University of Michigan's Research Seminar in Quantitative Economics, said pent-up demand is finally causing a spike in vehicle sales.

"We see a sustained moderately paced recovery through 2015," he said.

Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist for IHS Global Insight, said the major drag on the U.S. economy is slow personal income growth.

Mr. Fulton also analyzed Michigan's job growth compared to the rest of the states in 2010-11 when factoring out what economic sectors happened to be doing well as a way to assess the state's economic performance compared to other states.

Michigan was second only to North Dakota for those years, Mr. Fulton said.

E.A.A. Seeks Financial Assistance

The Education Achievement Authority has asked the state for help making up a shortfall left by delayed private contributions.

The authority, which currently oversees 15 of the lowest-performing schools in Detroit, operates in part on state school aid funds and in part on private donations, the latter covering much of its administrative costs. Officials said some $3 million in private donations is pending, but will not be available until February.

To make up the shortfall, the authority board of directors approved the request Friday morning to ask the state for a $2 million advance on state aid payments for operations to get it through January. The request still has to be approved by Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan, Treasurer Andy Dillon and Budget Director John Nixon, but administration spokesperson Caleb Buhs said that approval was expected.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing) said the request shows the EAA is a financial failure as well as an educational one.

"Governor Snyder claimed this experiment would lead to a better and more efficient education for our students, but today's request for $2 million in state aid shows that his plan was never about success, only politics," Ms. Whitmer said in a statement. "The governor has cut billions of dollars from our K-12 schools over the past two years and it's unconscionable that he would now consider taking another $2 million from them to hand over to his EAA when it's clearly not working as promised."

Among the arguments against legislation last session to codify the EAA, which currently operates under an interlocal agreement between Detroit Public Schools and Eastern Michigan University, was the authority had not yet shown educational improvement in the 15 schools it operates.

But opponents also noted the authority had only been actually operating schools since the beginning of the school year, not enough time to know whether it would work and so should be expanded beyond the Detroit schools.

State Seeking 'Freedom To Work' Analyst

At 5 p.m., Friday, the time to take applications for a new "freedom to work" analyst position closed, and officials will begin the process of reviewing applicants for the newly established post in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

The position is being created by the state to do research and analysis on laws and legislation dealing "freedom to work" or right-to-work issues. The person hired will also make sure laws dealing with the issue are properly implemented. The individual will work with the Legislature and the Executive Office as well as companies and unions on the "complex issues related to FTW law," said the state's job posting.

The position will be the equivalent of an administrative law judge 16, an official said, and so applicants need to be either a lawyer with a minimum of three years' experience or have had three years' experience performing legal research. The pay for the position will depend on experience and range from about $65,000 to $100,000.

The position is needed if for no other reason the state has gotten many calls from people wanting to know what the newly enacted right-to-work laws require, the official said.

Democrats blasted the new post.

"It would seem there's no end to the amount of state money this administration is willing to waste in an attempt to sell their political agenda to the public," said Bob McCann, Senate Democratic spokesperson. "It's fairly offensive that the governor would be creating a new position in state government for obvious political purposes while he's asking the rest of our state employees to sacrifice more and more."

Harris Replaced As Benton Harbor E.F.M.

Though it took longer than he had predicted, Joe Harris was replaced Friday as emergency financial manager for Highland Park.

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board voted Friday to appoint Tony Saunders, who had been an advisor for the Department of Treasury in Benton Harbor, to lead the effort to pull Highland Park out of its financial emergency.

Roger Fraser, deputy state treasurer for Local Government Services and chair of the board, said the change was the result of discussions between Treasury officials and Mr. Harris.

"He's been talking about this since early last year," Mr. Fraser told the board. "As with a lot of other things, people find it's time to move on."

He has been talking about leaving the city, but not as a voluntary move. Mr. Harris told Gongwer News Service in July (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=511460107" }) that there was

on ongoing effort in Treasury to replace him. And he said Friday there had been no discussion with Treasury officials about a transition.

"I just found out 15 minutes ago that I was being released," he said about an hour after the board vote.

Mr. Harris said he had asked to complete some outstanding projects. "I had requested to be involved in preparation of the budget for the coming year and grooming the new finance person we hired a couple weeks ago, but obviously I won't have an opportunity to do that," he said.

He said his ouster was an exchange for support from key city council members for a public safety millage.

Mr. Fraser did praise Mr. Harris' efforts. "He's moved through some really difficult items," Mr. Fraser said.

He noted, however, that the city is still in a financial emergency after nearly three years of Mr. Harris' oversight.

Discussions with Mr. Saunders indicated state officials may have seen Mr. Harris as a bit too abrasive in working with Benton Harbor officials.

Mr. Saunders said his role in Highland Park had been working with local officials. "I worked with the mayor and the city council to identify budget solutions and a strong fiscal plan," he said after the meeting. "Treasury made it clear they were looking for me to collaborate with the mayor and the city council (in Benton Harbor)."

Treasury spokesperson Terry Stanton declined to comment on Mr. Harris' assertions about being pushed out, but did say, "This is an opportunity to move in a new direction and to move the city forward."

Mr. Saunders said he needed time in Benton Harbor before he could comment on what yet needed to be done, but he said among his first priorities would be a transition plan to get the city out of receivership.

In addition to serving as an advisor for Treasury, Mr. Saunders is a partner in WYLD Marketing Group. He has also served as a key advisor to two Detroit City Council members.

FLINT: The board also approved an increase in the expense allowance for Flint Emergency Financial Manager Ed Kurtz to $3,333 a month ($10,000 a quarter) from the current $1,000. Mr. Kurtz is working without salary in the post.

Warren Gregory, 68, Economist Caught Up In H.F.A. Scandal, Dies

Warren Gregory, an economist who was the assistant director of the House Fiscal Agency and a key player in the scandal that overcame the agency in 1993, died on Wednesday. He was 68.

A graduate of both the then University of Detroit and Western Michigan University, Mr. Gregory was an adjunct faculty member at both WMU and Central Michigan University.

He was credited with writing more than 50 articles and books on economics. His most recent book was published in 2011 and entitled "Moving Up to Our Economic Future: Bottoms Up to Prosperity."

At the HFA, Mr. Gregory was praised for his thoroughness on economic reviews.

But it was at the HFA that Mr. Gregory became involved in the scandal that destroyed his and other careers, leading him and others to prison.

Ironically, Mr. Gregory died less than a week from the 20th anniversary of the Detroit News stories that rocketed the scandal into the state's political and legal stratosphere.

Mr. Gregory was eventually convicted of two counts of federal tax evasion for not reporting at least $70,000 in questionable bonuses paid him out of the HFA imprest fund. Some $1.8 million came out of the fund to finance bonuses, raises and other expenses for fiscal agency workers.

Then, after a two-week trial, a jury took less than five minutes to convict Mr. Gregory of attempts to transport stolen goods across state lines as part of a plot to send arms to Croatian rebels.

It also was Mr. Gregory who early on disclosed some key facts about the scandal to House leadership. In his book, "Sharing the Balance of Power," Dan Loepp, then chief of staff to Co-Speaker Curtis Hertel and now president of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, recalled a key event involving Mr. Gregory.

The day the News story ran, Mr. Gregory spoke to then-Rep. David Hollister and disclosed that HFA Director John Morberg would raise HFA employees' salaries and that the employees would kick back money to Mr. Morberg. Mr. Hollister phoned Mr. Hertel with the news.

It was that revelation - which so shocked Mr. Hertel that he then put Mr. Hollister on speaker phone to repeat to everyone in the room what he had just told him - that prompted Mr. Hertel and other top Democrats to contact the Department of Attorney General, which swiftly dispatched investigators to interview Mr. Gregory, Mr. Loepp wrote.

Mr. Gregory was co-owner of a company called Global Consulting Corporation along with Mr. Morberg and HFA counsel Malik Hodari. Mr. Morberg and Mr. Hodari both testified against Mr. Gregory. Mr. Gregory was eventually sentenced to 30 months in federal prison.

Former Rep. Lynn Jondahl will officiate at Mr. Gregory's memorial service, scheduled for 11 a.m., Saturday at Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel, 325 West Washtenaw Street, Lansing.

Services Set For Chuck Harmon, Former Romney Spokesperson, Department Director

Funeral services are scheduled in Arizona for Chuck Harmon, 78, former press spokesperson for former Governor George Romney and former director of the state's licensing department.

Mr. Harmon died on Tuesday in Arizona, where he and his wife Bobbie had moved after he retired.

Though born in Flint, Mr. Harmon was raised in Lansing.

After graduating from Michigan State University, and serving in the U.S. Army, he began working at WILS radio in Lansing. He then became a reporter for the Kalamazoo Gazette, and then worked for the Booth Newspapers' bureau in Detroit.

It was there he came to the attention of Mr. Romney. The governor tapped him to be his press spokesperson and Mr. Harmon served in that role during Mr. Romney's entire tenure.

Later, after Mr. Romney left the office, former Governor William Milliken appointed Mr. Harmon as director of what was then the Department of Licensing and Regulation.

After leaving that office, Mr. Harmon was CEO of the Health Care Association of Michigan.

In retirement, he continued to write for Michigan History Magazine and other publications. He published a history of the Court of Appeals, entitled "A Matter of Right."

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, January 26, at the Lutheran Church of the Risen Savior in Green Valley, Arizona.

Stanley Sounds Off On Senate Run

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=224601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) is set to make his official announcement of his run for the 27th District state Senate seat on Saturday, but the decision did not come without much thought and much support from residents to do it, he said on Friday.

"I certainly received what I considered an impressive amount of encouragement to get in and also certainly the fact that I'm running in a race that doesn't have an incumbent, I don't have to give up my seat to run," Mr. Stanley said of making the decision. "But the primary reason was that there just seemed to be a very significant amount of interest in me seriously considering it. I thought after weighing all those factors this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up."

Talk swirled around Lansing back in even November that Mr. Stanley and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) might run. Mr. Ananich was first to formally announce his decision to run for the seat left vacant by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=53401&locid=1" } (D-Flushing), who became the Genesee County clerk/register of deeds at the turn of the New Year and has so far boasted two endorsements. But Mr. Stanley said he is not worried about endorsements yet.

"I feel good about the amount of money we've raised. The endorsement piece is one part of the campaign, but I'm not trying to play one-for-one in terms of endorsements," Mr. Stanley said. "I'll get my share of endorsements, but that's not where my campaign is focused right now."

Rather, he said, his focus right now will be on the door-to-door, face-to-face, "grind it out" effort.

Capital Notebook

FISHERIES PLAN: The Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Division is seeking comment on its five-year strategic plan.

"This strategic plan provides citizens with an overview of Fisheries Division's current and future management of Michigan's fishing resources," Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter said. "It also highlights the various ways we will continue to offer some of the best freshwater fishing opportunities in the country."

The plan is posted on the division's { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364-292572--,00.html" \t "blank" } and comment can be submitted to { HYPERLINK "mailto:DNR-Fisheries@michigan.gov" \t "blank" }.

Appointments By The Governor

APPELLATE DEFENDER COMMISSION: Thomas Adams of Detroit replaces Carlyle Stewart for a term expiring May 24, 2016. The appointment is not subject to Senate advice and consent.

EDUCATION TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Robert Ferrentino of Greenville replaces Gail Mee to represent presidents of community colleges and Susan Martin of Ypsilanti is reappointed, both for terms expiring December 31, 2015. The appointments are subject to Senate advice and consent.

TAX COMMISSION: Barry Simon of Commerce Township is reappointed for a term expiring December 27, 2016. The appointment is subject to Senate advice and consent.

FILM OFFICE ADVISORY COUNCIL: Calvin Hazelbaker of Ypsilanti replaces Tim Magee to represent film, television or related industry unions, and Marcia Fishman of Royal Oak and Richard Hert of Ada are reappointed, all for terms expiring September 30, 2016. Margaret O'Riley of Fenton is reappointed at the Film Office director for a term expiring December 31, 2014. The appointments are not subject to Senate advice and consent.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Jim Barrett of Perry is reappointed for a term expiring December 31, 2020. The appointment is not subject to Senate advice and consent.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Friday, January 11

Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board, Treasurer's Conference Room, First Floor, Austin Building, 430 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, January 15

Board of Education, Dombrowski Board Room, Fourth Floor, Hannah Building, 608 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 9:30 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/SBE_Agenda_January_2013_407347_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/buymichiganfirst/sab_agenda_226061_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Board of Physical Therapy, Conference Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 1:30 p.m. (Agenda; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_pt_011513dagd_406847_7.pdf" \t "blank" }))

Wednesday, January 16

Board of Medicine, Conference Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_med_011613agd_407592_7.pdf" \t "blank" }; Disciplinary Subcommittee at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room 2 ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_med_011613dagd_407593_7.pdf" \t "blank" }))

Thursday, January 17

Health Information Technology Commission, First Floor Conference Center, Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, 1 p.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/HIT%2001-17-2013%20Agenda.pdf" \t "_blank" })

Friday, January 18

~~**Canceled: Board of Accountancy, Conference Room 1, Second Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 9 a.m.**~~

Barrier Free Design Board, Conference Room 3, First Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 9:30 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_bcc_bfd_board_packet_011813_407668_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Elevator Safety Board, Conference Room 3, Second Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 9:30 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_bcc_elevator_board_packet_011813_407671_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Board of Acupuncture, Conference Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/lara_acc_011813agd_407598_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Commission on Services to the Aging, Office of Services to the Aging, 300 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/Jan%202013%20CSA%20Agenda.doc" \t "_blank" })

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: Michigan Report, Friday, January 18, 2013
Attachments: 130118dayplan.htm; Jan21Schedule.htm; Jan18.htm

Michigan Report for Friday, January 18, 2013

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State Reviewing Fed Guidance On Driver's Licenses For Young Non-Citizens

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Volume #52, Report #13 -- Friday, January 18, 2013

Clinton: Insurance Department As Chance For Advocacy

The Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation is strictly a regulator, but the launch of the Department of Insurance and Financial Services is an opportunity to take the lead on some issues, Kevin Clinton, director of both, told Gongwer News Service.

But the change will not mean much of an expansion in staff or budget, he said.

"Right now we're simply a regulatory body," Mr. Clinton said. "I think this gives us the ability to be proactive. This gives us the ability to effectuate change that will create jobs."

Among the first areas where Mr. Clinton expects to be advocating is no-fault insurance. The current unlimited medical care, he said, makes the state unattractive for many insurance companies, and makes Michigan-based insurance companies less competitive in other states.

OFIR Commissioner Kevin Clinton

While the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association covers all claims past $500,000 per incident, the insurance contracts still leave the insurer liable for the loss. "It's on their paper ... so they don't have as high a (financial) rating," he said.

The rating companies, he said, have to judge the insurance companies as though the MCCA could fold and leave them to cover the claims. And he said the situation is not improved by the MCCA's current $2 billion deficit.

But he said insurers will need to give something to gain caps on the medical liability.

"I think they need to step up to the plate and say, 'This is what it's worth to me,'" he said. "I don't think it's possible to get these through the Legislature without some guarantee."

Mr. Clinton said he also hopes to do more on mortgage fraud. OFIR has done some in helping to combat the issue, but it has mostly been by catching and punishing the lenders. "Since we're a regulator, we tend to be reactionary," he said. "I'd like to put some people out there on fraud and how to recognize it and how to avoid being a victim."

Becoming a department also means the organization will not be as tied to the actions of other agencies, Mr. Clinton said. For instance, when another agency in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs cut some positions, the people in those posts bumped into OFIR vacancies under the contract. "We got some really good people," he said, but in positions he was not necessarily planning to fill.

And budget will be important to the new department. It will be the second department that, by design, will be entirely funded by restricted revenue. Mr. Clinton said there is no plan to supplement the fee revenue the agency uses now with general fund.

OPEN MEETINGS: The MCCA filed an appeal Thursday of an Ingham Circuit Court ruling that required it to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.

The Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault had filed the challenge seeking documents supporting the MCCA's rate-setting process.

The MCCA board, made up largely of insurance industry officials, has argued the fund's claims records are proprietary.

State Reviewing Fed Guidance On Driver's Licenses For Young Non-Citizens

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued new guidelines on Friday regarding young non-U.S. citizens brought to the United States as children and whether they can legally remain in the country.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan cited the new guidelines in calling on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=52301&locid=1" } to issue driver's licenses to these individuals. Ms. Johnson had resisted doing so while awaiting federal guidance on which persons in this pool of people could legally be in the United States.

Under the guidelines for deferred action - in which Homeland Security defers action to remove a non-citizen - such persons must have been 30 or younger as of June 15, 2012; come to the United States before turning 16; continuously resided in the United States since at least June 15, 2007; entered the United States without inspection before June 15, 2012, or had their lawful immigrant status expire on that date; be currently in school or have graduated high school, obtained a graduate equivalency degree or are an honorably discharged veteran of the U.S. armed forces; and have no felony convictions, significant misdemeanor convictions or three or more misdemeanor convictions.

"For the bright young DREAMers whom the federal government has authorized to live and work in the U.S., the ability to obtain driver's licenses is an important step to realizing the American dream of working, going to college, and giving back to their communities," said Miriam Aukerman, ACLU of Michigan staff attorney, said in a statement referring to the proposed Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act. "Now that the federal government has confirmed that DREAMers are legally present, the secretary of state has all the information she asked for. We hope and expect that the Secretary will make good on her promise and issue licenses to DREAMers immediately so that their dreams aren't dashed."

The ACLU filed suit against the Department of State last year on the issue.

Johnson spokesperson Gisgie Davila Gendreau said of the new federal guidelines: "We are aware of new information. Our attorneys are reviewing it and we will make a decision from there."

Snyder Open To Electoral College Change

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } signaled he was willing to consider a major change in how Michigan awards its electoral votes in presidential elections by dropping the winner-take-all system for one based on the winner of each of the state's congressional districts.

Mr. Snyder told The Associated Press { HYPERLINK "http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130118/POLITICS03/301180393/1361/GOP-considering-new-election-laws" \t "blank" } looking at Republican efforts to drop the winner-take-all system in states that have reliably gone for the Democratic presidential nominee in recent elections that he "could go either way."

"It could be done in a thoughtful (way) over the next couple years and people can have a thoughtful discussion," Mr. Snyder said.

And recently, Republican National Committee Chair Reince Preibus told the Wisconsin State Journal of the idea, "It's something that a lot of states that have been consistently blue that are fully controlled red ought to be looking at."

Michigan has gone to the Democratic candidate in the last six presidential elections. Prior to 1992, the Republican nominee had won Michigan the previous five contests.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } called for a thoughtful discussion on the electoral vote issue.

At this point, spokespersons for the Republican majorities in the Michigan House and Senate did not indicate it is a priority item, but neither did they dismiss it.

"It is not something that has come up in our caucus," said Amber McCann, Senate Republican spokesperson.

House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226901&locid=1" } (R-Marshall) is "interested in having it fully vetted in committee," said Bolger spokesperson Ari Adler.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=203801&locid=1" } (R-Shelby Township) introduced a similar bill last term that went nowhere. At this point, Mr. Lund said he has not had any contact with national Republicans, who have urged state governments under total Republican control in recently reliably Democratic presidential states to move on the issue before 2014 while they still have power.

"It's got a long way to go," he said.

Democrats are furious at the idea. For the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, Michigan would award 14 of its 16 electoral votes according to the U.S. House district lines drawn by Republicans in 2011 to favor Republican candidates. According to an analysis by Daily Kos, in 2012, Republican Mitt Romney would have won nine of the districts and President Barack Obama the other five, so Mr. Romney would have pulled nine electoral votes to seven for Mr. Obama, who won the state by 9.5 percentage points.

Asked how such a scenario would be fair, Mr. Lund said: "I think that it takes the votes closer to the way things really are. Nobody wins the state with 100 percent of the votes. I think this just makes it a little bit closer to the reality of the percentage."

As to Democratic complaints, Mr. Lund scoffed.

"Oh, whatever," he said. "Mark Brewer, whoever, can say whatever they want. They always do. I'm not worried about that."

But Mr. Lund had something of a similar message when asked about Mr. Preibus' comments.

"Reince can say that all he wants, but it's up to the individual states to decide and we'll decide it on our own, not based on what any national party wants," he said.

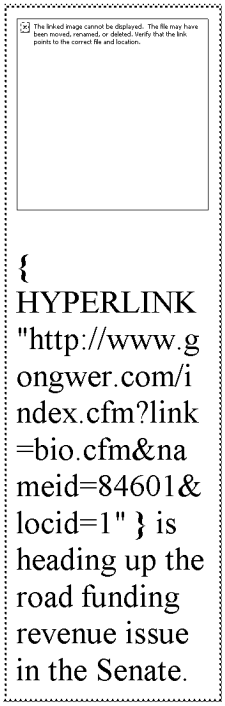
Kahn: Too Early To Count Votes On Road Funding

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=84601&locid=1" } wants legislation passed on the future of transportation funding by March 7, and while he acknowledged the package will need bipartisan support to make its way to the governor, he said it was premature to say exactly how many supportive votes either chamber has.

"Whatever the number is, it needs to be recounted. We have to talk to members," Mr. Kahn (R-Saginaw Township) said in an interview. "It's premature to be talking about vote numbers when there's nothing there for them to like or dislike."

The idea is that by March 7, the Legislature would send to Mr. Snyder a mix of higher gasoline taxes and vehicle registration fees to raise $1.2 billion for roads. Then it also would approve a separate 2-cent increase to the sales tax, now set at 6 cents for every dollar, and put that proposal on the ballot in May. If voters approved, the higher gasoline taxes and vehicle registration fees would disappear.

March 7 is the last day to put something on the May ballot.



Regardless, Mr. Kahn acknowledged the legislation - whenever it is introduced - would need Democratic support, though he was not sure what exactly could be part of the mix to earn it.

In a panel event on Thursday in Mount Pleasant, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206201&locid=1" } (R-Traverse City) suggested possibly including restoring some of the reduction implemented to the Earned Income Tax Credit to lure some Democratic appeal, { HYPERLINK "http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130118/POLITICS02/301180382/1022/politics/Snyder-favors-allowing-voters-decide-how-pay-highway-upgrade" \t "blank" }.

Mr. Schmidt did not return messages Friday on the soon-to-come transportation bills.

As for ideas that would appeal to Democrats, Mr. Kahn said: "Nothing is off the table for me and nothing is on the table for me."

And Democrats are generally waiting to see what will happen, too.

"We're not proposing anything at this point," said Bob McCann, spokesperson for Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60101&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing). "We need to see the details of it and we'll be able to work with them on where our concerns lie."

Mr. McCann said he believes Republicans know where Democrats' interests lie - in education - but remained adamant that Democrats are waiting to see what exactly is proposed first.

Ms. Whitmer has previously stated that she could not see herself or her caucus supporting further burdens on individuals and families as has been done for the past two years, she said (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=520050102" }).

"Our members have some pretty significant concerns with the burden being put on families," Mr. McCann said. "(Mr. Snyder) mentioned potentially $120 in user fees as if it's nothing, and maybe it's not to him, but to a lot of families that is.

"The question is what are (Republicans) putting on the table and what are the expectations at that point," Mr. McCann said.

In the meantime, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=73001&locid=1" } (R-Traverse City) has already proposed legislation to increase the sales tax by 1 percent, and more legislation to eliminate the gas tax. Some skeptics - including Mr. Kahn - have said a 1 percent sales tax increase would only be enough to replace revenues currently while 2 percent could allow for

more growth (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=520100101" }).

Group Executive Format Pays Off For Quality Of Life

Governors, and their agency directors, have talked for years about the need for the different departments to work together on various projects, but those efforts always seemed to fall short.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s use of the group executive system, however, seems to be paying off, at least for the Quality of Life Group. But the directors in that group acknowledge it helps they have all known each other for some time.

Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant said the system is the best he has seen so far in getting the departments to work together, and he has directed two different departments under three different governors.

"This group executive process is working phenomenally well in our area," he said, adding he had talked to the Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development directors more under the current administration than he had the DNR and DEQ directors under the prior two administrations where he worked as Agriculture director.

But he said it helped that he had worked with all of his counterparts on some level, as well as with former DNR Director Rodney Stokes.

Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh has the most obvious ties to Mr. Wyant, having served as one of his deputies in Agriculture before being appointed director of that department by Mr. Snyder.

"It worked well when I was at Agriculture. It works as well or better now that I'm at the DNR," Mr. Creagh said.

Mr. Stokes, now working in the Executive Office, was a long-time DNR deputy before Mr. Snyder named him director there in his third shot at that office.

Agriculture Director Jamie Clover Adams had worked with all of her current counterparts both as policy director in the DEQ and as deputy chief of staff of Senate Republican caucus, and she had contact with Mr. Wyant at least in her role as Kansas agriculture director.

"Dan and Keith and I have known each other for a while anyway," Ms. Clover Adams said.

She said the three directors meet monthly, which helps the departments to work together better. "It gives the staff a focal point as well," she said. "People are more aware."

"I'm seeing the staff work together on a number of issues," Mr. Creagh said.

Ms. Clover Adams said that cooperation was essential to development of a new Continental Dairy plant in Coopersville.

She said the regulators from Agriculture and DEQ worked together to smooth the permitting process for the new plant.

"We did our job. We focused on food safety," she said. "But we worked together to get that done."

The program will work even better once the three departments are in one building, Mr. Wyant said.

"We're saving the state money because we're using space efficiently," he said. The departments already share a number of services, and most of those are housed in Constitution Hall where the DEQ and Agriculture already have their headquarters.

Each of the directors also hailed the technology improvements to be made to both buildings as part of the move and renovations.

The move has meant some upheaval. Constitution Hall is riddled with large containers of various materials being moved. And Mr. Wyant was working from temporary office space while the move was completed.

Department of Technology, Management and Budget officials estimated the renovation of Constitution Hall and relocation of DNR staff there would take about a year and a half. Mason Building renovations are set to begin in about six months and last as long as three years.

Once the renovations are completed, departments currently in leased space would move to the Mason Building.

Yowchuang, Seewald Avoid Jail Time In McCotter Petition Fraud

Two top former aides to ex-U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter will have to perform considerable community service, but will not have to serve jail time for their role in the petition fraud scandal that destroyed Mr. McCotter's political career.

Besides avoiding jail time in the case, Don Yowchuang and Paul Seewald also received another piece of welcome news when Wayne Circuit Judge Margie Braxton dropped the felony conspiracy charge pending against both men. That's especially good news for Mr. Seewald because that means he avoids any felony convictions.

Mr. Yowchuang, who was Mr. McCotter's deputy district director and generally seen as the ringleader of the fraud, earlier had pleaded no contest to 10 felony counts of forgery and six misdemeanor counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as a circulator. He received three years probation with any probation violation resulting in him serving the last year in jail. Mr.

Yowchuang also received a sentence of 200 hours community service, court costs and fees and a requirement to report any contact with police or loss of employment to his probation officer.

Mr. Yowchuang admitted to authorities that he copied pages of petitions signed by registered voters to inflate the number of signatures the campaign submitted. The fraud also included the cutting of names and signatures from previous campaigns and pasting of them onto new petitions to pass them off as new signatures, although Mr. Yowchuang has denied doing so.

Mr. Seewald, Mr. McCotter's district director, earlier pleaded guilty to nine misdemeanor counts of falsely signing a nominating petition as a circulator. He received two years probation, 100 hours of community service, court costs and fees and must report any contact with police or loss of employment to his assigned probation officer.

"The message here is very clear - if you break the law, there are consequences," said Joy Yearout, spokesperson for the Department of Attorney General, which handled the case.

Ms. Yearout said the department is reviewing the dismissal of the conspiracy charge against each man and will decide later whether to appeal.

Additionally, Ms. Yearout said the department's investigation into the case remains ongoing although she declined to provide details.

LaHood Announces $31M Toward R.T.A., Public Transportation

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood traveled to Wayne State University on Friday to announce more than $31 million in federal funds granted to the Regional Transit Authority.

A statement released Friday said the RTA will use the $6.5 million planning grant for a bus rapid transit system that serves four counties and Detroit along major thoroughfares. The creation of the RTA allowed for a $25 million TIGER grant for the M-1 rail consortium to build and operate a 3.3 mile streetcar system along Woodward Avenue from downtown Detroit to the New Center area.

"This is a great example of relentless positive action," said Mr. Snyder during the announcement at WSU according from the governor's office. "After more than 40 years and 23 failed attempts to establish a regional transit authority, I am pleased that we can move forward with our local and federal partners to implement an efficient, effective transportation system for over 4 million Michiganders. This new economic engine will produce thousands of jobs for workers, expand the talent pool for employers and create a broader retail market for small businesses in the region. Secretary LaHood's commitment to these efforts has been vital and we thank him for such strong support."

On Wednesday Mr. Snyder appointed current senior vice president of corporate affairs for DTE Energy and former House Speaker Paul Hillegonds as chair of the RTA. According the statement, the authority will create more than 5,400 jobs. The $6.5 million will fund alternative

analyses and environmental studies on Gratiot and Michigan avenues, and a route through northern Oakland and Macomb counties.

"I applaud Michigan's leaders for coming together to support a regional vision for public transportation that will improve access to jobs, education, medical care and other destinations for residents in the Detroit metro area," Mr. LaHood said. "The Obama administration is committed to the creation of a modern transportation system that will create jobs Detroit needs right now, while spurring new economic development to help this region grow stronger in the years to come."

The construction of the Woodward Avenue streetcar line, which will be 3.3 miles long with 11 stops, will begin this summer, the statement said. The construction process is estimated to employ more than 2,000 people.

The public-private partnership is backed by several community leaders, including Roger Penske, Mike Ilitch, Dan Gilbert and Matt Cullen. The Kresge Foundation has donated $35 million and other foundations, corporations, educational and health care institutions have contributed significant amounts to finance the $137 million investment, along with the TIGER grant and earnings from New Market Tax Credits.

Five Democrats, Two Republicans Make Bids For 27th District Senate Seat

The tally is in and a total of five Democrats and two Republicans have submitted their paperwork to run for the vacant 27th District Senate seat left behind by former { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=53401&locid=1" } (D-Flushing).

"I've lived in that area all my life. I think I can do the job and serve the district well," said Democrat Ted Henry, a Genesee County commissioner who entered the race.

Mr. Henry is joined by fellow Democrats { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } of Flint, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=224601&locid=1" } of Flint, and two residents - Lawrence Woods and Chris Del Morone. Republican challengers include Bob Daunt and Adam Ford, both who have previously run for elected positions before.

Mr. Henry was elected to his first term as a commissioner in November 2006, having served as chair of the Board of Commissioners from January-December 2009. He has also been appointed vice-chairperson and sits on the Parks and Recreation Commission, Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Genesee County Board of Review and Genesee County Water and Sewer Advisory Commission, according to Genesee County's website.

He works for Clayton Township as a building official.

"I'm a grassroots guy that really doesn't have ties to anybody," he said in a phone interview. "I'm a strong believer in the Democratic Party. I want to support anything I can to retract the right-to-work law."

Mr. Henry also said he would like to help on education and veterans issues, being a Vietnam veteran himself, as well as small businesses. He said his experience in working with county government and the way it is tied to state government (especially when it comes to revenue sharing, he said) would be most beneficial to his working in Lansing if elected.

Much less is known about Democratic candidates Mr. Woods and Mr. Del Morone. Neither returned a phone call by Gongwer News Service seeking comment. Mr. Del Morone ran unsuccessfully for a county commissioner's seat last August.

As for Republicans, Mr. Daunt - who ran for state representative last year - said it was not always his intent to go after the seat previously held by Mr. Gleason (now the Genesee County clerk/register of deeds) but that he was widely encouraged by local Republicans, friends in the political realm and some business people.

He acknowledged that the area is largely Democrat-leaning but that area Republicans felt it was better to at least put up a challenger to represent their party.

"We're hoping maybe we can change some peoples' minds and at least give it a chance," Mr. Daunt said in an interview. He said he is a right-to-life person that believes there should maybe be a part-time Legislature,

"I just think we need a new face and new ideas. So many of these politicians, they're lifetime politicians," he said, making specific mention of Mr. Gleason who worked his way up from the local level to state senator. "I think we need other people to come in and do some changes."

Mr. Ford has also previously run for multiple elected seats, ranging from the city of Flint School Board to the state House and Senate.

"I'm a lot more conservative and I'm not really happy with what's going on in the city of Flint," Mr. Ford said in an interview. He said he works in customer service and decided to run after seeing who was in the race and deciding the city "needed somebody to be a better representative for Flint."

Mr. Ford said he is not a fan of special interests in the state and floated such ideas as repealing the state income tax, taking on auto insurance mandates, cutting the budget, and deregulating electricity in an effort to have smaller bills as ideas he had if elected. He also said he'd like { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } to look at the city of Flint water bills, calling their rates "criminal."

Snyder Receives Average Grade In Conservation

The Michigan League of Conservation Voters, which endorsed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } in 2010 in the Republican primary, gave Mr. Snyder a "C" grade for his first two years in office, according to a statement released Friday.

The report card is based on Mr. Snyder's bill signings, vetoes, appointments, executive orders, permit approvals and denials during his term so far, the statement said. A "How Green is Your Governor?" accountability tool can he found { HYPERLINK "http://www.michiganlcv.org/sites/default/files/HOWGREENISYOURGOV2012Jan17_FINALWEB2.pdf" \t "blank" }.

"The governor always promises relentless positive action; this midterm report card is the result of our own relentless tracking," said Lisa Wozniak, executive director at the league. "The governor is also consistently seeking metrics to determine progress - a practice we rely on ourselves. We are happy to share our metrics of his performance with the public now."

The league endorsed Mr. Snyder because his platform embraced the importance of protecting Michigan's land, air and water. Since taking office, the statement said, Mr. Snyder's activity has been focused on transportation and agriculture and not much has been done to conserve resources, resulting in his average grade.

"We would love nothing more than to assign Governor Snyder an A+ on the next report card and have him proudly take it home and pin it to the refrigerator," Ms. Wozniak said. "For now, though, if we were to scrawl a quick note at the bottom of this one it would simply say that 'the governor shows remarkable potential, but he has yet to really apply himself. As a bit of a nerd, he must better stand up for himself when confronted by bullies in the Legislature.'"

Supreme Court Orders Sexual Abuse Case Back To Appeals Court

The Court of Appeals has been ordered by the Supreme Court to review a case of a man convicted of criminal sexual conduct committed when he was 13, saying the defendant gave up his right to appeal on whether it was appropriate for him to have been tried based on his age at the time of the crime.

While Christopher Kiyoshk committed the act when he was 13, he was 21 when he was charged and convicted, and a 5-0 majority of the Supreme Court said the issue of whether he should have been tried in a circuit court was a matter of personal judgment. Because Mr. Kiyoshk failed to object to the trial court hearing his case, he lost on the question of whether it was appropriate for him to have been tried in circuit court at all.

The order, in *People v. Kiyoshk* (SC docket No. 143469), was one of three orders the Supreme Court issued Friday regarding cases it had heard.

Mr. Kiyoshk pleaded guilty to having sexual intercourse with a victim who was younger than 13 when he himself was 13 (though there was a question of whether he was 14 when the crime occurred, which would have made him eligible for circuit court jurisdiction). He was charged with the offense in 2006 when he was 21.

He later challenged his guilty plea, arguing that as a minor he should not have been subject to the circuit court. The trial court disagreed. But the Court of Appeals vacated his plea, saying the trial court lacked jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court and ordered the case back to that panel to rule on an argument from Mr. Kiyoshk that he had ineffective counsel.

The trial court had general subject matter supervision over the crime. The matter of his age, the court said, was a matter of personal judgment on the part of the court.

But because he entered a guilty plea, and did not object to the court's supervision of the case, the Supreme Court said Mr. Kiyoshk implicitly agreed to the personal judgment of the court in trying him.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=334301&locid=1" } did not participate in the decision since it was argued before she was elected. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=153201&locid=1" } did not participate as she is vacating the court on Monday after being implicated in an alleged fraudulent short sale of her Detroit-area home.

HOMELESS INJURY: A homeless man residing at a shelter cannot claim to be a family member of the shelter, and therefore an insurance company cannot claim benefits to cover his injuries, the Supreme Court held in another order.

The court decided 5-1 to order that summary judgment be granted to National Liability and Fire Insurance in *Michigan Insurance Company v. National Liability and Fire Insurance* (SC docket No. 144771).

In the case, Lawrence Stubbe, a homeless man residing at a Pontiac shelter, was injured when he was struck by a car. Michigan Insurance provided coverage for the car and paid his bills, but then sued National Liability, which covered the shelter. Michigan Insurance argued that Mr. Stubbe was a ward of the shelter and should be covered by National Liability.

But the Supreme Court ordered that summary judgment be awarded National Liability. Mr. Stubbe was injured as a pedestrian and was not a relative of the shelter.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151701&locid=1" } wrote that he would have heard the full appeal. Ms. Hathaway did not participate in the decision.

MALPRACTICE TIMING: The Supreme Court also rejected an appeal trying to block a medical malpractice case based on the timing of the initial suit.

The court split 3-3 on whether to rule in favor of Peter Barrett in *Hoffman v. Barrett* (SC docket No. 144875) so the ruling of the Court of Appeals was upheld. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=75601&locid=1" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=114801&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=148801&locid=1" } would have reversed the Court of Appeals. What action { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=298201&locid=1" }, Mr. Cavanagh and Ms. McCormack would take was not noted. Ms. Hathaway did not participate.

The case has gone back and forth in the courts, and several times been before the Supreme Court, on the question of whether an earlier ruling by the Supreme Court extended a specific time frame that Beth Hoffman, personal representative for the estate of Edgar Brown, could file suit against Mr. Barrett.

The Court of Appeals held that the suit could go forward.

Michigan Ranks 6th In Unemployment Among The States

Michigan's December unemployment rate of 8.9 percent leaves it with the sixth-highest unemployment rate among the states, according to data released Friday by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Two states, Nevada and Rhode Island, shared the top spot for the highest unemployment rates at 10.2 percent, and both saw improvements in their jobless rates from November.

North Dakota continued to have the best unemployment rate, but actually saw its jobless rate go up slightly in December compared to November.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics said that 22 states showed declines in unemployment from November to December 2012. Another 16 states and the District of Columbia showed increases. Twelve states, including Michigan, were unchanged from November to December.

Nevada's unemployment rate fell from 10.8 percent in November to 10.2 percent in December. Rhode Island saw its rate drop from 10.4 percent to 10.2 percent.

California had the third-highest rate at 9.8 percent, unchanged from the previous month. New Jersey stood at 9.6 percent, down from 9.7 percent in November. That was followed by North Carolina at 9.2 percent, up from 9.1 percent.

On the low end, North Dakota's 3.2 percent unemployment in December was actually up from 3.1 percent in November. Nebraska's 3.7 percent was unchanged from November, and South Dakota's 4.4 percent unemployment was also unchanged.

In terms of the Great Lakes states, after Michigan and Illinois had jobless rates of 8.7 percent, unchanged from the previous month. Both Indiana and New York had rates of 8.2 percent, but New York's was down from 8.3 percent in November, while Indiana's was up from 8 percent. Pennsylvania stood at 7.9 percent, up from 7.8 percent the previous month. Ohio was at 6.7 percent, down from 6.8 percent. Wisconsin stood at 6.6 percent, unchanged from November. And Minnesota had the lowest rate at 5.5 percent, down from 5.6 percent.

Gaming Board To Review Gilbert Purchase Of Greektown

The Gaming Control Board is scheduled to review a plan next week to allow Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert to purchase the Greektown Casino and Hotel.

In a deal announced earlier this week, Athens Acquisition, a company affiliated with Rock Gaming, which Mr. Gilbert chairs, would purchase the majority stake in the casino. Mr. Gilbert said the purchase, if approved, would lead to additional renovations to the facility.

Greektown has struggled financially, undergone several ownership changes and experienced bankruptcy since opening and has remained the smallest of the three private casinos in the city.

The board is set to consider the transaction at its meeting on Tuesday in Detroit.

Board Approves Loans For Muskegon Heights, Highland Park Schools

Two of the school districts currently under emergency financial management were approved Friday for a total $6.5 million in emergency loans from the state.

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board found that both Highland Park Public Schools and Muskegon Heights Public Schools would run deficits for the current school year and needed the loans to cover those shortfalls.

Highland Park will borrow $3 million and Muskegon Heights $3.5 million. Under the loan agreements, Treasurer Andy Dillon would have to approve use of the funds, which are only to pay vendors.

The districts are alone in having their operations passed to a charter school management company as part of the effort to repair their finances. Managers in both districts found they would not be able to balance their budgets under their prior management structures.

Michigan Foreclosure Rate Drops In 2012

Foreclosures in Michigan during 2012 fell by 23.4 percent from 2011, a national tracking firm said. But the state still had more than 76,000 foreclosures during the year and an overall foreclosure rate of 1.69 percent, meaning Michigan was still among the 10 states with the highest rate of foreclosures.

According to RealtyTrac, a California-based online foreclosure firm, Michigan's number of foreclosures was down by 43.4 percent from 2010.

Florida had the highest overall foreclosure rate. The more than 279,000 homes foreclosed in that state meant 3.11 percent of its properties were taken. Florida's foreclosure rate increased by 53.45 percent from 2011.

Following Florida was Nevada, where 31,658 properties were foreclosed on, meaning 2.7 percent of the properties were taken. Still, foreclosures declined by almost 57 percent from 2011.

Arizona was in third place, as the 76,487 properties meant that 2.69 percent of its properties returned to the lender. It was followed by Georgia, where 105,610 properties meant that 2.58 percent of its properties were changed. Then came Illinois, where 2.58 percent of its properties were lost, 136,603, in 2012. California saw 319,162 properties foreclosed, or 2.33 percent.

Ohio was seventh overall, as 89,584, or 1.75 percent of its properties foreclosed on in 2012.

Michigan was eighth. Its 76,711 properties foreclosed represented 1.69 percent of properties lost.

In ninth place was South Carolina, where 35,583, or 1.66 percent of its properties, were foreclosed on in 2012. Finally, in 10th place, was Colorado where during 2012 1.64 percent of its properties, 36,246, were foreclosed on.

North Dakota had the lowest overall rate of foreclosures, with just 119 properties, or 0.04 percent of its total, taken. However, that still represented a 29.35 percent increase over 2011.

This Week On The Gongwer Blog...

Don't forget to check out Gongwer News Service's new blog on its website where this week Gongwer staff offered takes on State of the State, passing transportation revenue increases, the House Fiscal Agency scandal of 1993, House committee assignments and former Governor Stevens T. Mason.

Gongwer's blog is updated at least once a day from Monday through Friday and is available at { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/programming/blogindex.cfm" }.

Capital Notebook

SNYDER ISSUES EXECUTIVE ORDER ON VETERANS: As expected, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } issued { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/EO_2013-2_408988_7.pdf" \t "blank" } to create the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency within the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The agency is designed to serve as a central, coordinated entity to ensure veterans living in Michigan are receiving their benefits.

MOST VISITED TOURISM WEBSITE: Michigan's official travel and tourism website michigan.org has been named the most visited state tourism website in the country for the sixth year running, according to an independent online measurement company, Experian Hitwise.

The website received 7.1 percent of the overall market share of visits to state tourism sites, garnering nearly 1 million more visits than the number two state tourism website, Florida.

In 2012, michigan.org recorded more than 8.8 million web visits, a statement by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation noted, and consumers used the site an average of 24,000 times per day.

Think Social Media also recently ranked Pure Michigan's social media presence the best in the nation among all destination marketing organizations, the MEDC said. It is the ninth time since 2009 that Michigan has been ranked number one in the quarterly report.

CANTON PHYSICIAN SUSPENDED: The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs has summarily suspended the pharmacist license of Ashwani Kumar Sharma of Canton based on his conviction in the U.S. District Court's Eastern District of Michigan, the department said in a statement on Friday.

On August 10, 2012, Mr. Sharma was convicted of one felony count of health care fraud conspiracy and one felony count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. He is scheduled to be sentenced on January 29, 2013.

Appointments By The Governor

BARRIER-FREE DESIGN BOARD: Aaron Besmer of Caledonia succeeds Donald Link to represent engineers, and Emily Blauw of Ada succeeds Daryl Domke to represent wheelchair users. The appointments are for terms expiring October 31, 2015, and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

GAMING CONTROL BOARD: Dennis Beagen of Northville succeeds Benjamin Friedman to represent independents, and Michael Watza of Novi is reappointed. The appointments are for terms expiring December 31, 2016, and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION: Clare Luz of East Lansing succeeds Dohn Hoyle to represent primary or secondary consumers of long-term care and services, and Larry Yachcik of Lowell succeeds Denise Rabidoux to represent direct care staff providing long-term care supports and services. Christine Chesny of Bay City and Connie Fuller of Rock are reappointed. The appointments are for terms expiring December 31, 2016, and are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Subscribers Please Note

Gongwer News Service/Michigan Report will not publish on Monday, January 21. State government offices are closed for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday.

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2013 8:52 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Great Lakes shipping cargo was down in 2012

"Great Lakes freighters carried less cargo in 2012 compared to 2011."

Source: *Soo Evening News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.sooeveningnews.com/article/20130119/NEWS/130119366

MURRAY: Public should know the real King, Obama

"

Today marks only the eighth time in the history of our country that a president is to publicly take the oath of office on a Monday. It is also the second time a president has publicly been sworn in on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a federally-observed holiday. Those facts make for interesting trivia, but while the two men will dominate the day, there are some perspectives we should take note of."

Source: *Macomb Daily* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.macombdaily.com/article/20130120/OPINION03/130129959/murray-public-should-know-the-real-king-obama

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50 Livingston County online students are DQ

"Officials from two Livingston County school districts believed they were following the rules for overseeing a virtual academy where students take classes online. Students were logging into their classes, emailing their teachers, doing well in the classes and receiving credit."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130121/NEWS01/301210309/50-Livingston-County-online-students-DQ-d?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage

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President Obama keeps Petoskey stone, official state rock of Michigan, on Oval Office desk

"

We already know Barack Obama is a fan of our state. The president won Michigan en route to both of his electoral victories, garnering more than 57 percent of the Great Lakes State's vote in 2008 and more than 52 percent this past November.
"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/01/president_obama_keeps_petoskey.html#incart_river_default

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Flint's deficit climbs to $19 million; emergency financial manager says budget 'on track'

"FLINT, MI -- The city of Flint's budget deficit climbed to $19.1 million last budget year, leaving the city's state-appointed emergency financial manager searching for a plan to close the gap.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/01/flints_deficit_climbs_to_19_mi.html#incart_river_default

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Tim Skubick: How to create political cover for lawmakers who vote to increase taxes for roads

"The strategy worked brilliantly as the backers of Proposal A in 1994 crafted two strategies to raise money for the schools after lawmakers surprisingly scrapped the time-honored property tax as the main source of school dollars. Michigan voters had a chance to pick "

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/01/tim_skubick_how_to_create_poli.html#incart_river_default

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Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. first gave 'I Have a Dream' speech in Detroit; read transcript and hear audio

"DETROIT, MI - Two months before the historic March on Washington in 1963, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr made his message heard loud and clear at Detroit's Cobo Arena.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2013/01/rev_martin_luther_king_jr_firs.html#incart_m-rpt-2

Auto show is built on the hopes and drive from the era of the Model A

"Amid the modern brilliance at Cobo Center, the Model A stands out."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/OPINION03/301210327/Auto-show-built-hopes-drive-from-era-Model-A?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Metro Detroit celebrates MLK's legacy

"Detroit — Churches, schools and community organizations throughout Metro Detroit are hosting events today honoring the memory of Martin Luther King Jr."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/METRO01/301210341/Metro-Detroit-celebrates-MLK-s-legacy?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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Obama to focus on common ground at swearing-in

"Washington — His second term already under way, President Barack Obama aims to set an optimistic tone when he takes the oath again to lead a divided nation seeking solutions to economic woes at home and conflict overseas."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/POLITICS03/301210366/Obama-focus-common-ground-swearing-in?odyssey=mod|breaking|text|FRONTPAGE

Editorial: Obama's second-term second chance

"President Barack Obama starts his second term today with a chance at a new beginning. After the divisive campaign of 2012 and the fiscal cliff debate that followed, the president must turn a page and take the historic opportunity of the next four years to build coalitions to finally tackle America's massive challenges."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/OPINION01/301210306/

Detroit Land Bank readies for a major growth spurt

"Aundra Wallace, executive director of the little-known Detroit Land Bank, is entering the line of fire."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/OPINION03/301210336/Detroit-Land-Bank-readies-major-growth-spurt?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Critics may derail fast track for Blue Cross Blue Shield reform

"Lansing — Gov. Rick Snyder wants the Legislature to quickly pass Blue Cross Blue Shield reforms, but some critics are demanding a second look that might delay passage and keep the Blues from offering low-cost insurance under the federal health care act."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/POLITICS02/301210335/Critics-may-derail-fast-track-Blue-Cross-Blue-Shield-reform?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Michiganians head to Obama's 2nd inaugural to 'live history'

"The overall turnout may be scaled back from President Barack Obama's historic inauguration four years ago, but an enthusiastic group of Michigan residents will gather in Washington today to march, entertain and celebrate the commencement of his second term."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130121/POLITICS03/301210338/Michiganians-head-Obama-s-2nd-inaugural-live-history-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Statehood Day marks Michigan's 176th birthday

"The Michigan Historical Museum is hosting a day of educational events this week to celebrate Michigan's 176th birthday and the bicentennial of the War of 1812."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/NEWS06/130121007/Statehood-Day-marks-Michigan-s-176th-birthday?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Obama inauguration a day of reflection, celebration

"WASHINGTON – It's Barack Obama's day, and ours."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/NEWS15/301210017/Day-of-reflection-celebration-at-Obama-inauguration-today?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech still resonates 50 years later

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrestled with what he'd say to the thousands of people who would gather at the Lincoln Memorial in the summer of 1963 for the March on Washington."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/FEATURES01/301210031/50-years-later-Dr-Martin-Luther-King-Jr-s-speech-still-resonates?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Over 100,000 people attend North American International Auto Show for second straight day

"More than 105,000 people attended the 2013 North American International Auto Show on Sunday, marking the second consecutive day of attendance figures surpassing 100,000, show officials said. "

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130120/BUSINESS01/130120052/Over-100-000-people-attend-NAIAS-second-straight-day?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder taking suggestions from justices, staff to fill state Supreme Court spot after Justice Diane Hathaway's exit

"LANSING -- Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway retires from the Michigan Supreme Court today amid allegations of bank fraud, clearing the way for Gov. Rick Snyder to appoint a replacement and increase the GOP advantage on the court to 5-2."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/NEWS15/301210075/Michigan-Gov-Rick-Snyder-taking-suggestions-from-justices-staff-to-fill-state-Supreme-Court-spot-after-Justice-Diane-Hathaway-s-exit?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

New online medical service might save Michiganders time, money

"Michiganders now have 24-7 access to a nurse practitioner and about 200 common prescriptions through a new online medical service -- the latest in a world driven by speed, convenience and what can be obtained by keyboard."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/NEWS06/301210085/New-online-medical-service-might-save-Michiganders-time-money?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Wayne County communities keeping some zoo tax money for downtowns

"During the past five years, the counties of Oakland, Wayne and Macomb have supported the Detroit Zoo with millions of tax dollars from a millage approved by voters in 2008. At the same time, many Wayne County communities have withheld more than $756,000 of the zoo's revenues to spend on their downtown projects -- and they're considering doing the same with the newly approved millage for the Detroit Institute of Arts."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/NEWS05/301210077/Wayne-County-communities-keeping-some-zoo-tax-money-for-downtowns?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Morris Dees: On Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, still a dream deferred Morris Dees: On Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, still a dream deferred

"Serious but surmountable challenges threaten the well-being and future of children: persistent poverty, proliferation of gun violence and unnecessary arrests of children of color. On Jan. 21, as we gather to mark the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the second inauguration of the country's first African-American president, it seems right to reflect on the implications of Dr. King's vision and teaching for these issues of today."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-21-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130121/OPINION05/301210013/Morris-Dees-Martin-Luther-King-Jr-s-birthday-still-dream-deferred

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 8:00 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Lawmakers say more education reforms coming

"Laws expanding availability of charter schools and cyberschools, reforming teacher retirement and helping low-performing districts are only part of ongoing efforts to improve education in Michigan, Livingston County's lawmakers said."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130124/NEWS01/301240322/Lawmakers-say-more-education-reforms-coming?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

West Mich. soldier dies of combat wounds

"Mark Schoonhoven died Sunday at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the Department of Defense said."

Source: *Grand Haven Tribune* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.grandhaventribune.com/article/297216*

Flint emergency financial manager warns of more budget cuts next year

"FLINT, MI -- While the city of Flint's budget is on track this year, emergency financial manager Ed Kurtz warned Wednesday, Jan. 23, that more cuts would likely be coming next year.

"

Source: *Flint Journal* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/01/flint_emergency_financial_mana_12.html#incart_river_default*

Multibillion-dollar economic impact of Michigan's 3 research universities expected to keep 'growing and growing'

"Michigan's three top public universities don't simply educate tens of thousands of students, they also spread billinos of dollars throughout the state's economy each year.

"

Source: *annarbor.com* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://annarbor.com/news/university-of-michigan-pictured-here/*

Fight over Lansing casino opens in federal court

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI – State and tribal lawyers were in federal court Wednesday to argue whether the Sault St Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has the authority to open an off-reservation casino in Lansing."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2013/01/fight_over_lansing_casino_open.html#incart_river_default*

Lawyer for woman strip-searched at Detroit Metro Airport: 'She didn't have to go through this degrading experience'

"DETROIT, MI – A lawyer for a woman who sued Frontier Airlines, Detroit Metro Airport Police and several federal agencies this week said Shoshan Hebshi was ordered off a Sept. 11, 2011 flight at gunpoint and strip-searched because of her ethnicity.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2013/01/lawyer_for_woman_strip-searche.html#incart_river_default*

Michigan program encourages overweight residents to lose 10 percent of their body weight

"LANSING, MI - Can Michigan shed its label as one of the nation's fattest states one workout and diet change at a time?"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/01/michigan_program_encourages_ov.html#incart_river_default*

Preliminary hearing delayed again in Lansing court for 8 metro Detroit right-to-work protesters

"

LANSING, MI -- For the second time, a court proceeding to determine whether eight Metro Detroit residents who protested against right-to-work legislation last month will stand trial on felony charges has been rescheduled.
"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2013/01/preliminary_hearing_delayed_ag.html#incart_river_default*

Tim Skubick: Relations between the executive, legislative branches aren't always warm

"Starting with President Barack Obama and working your way down, the art of screwing up legislative relationships is not limited to one party or the other."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/01/tim_skubick_relations_between.html#incart_river_default*

Rhetoric impedes abortion debate

"Young women, what do they want? They're con on pro-, against thinking of their intimate lives as political issues — and rightly so."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/OPINION03/301240368/1409/metro/Rhetoric-impedes-abortion-debate*

Michigan union rolls plummet

"Washington — The nation's unions lost 400,000 members in 2012 as the percentage of U.S. workers represented by a labor union fell to 11.3 percent, its lowest level since the Great Depression of the 1930s."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/BIZ/301240364/Michigan-union-rolls-plummet?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Kilpatrick cheated on taxes, jury told

"Detroit — Former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is a tax cheat who hid $732,000 in kickbacks and illicit money from the Internal Revenue Service, according to prosecutors and testimony Wednesday in the City Hall corruption trial."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/METRO/301240367/Kilpatrick-cheated-taxes-jury-told?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Pro-business policies spur recovery

"More than $1 billion in business investment to create nearly 4,600 jobs in Michigan, announced Wednesday, ain't nothin' — and it isn't an accident."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/OPINION03/301240336/Pro-business-policies-spur-recovery?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Save the prison cells for those who scare us

"Two unrelated conversations this week started me thinking about crime and punishment."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/OPINION03/301240325/Save-prison-cells-those-who-scare-us?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Analysis: Homicides creep into most of Detroit's neighborhoods

"Detroit — Most corners of the city were touched by murder in 2012 — and homicides crossed all ages, from two who had yet to celebrate their first birthday to an 84-year-old, according to a Detroit News analysis of data released from the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/METRO01/301240363/Analysis-Homicides-creep-into-most-Detroit-s-neighborhoods?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Detroit Public Schools face drastic cuts to balance budget

"Detroit — The financial slide inside the state's largest school district will continue through 2016, leaving Detroit Public Schools with 28 fewer schools, 1,688 lost positions and 13,000 fewer students, according to a deficit elimination plan obtained by The Detroit News."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130124/SCHOOLS/301240362/Detroit-Public-Schools-face-drastic-cuts-balance-budget?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Ruling in Lansing casino lawsuit could come within 30 days

"GRAND RAPIDS — A federal judge said today that a ruling is possible within 30 days on Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's lawsuit seeking to stop the Lansing casino project, the Lansing State Journal reported."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130123/NEWS06/130123090/1008/news06/Ruling-Lansing-casino-lawsuit-could-come-within-30-days*

U.S. Rep. Justin Amash joins 111 Democrats in voting against short-term debt limit extension

"WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Justin Amash is still charting his own path in Congress, becoming one of only 33 Republicans in the House to vote against a leadership proposal to put off any debate over raising the debt ceiling for several months."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130123/NEWS15/130123067/1008/news06/U-S-Rep-Justin-Amash-joins-111-Democrats-voting-against-short-term-debt-limit-extension*

Levin backs plan to lift the ban on women serving in combat zones

"WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said he backs a Pentagon plan to lift the ban on women serving in combat zones."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130123/NEWS15/130123087/U-S-Sen-Carl-Levin-Michigan-women-in-combat-zones-Leon-Panetta?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Michigan%20news|s*

U.S. union membership falls to 11.3%, lowest level since 1930s

"WASHINGTON – Union membership in the U.S. dropped half a percent in 2012 to levels not believed to have been seen since the 1930s, driven largely by a decline in the number of government employees who are union members."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130123/NEWS07/130123038/union-membership?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Michigan%20news*

Supporters of marijuana leniency net legal victories

"After years of legal setbacks in Michigan, supporters of more lenient laws for marijuana and medical marijuana had reasons to cheer this week."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS06/301240223/Supporters-of-marijuana-leniency-net-legal-victories?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Michigan%20news*

Schools could become hubs for many state social services

"LANSING -- Schools could become new hubs for state services including welfare, child protection, job assistance, and even those related to vehicle registrations and driver's licenses, government officials said Wednesday."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS15/301240110/Schools-could-become-hubs-for-many-state-social-services?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Michigan%20news

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Report: 3 in 5 Detroit kids live in poverty, but teen births drop

"Detroit has fewer children these days -- a result of families moving to the suburbs and a drop in birth rates. Those who are left are living in poverty in greater numbers -- about 3 in 5 of Detroit's children."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS06/301240219/Report-3-in-5-Detroit-kids-live-in-poverty-but-teen-births-drop?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Michigan%20news

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Jim Fouts: Local governments will lose millions, with cuts in services and higher local taxes

"Warren stands to lose $20 million from its general fund budget over the next several years now that the personal property tax is being phased out. That's about 20% of our budget, and it would cause layoffs and cuts in services."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/OPINION05/301240098/Jim-Fouts-Local-governments-will-lose-millions-with-cuts-in-services-and-higher-local-taxes?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Mike Johnston: Eliminating Michigan's personal property tax for businesses will pay dividends with jobs

"By eliminating the industrial personal property tax, the Michigan Legislature made our state a more attractive home to new manufacturing businesses and jobs. Thanks to the leadership of the Snyder administration, particularly Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and legislative leaders, Michigan is now in the game for new jobs and investment."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/OPINION05/301240096/Mike-Johnston-Eliminating-Michigan-s-personal-property-tax-for-businesses-will-pay-dividends-with-jobs?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Peter Hammer: Detroit needs a regional solution, not an emergency manager

"Gov. Rick Snyder has started a process that may well lead to the appointment of an emergency financial manager for the City of Detroit. This would be a serious mistake."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/OPINION05/301240100/Peter-Hammer-Detroit-needs-a-regional-solution-not-an-emergency-manager?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Editorial: Streamlined Blue Cross bills deserve support

"Last year, Gov. Rick Snyder announced a plan to reconfigure Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, a charitable nonprofit, as a mutual insurance company."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/OPINION01/301240104/Editorial-Streamlined-Blue-Cross-bills-deserve-support?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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Michigan paves way for 4,500 jobs, $1B investments

"The State of Michigan awarded more than a dozen development grants Wednesday -- including incentives to renovate the David Whitney Building in downtown Detroit -- that officials say will spur $1 billion in private investment and create about 4,500 jobs across the state."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/BUSINESS06/301240245/Michigan-paves-way-for-4-500-jobs-1B-investments?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Auditor: MEDC did poor job evaluating low-tax renaissance zones

"LANSING -- The Michigan Economic Development Corp. has done a poor job of tracking the economic impact of the state's low-tax renaissance zones, where businesses sometimes receive tax breaks "while providing little or no employment and economic impact to the state," Auditor General Thomas McTavish said in a report released Wednesday."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS15/301240094/Auditor-MEDC-did-poor-job-evaluating-low-tax-renaissance-zones?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Amtrak has record 2012 ridership in Michigan

"Amtrak has record 2012 ridership in MichiganPORT HURON, Mich. — The state Department of Transportation says a record number of people rode Amtrak trains in Michigan last year."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS05/130124011/amtrak-michigan-record-ridership?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Prosecution: Kilpatrick failed to report half million in income

"Wednesday was tax day for Kwame Kilpatrick, who sat in U.S. District Court as the government detailed allegations that the former Detroit mayor failed to report more than a half-million dollars in income to the Internal Revenue Service."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS0102/301240120/Prosecution-Kilpatrick-failed-to-report-half-million-in-income?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

State Senate committee OKs gun rights bill

"LANSING -- While the federal government grapples with gun control measures in the wake of a mass shooting in a Connecticut elementary school that left 20 children and six adults dead, a state Senate committee voted Wednesday to expand rights for gun owners in Michigan."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130124/NEWS15/301240126/State-Senate-committee-OKs-gun-rights-bill?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Press Releases

2013 Pure Michigan Hunt winners named

"

The dreams of three more Michigan hunters to participate in "the hunt of a lifetime" have come true.

"

Source: *Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977532_pmhunt.pdf*

Snyder: 14 companies to invest $1.1 billion, add 4,590 jobs in state

"

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the Michigan Strategic Fund's approval of state incentives to support 14 business expansions that are expected to generate more than $1.1 billion in investments and add 4,590 jobs in Michigan."

Source: *Executive Office, Governor Rick Snyder* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977488_jobs.pdf*

Statement by Congressman Dan Kildee on H.R. 325

"

Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-05) issued the following statement today on H.R. 325:"

Source: *U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977431_kildee.pdf*

Legislators urge Remington Arms to relocate; bring jobs to Michigan

"

***LANSING-Mich.**—Pro-gun-rights legislators have invited the Remington Arms Company to become a part of Michigan's reinvention. Sen. Mike Green and Rep. Joel Johnson issued a letter on Wednesday to the company urging them to consider Michigan for the relocation of its Ilion, New York manufacturing operations."*

Source: *Sen. Mike Green* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977394_remington.pdf*

Reps. Irwin, Stanley Seek to Make Voting Easier

"

*LANSING — State Representatives **Jeff Irwin** (D-Ann Arbor) and **Woodrow Stanley** (D-Flint) have reintroduced legislation that makes it easier for Michigan residents to vote. Despite no action being taken on the bills in the last legislative session, the lawmakers are determined to make it easier for Michiganders to participate in the democratic process."*

Source: *House Democratic Caucus* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977345_voting.pdf*

Nofs lauds jobs announcements

"

***LANSING, Mich.**— Sen. Mike Nofs praised Wednesday's announcement by the Michigan Strategic Fund of 14 business expansions that will result in the investment of more than $1.1 billion and the creation of 4,590 new jobs in Michigan."*

Source: *Sen. Mike Nofs* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977303_nofs.pdf

Michigan's 2012 hunting season safest in five years

"

The 2012 hunting season saw only one fatality in the 15 incidents reported to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, making it the safest season in the last five years. While there were three fewer incidents reported in 2011, there were five fatalities in that year."

Source: *Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977262_hunt.pdf

Secretary of State Johnson Must Allow Young Immigrants the Right to Drive

"

DETROIT – in a telephone news conference on Wednesday, Reverend Jack Eggleston joined two young immigrants to demand that Secretary of State Ruth Johnson comply with federal guidelines and grant young eligible immigrants the right to drive. Michigan immigrants eligible for work permits under immigration reforms still have no legal way to search for work or to get to work because of Johnson's illogical refusal to grant them driver's licenses. President Obama's executive action this summer allows certain younger undocumented immigrants work permits and temporary relief from prosecution under the Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. During the news conference, Attorney Susan Reed provided a legal perspective while Adonis Flores, an immigrant Wayne State University student and Jose Franco cofounder of One Michigan recounted the burden placed on them by Johnson's roadblock to their legal right to drive."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977219_sosprogmich.pdf

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Reps. Irwin, Stanley Seek to Make Voting Easier

"

*LANSING — State Representatives **Jeff Irwin** (D-Ann Arbor) and **Woodrow Stanley** (D-Flint) have reintroduced legislation that makes it easier for Michigan residents to vote. Despite no action being taken on*

the bills in the last legislative session, the lawmakers are determined to make it easier for Michiganders to participate in the democratic process."

Source: *House Democratic Caucus* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977179_carey.pdf

Schor Introduces Bills Aimed at Protecting Sensitive Areas from Guns

"

*LANSING – State Representative **Andy Schor** (D-Lansing) today introduced two bills to make Michigan's most sensitive areas safer for residents. "*

Source: *Rep. Andy Schor* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977142_schor.pdf

Valerie White of Hillsdale appointed to Attorney Grievance Commission

"LANSING, MI, January 23, 2013 – Attorney Valerie R. White of Hillsdale has been appointed to the Attorney Grievance Commission by the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court announced today."

Source: *Michigan Supreme Court* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358977101_white.pdf

Congressman Gary Peters' Statement on his Vote Against Debt Ceiling Bill

"

Washington, D.C. - Today U.S. Rep. Gary Peters voted against the GOP's three-month debt ceiling increase because all it does is kick the can down the road rather than addressing the actual problem of America's debt. Following the vote, Peters issued the following statement:"

Source: *U.S. Rep. Gary Peters* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969607_petersdc.pdf

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Mixed results for Michigan holiday shopping

"LANSING – Michigan retail sales fell off sharply in December, but most retailers still reported sales increases for the entire holiday shopping season, according to the Michigan Retail Index, a joint project of Michigan Retailers Association (MRA) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. "

Source: *Michigan Retailers Association* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969534_MRA.pdf*

Governor appoints Tricia Keith to Central Michigan University board of trustees

"

LANSING, Mich. - Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the appointment of Tricia Keith, of Royal Oak, to the Central Michigan University board of trustees."

Source: *Executive Office, Governor Rick Snyder* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969411_cmu.pdf*

Governor Rick Snyder Named MRPA Elected Official of the Year

"

***Lansing, Mich.** - The Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) has announced that Governor Rick Snyder will be the Association's "Elected Official of the Year." "*

Source: *Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA)* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969368_MRPA.pdf*

Pelosi, Conyers and Moore Reintroduce Violence Against Women Act Vow to Work for Swift Reauthorizati

"

Washington, D.C. – Today, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, House Judiciary Ranking Member John Conyers and Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-4) were joined by a number of their colleagues to reintroduce the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. The legislation strengthens the abilities of the federal government, states, law enforcement, and service providers to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Violence Against Women Act currently has 158 cosponsors in the House.

"

Source: *U.S. Rep. John Conyers* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969315_conyers.pdf*

Michigan Senate Democrats Criticize Passage of Gun Control Loophole

"

LANSING—Senator Vincent Gregory (D- Southfield) and Senator Steve Bieda (D-Warren) strongly rebuked the Senate Judiciary Committee's passage of legislation today that would claim to exempt Michigan-made guns from all federal laws in the state of Michigan. The legislation was essentially the first order of business for the Michigan Senate at the start of the new legislative session."

Source: *Michigan Senate Democrats* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969257_loophole.pdf*

Sen. Jones introduces education package

"

LANSING—*A package of legislation designed to restore the original intent of Proposal A was introduced in the Michigan Senate on Wednesday, said sponsor state Sen. Rick Jones."*

Source: *Sen. Rick Jones* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969180_jones.pdf*

Congressman Gary Peters pushes to pass the Violence Against Women Act

"

Washington, D.C. - Today Congressman Gary Peters helped introduce legislation to reinstate the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). In April 2012, the Senate passed a bipartisan extension of this important law by a vote of 68 to 31 (including 15 Republicans), however House Republicans put ideology before common-sense protections for women by refusing to even allow a vote on this bill. As a result, for the first time since 1994, the Violence Against Women Act expired at the end of 2012."

Source: *U.S. Rep. Gary Peters* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358969122_Peters.pdf*

Bizon: 'Governor Snyder's Focus on Combatting Obesity May Help Save Lives'

"

LANSING*—President of the Michigan State Medical Society John G. Bizon, M.D., today issued the following statement applauding the work of Governor Snyder and the Michigan Department of Community Health in combatting Michigan's obesity epidemic:"*

Source: *Michigan State Medical Society* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358958587_bizon.pdf*

Bach to lead MSHDA's media communication efforts

"LANSING – Veteran journalist and communications specialist Katie Bach has joined the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) as media affairs manager."

Source: *Michigan State Housing Development Authority* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358958539_MSHDA.pdf*

Faris to Hold Coffee Hours

"

CLIO — State Representative ***Pamela Faris*** *(D-Clio) invites residents to join her for her first coffee hour of the year to discuss their thoughts and ideas about improving state government."*

Source: *Rep. Pam Faris* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358958467_Faris.pdf*

Young Immigrants Demand Secretary Johnson Follow the Law

"

Immigrant students and immigration advocates will hold a telephone press conference to demand an end to Secretary of State Johnson's baseless denial of drivers' license to young immigrants with work permits. Johnson has refused to issue drivers licenses to students granted work permits under President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This, even in light of federal clarification that the Secretary said she needed regarding DACA eligible youth.

"

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *01-24-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1358950558_young.pdf*

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 8:53 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Democrats, GOP set to elect party leaders

"

The campaigns may have flown under the radar, but state Democrats and Republicans will soon select their internal party leadership for the next two years."

Source: *The Morning Sun (Mt. Pleasant)* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.themorningsun.com/article/20130218/OPINION03/130219716/democrats-gop-set-to-elect-party-leaders*

Pell Grant scammers cheating Michigan colleges out of millions

"DETROIT — Thousands of Michigan residents have collected Pell Grants without attending classes in the past year, costing Michigan's colleges millions of dollars that have to be paid back to the federal government."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130218/NEWS01/302180313/Pell-Grant-scammers-cheating-Michigan-colleges-out-millions?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling charting path out of emergency manager control in State of the City

"FLINT, MI -- Flint Mayor Dayne Walling is expected to use his State of the City speech today to propose a way to take Flint out from under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager.

"

Source: *Flint Journal* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/02/flint_mayor_dayne_walling_char.html#incart_river_default*

WATKINS: Is our system of higher education unstable?

"How stable is our system of higher education?"

Source: *Dearborn Press and Guide* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.pressandguide.com/articles/2013/02/18/opinion/doc511bef0f917b2307343725.txt*

Film industry reels at Gov. Snyder's budget proposal

"LANSING, Mich. — Michigan film producers and some lawmakers say they will lobby to maintain the state's $50 million film credits cap, which could be slashed 50 percent under Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's budget proposal.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/02/film_industry_reels_at_gov_sny.html#incart_river_default*

Tim Skubick: It'll be a pothole party if lawmakers can't solve road funding issue

"Everyone wants to fix the roads. Nobody wants to pay for it."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/02/tim_skubick_road_funding_michi.html#incart_river_default*

Amash catches flak for 'nay' vote on North Korea nuke resolution; Huizenga calls country 'tyrannical'

"GRAND RAPIDS, MI — Republican U.S. Rep. Justin Amash took some heat late last week for his vote against a House resolution condemning a North Korean nuclear test."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2013/02/amash_catches_flak_for_nay_vot.html#incart_m-rpt-2*

Editorial: Let local schools settle mascot disputes

"The Michigan Department of Civil Rights is petitioning the federal government to prevent state schools from using Native American names and images as their mascots. These decisions should be made at the local level."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130218/OPINION01/302180318/Editorial-Let-local-schools-settle-mascot-disputes?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Governor to get city's financial review report Tuesday

"Detroit — A six-member state review team that's combing through the city's precarious finances is expected to release its report to Gov. Rick Snyder by Tuesday."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130217/METRO/302170338/Governor-get-city-s-financial-review-report-Tuesday?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Teacher unions race to ratify contracts

"Less than six weeks before Michigan's controversial right-to-work law takes effect, teachers unions across the state are clamoring to get new contracts approved, in what some observers say is an effort to get around the measure and keep dues flowing into union coffers."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130218/SCHOOLS/302180333/Teacher-unions-race-ratify-contracts?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

New businesses pump life back into downtown Pontiac

"Pontiac — There's new life inside "the Loop.""

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130218/BIZ/302180332/New-businesses-pump-life-back-into-downtown-Pontiac?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

More than $4B in unrestricted funds held by Michigan universities is for projects, not tuition cuts

"It might look like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow to parents and students weary of years of tuition hikes: $4.1 billion in unrestricted net assets sitting on the books of Michigan's public universities

"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130218/NEWS06/302180110/-4-1-billion-on-colleges-books-to-be-used-for-projects-not-tuition-cuts?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Michigan to issue driver's licenses to immigrants

"Illegal immigrants brought to the country as children can start applying for Michigan driver's licenses and state IDs this week."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130218/NEWS06/130218007/Michigan-to-issue-driver-s-licenses-to-immigrants?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Downtown Detroit has more wealth, diversity than city as whole, report says

"The makeup of downtown Detroit is more diverse, educated and wealthy than the rest of the city, according to a new report expected to be released this week."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130218/BUSINESS06/302180059/Greater-downtown-Detroit-has-more-wealth-racial-diversity-than-city-as-a-whole-report-finds?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

State rep to introduce bill to allow medical pot distribution

"Operators of Michigan's medical marijuana distribution facilities are hiding behind steel doors with peepholes and growing warier than ever of strangers after a state Supreme Court ruling this month turned them into outlaws."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-18-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130218/NEWS06/302180063/State-rep-to-introduce-bill-to-allow-medical-pot-distribution?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 7:55 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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Another View: Low water needs fix

"Low water needs fix These are the explanations most commonly heard pertaining to the historic-low water levels in the Lakes Michigan-Huron system."

Source: *Traverse City Record Eagle* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://record-eagle.com/opinion/x1525015550/Another-View-Low-water-needs-fix*

Right-to-work, education discussed during Michigan House Democrats' Listening Tour

"The House Democrats' Listening Tour arrived in Sterling Heights on Monday evening and they found residents had plenty of things to say about taxes, the right-to-work bill, politics and education."

Source: *Oakland Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2013/02/19/news/politics/doc51232a24aa74e375195826.txt*

Michigan prison costs high despite fewer inmates, staff

"LANSING — Despite significant drops in the number of inmates and prison staff, it still costs $2 billion to run the Michigan Department of Corrections — the single biggest drain on the state's general fund."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130219/NEWS01/302190304/Michigan-prison-costs-high-despite-fewer-inmates-staff?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Controversy over teachers' union email continues in Lansing

"A controversy about whether teachers use public email to discuss union business — and whether teacher emails should be made public — continues in Lansing."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130219/NEWS01/302190325/Controversy-over-teachers-union-email-continues-Lansing?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage*

Walberg votes in favor of measure to stop pay raises for Congress

"WASHINGTON — For the second time this week Rep. Tim Walberg is speaking out against measures proposed by President Obama that would potentially add to the federal deficit."

Source: *Hillsdale Daily News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.hillsdale.net/article/20130218/NEWS/130219510*

Casperson wants trust fund money used for harbors

"MARQUETTE - State Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, said he will propose a state Constitutional change that would allow the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board to grant money for harbor dredging and other improvements, including infrastructure upgrades at state parks."

Source: *Escanaba Daily Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.dailypress.net/page/content.detail/id/540798/Casperson-wants-trust-fund-money-used-for-harbors.html?nav=5003*

Tim Skubick: Mixed martial arts events could go the way of Toughman contests

"Wow. Since the governor is so much into cultivating growth industries, wonder if he has an advisor assigned to MMA."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/02/tim_skubick_mixed_martial_arts.html#incart_river_default*

State defends against cyber attacks with ongoing training

*"**LANSING** — On average, the state of Michigan fends off a cyber attack every two seconds."*

Source: *Battle Creek Enquirer* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20130218/NEWS01/302180036/State-defends-against-cyber-attacks-ongoing-training*

Detroit emergency manager should be a local, state representative says

"DETROIT, MI -- State Rep. Thomas Stallworth (D-Detroit) is asking Gov. Rick Snyder to choose a local if he decides to appoint an emergency manager in Detroit.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2013/02/detroit_emergency_manager_shou.html#incart_river_default

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State of the City: Mayor wants Flint to be statewide model for transition out of emergency manager control

"FLINT, MI -- Mayor Dayne Walling said it's time for Flint to shift away from an emergency manager's control, and called on the governor to make Flint the first Michigan city to have a transition team appointed under the new emergency manager law.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/02/state_of_the_city_mayor_wants.html#incart_river_default

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Michigan teacher unions race to ratify contracts ahead of right to work

"Less than six weeks before Michigan's controversial right-to-work law takes effect, teachers unions across the state are clamoring to get new contracts approved, in what some observers say is an effort to get around the measure and keep dues flowing into union coffers."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130218/SCHOOLS/302180333/Michigan-teacher-unions-race-ratify-contracts-ahead-right-work?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Decision expected Wednesday in DPS, EFM dispute

"Detroit — Who will have authority in Detroit Public Schools during the last five weeks of Michigan's old emergency financial manager law will be decided Wednesday."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/SCHOOLS/302190342/Decision-expected-Wednesday-DPS-EFM-dispute?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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Domestic partners await ruling in benefits ban suit

"Detroit — People who lost domestic partner benefits under a 2011 Michigan law say they're feeling the pinch as they wait months for a judge to decide whether the ban affecting public school *and local government employees is unconstitutional."*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/POLITICS02/302190348/Domestic-partners-await-ruling-benefits-ban-suit?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Kilpatrick jury to start deliberating

"Detroit — A quick verdict isn't expected in the City Hall corruption trial of former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, his father, Bernard, and contractor Bobby Ferguson.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/METRO/302190350/Kilpatrick-jury-start-deliberating?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Immigrants can apply for licenses, IDs today

"Undocumented immigrants in Michigan who have temporary legal permission to be in the country can start applying for driver's licenses and identification cards today, six months after Secretary of State Ruth Johnson initially denied them the privilege."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/METRO/302190343/Immigrants-can-apply-licenses-IDs-today?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Flint mayor wants transition out of state control

"Flint — Flint's mayor says he wants the city to be a statewide model for making the transition out of an emergency financial manager's control."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/METRO/302190370/1361/Flint-mayor-wants-transition-out-of-state-control*

WSU faculty union nears contract to beat back right to work

"Detroit — Wayne State University's faculty union could reach a contract that would block a right-to-work option as soon as this week, union officials said Monday."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/SCHOOLS/302190344/WSU-faculty-union-nears-contract-beat-back-right-work?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Howes: Detroit's efforts too little, too late

"Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to receive yet another financial *review of Detroit's books today, and it's likely to show what anyone paying attention should know well by now:"*

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/OPINION03/302190324/*

Experts foresee financial takeover of Detroit

"Detroit — Michigan's largest city is on a collision course to get an emergency financial manager, experts said Monday as Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to receive a report today from the review team evaluating Detroit's finances."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/METRO01/302190360/*

Detroit emergency manager may be hard to find

"Detroit — Several named candidates for Detroit emergency manager have publicly said they do not want the job as Gov. Rick Snyder today is scheduled to receive a review of the state's finances."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130219/METRO01/302190338/Detroit-emergency-manager-may-hard-find?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Stephen Henderson: How does Detroit build wealth, diversity beyond downtown?

"If you were going to pick two words to reflect how we'd all like to describe Detroit someday, "wealth" and "diversity" would certainly be sweet contenders."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130218/COL33/302190004/Stephen-Henderson-How-does-Detroit-build-wealth-diversity-beyond-downtown-?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Karen Dumas: The good and the bad news about an emergency manager for Detroit

"The next two weeks for Detroit will be more important than the past few decades. After years of piling more problems on top of existing ones, Detroit will learn its fate at the hands of a Governor who has been forced to play mediator between a mayor and council who until recently have refused to work together."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130218/OPINION05/130218037/Karen-Dumas-The-good-and-the-bad-news-about-an-emergency-manager-for-Detroit?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Kilpatrick evidence now in the hands of jury as deliberations begin

"Twelve jurors deciding the fate of former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and two others go to work this morning. Deliberations are set to begin at 9 a.m."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130219/NEWS0102/130219001/Kwame-Kilpatrick-public-corruption-jury-deliberations?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Pump price nears $4 in Michigan, making Snyder's tax plan a tougher sell

"Average gasoline prices in Michigan were pushing rapidly toward $4 per gallon Monday, a psychological benchmark that irked motorists and likely made passage of a gas tax proposal from Gov. Rick Snyder even more difficult."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130219/BUSINESS06/302190073/Pump-price-nears-4-in-Michigan-making-Snyder-s-tax-plan-a-tougher-sell?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Detroit police gang squad, tactical mobile units' futures undecided

"The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has yet to decide whether it will approve the elimination of the Detroit Police Department's gang squad and tactical mobile units, as announced by Mayor Dave Bing last month."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130219/NEWS01/302190039/Detroit-police-gang-squad-tactical-mobile-units-futures-undecided*

Editorial: It's time for Gov. Snyder to appoint an emergency manager for Detroit

"A report by the team reviewing Detroit's finances is expected to land in Gov. Rick Snyder's hands today."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130219/OPINION01/302190017/Editorial-s-time-Gov-Snyder-appoint-an-emergency-manager-Detroit

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Financial review due, council fears Detroiters' voice will be lost under EM

"With the state set to release findings today from an emergency review of Detroit's finances, some City Council members said Monday that they recognize the city's troubles but worry deeper state intervention would shut out the voices of residents weary from diminished public services and a seemingly endless fiscal mess."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-19-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130219/NEWS01/302190077/With-results-of-state-s-financial-review-due-out-today-council-fears-Detroiters-voice-will-be-lost-under-an-EM?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

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Michigan News & Opinion For February 19, 2013

News

Detroit emergency manager may be hard to find (Detroit News, 2/19/2013)

Financial review due, council fears Detroiters' voice will be lost under EM (Detroit Free Press, 2/19/2013)

Legislators and filmmakers to lobby to keep Michigan's movie credit at $50 million (Associated Press, 2/19/2013)

State of the City: Mayor wants Flint to be statewide model for transition out of emergency manager control (MLive, 2/19/2013)

New bill revives debate over 4-year nursing degrees (Lansing State Journal, 2/19/2013)

Controversy over teachers' union email continues in Lansing (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 2/19/2013)

Medical marijuana distribution bill would let communities decide (Detroit Free Press, 2/19/2013)

'DREAMers' to drive: Immigrants with deportation deferral can apply for Michigan licenses this week (MLive, 2/19/2013)

State of Michigan blocks 187,000 cyber attacks every day (Lansing State Journal, 2/19/2013)

Detroit emergency manager should be a local, state representative says (MLive, 2/19/2013)

Rep. Huizenga to snowmobile, hold meetings (Associated Press, 2/19/2013)

Domestic partners await ruling in benefits ban suit (Associated Press, 2/19/2013)

WSU faculty union nears contract to beat back right to work (Detroit News, 2/19/2013)

Mortgage aid program stings homeowners (Detroit News, 2/19/2013)

State legislators will hear from metro Detroiters at event in Sterling Heights (Detroit Free Press, 2/19/2013)

Kilpatrick evidence now in the hands of jury as deliberations begin (Detroit Free Press, 2/19/2013)

Editorials

Editorial: Grading universities will improve performance (Detroit News, 2/19/2013)

Editorial: It's time for Gov. Snyder to appoint an emergency manager for Detroit (Detroit Free Press, 2/19/2013)

Guest column: How sustainable is higher education in Michigan? (MLive, 2/19/2013)

GUEST OPINION: Use common sense when considering armed personnel in schools (Oakland Press, 2/19/2013)

Sizing up two ballot drives for '14 Michigan election (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 2/19/2013)

Editorial: New revenue for roads is mandatory (Lansing State Journal, 2/18/2013)

Lawmakers using creative means to maintain harbors (Marquette Mining Journal , 2/18/2013)

Guest column: New Secretary of State initiatives aimed at connecting veterans with benefits they deserve (MLive, 2/19/2013)

Payne: Obama's non-union, right-to-work manufacturing model (Detroit News, 2/19/2013)

Editorial: Communities should avoid breed-specific dog bans (Detroit News, 2/19/2013)

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Environmentalists blast GOP on forestry bill

"A bill that would remove biodiversity and restoration from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' forest-management goals passed the state Senate on Tuesday on a 26-11 party-line vote, with Senate Republicans in favor."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20130306/NEWS01/303060305/Environmentalists-blast-GOP-forestry-bill*

Flint City Council discusses proposal to ask governor for move away from emergency manager

"FLINT, MI – Mayor Dayne Walling said the discussion he had Tuesday with the Flint City Council finance committee is just the beginning of a process to get Flint out from under an emergency financial manager."

Source: *Flint Journal* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/03/flint_city_council_discusses_g.html#incart_river_default*

Tim Skubick: How Lon Johnson, Michigan Democrats' new leader, got hooked on politics

"Suffice it to say no kid wants to grow up to be the state Democratic Party chair, except maybe Mark Brewer - and you see where that got him."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/03/tim_skubick_lon_johnson_michig.html#incart_river_default*

SHIRKEY: Medicaid changes should be modeled as 'compassionate care'

"States are struggling with a decision regarding whether or not to expand Medicaid eligibility. Though the Supreme Court ruling made it clear the federal government could not penalize states if they chose not to

balloon their budgets with expansion, it did nothing to reveal what has become an "art form" of our current executive branch of government: straw man choices."

Source: *Dearborn Press and Guide* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.pressandguide.com/articles/2013/03/05/opinion/doc512e646a69a05863264842.txt*

Bay County commission chairman serves as director on environmental group seeking Great Lakes water level solutions

*"**BAY CITY, MI** — A Bay County commissioner has a Board of Directors seat aboard a new international environmental group aiming to prevent the Great Lakes water levels from sinking lower."*

Source: *Bay City Times* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2013/03/bay_county_commission_chairman_1.html#incart_river*

How did your city's economy do in 2011?

"The Holland-Grand Haven area had the best 2011 when it came to economic growth in 2011 – at least as it compared to 2010."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2013/03/how-did-your-city%E2%80%99s-economy-do-in-2011/*

Mapping Michigan's Growth

"While Michigan has 83 counties and hundreds upon hundreds of communities, when it comes to economics, the only number that really matters is 14."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2013/03/mapping-michigan%E2%80%99s-growth-in-2011/*

Opposing Groups Rally At State's 'Good Energy Decisions' Panel

"UNIVERSITY CENTER — Huron County, located in Michigan's thumb, has become ground zero in the debate over the state's renewable energy mandates."

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/18372*

Despite Rhetoric, United States Outsourced Less Than 3,000 Jobs In 2012

"The outsourcing of U.S. jobs to other countries has been a political hot button during presidential debates and Michigan gubernatorial elections."

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/18373*

Education Achievement Authority: New version of legislation introduced in Michigan House

"LANSING, MI - Michigan Republicans are seeking to revive a proposal that would put the state's Education Achievement Authority into state law, leading to an expansion of the system that now includes 15 Detroit public schools."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2013/03/education_achievement_authorit.html#incart_river_default

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Michigan blight bills could mean more fines, jail time for deadbeat landowners

"LANSING, MI -- Land speculators and irresponsible owners could face new fines or possible jail time under proposed legislation designed to fight blight in Michigan cities."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/03/michigan_blight_bills_could_me.html#incart_river_default

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U-M professor: Provisional residency in U.S. can solve illegal immigration problem

"As support builds for some kind of immigration reform, the focus has been on "legalization" proposals for the 11 million undocumented. Yet legalization, though important, is only a temporary fix. If the rules we use to admit immigrants do not change, immigrants will continue to come to the U.S illegally despite all of the border security and workplace enforcement we can create. The problem at the heart of immigration reform is simple: People we want to come to the U.S legally, can't."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/OPINION01/303060321/U-M-professor-Provisional-residency-U-S-can-solve-illegal-immigration-problem?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Editorial: Charting a stable fiscal future

"Like most such doomsday scenarios, the federal budget sequestration deadline came and went without dire consequences. So far. Rather than wait for the next crisis in this wearying serial, the president and Congress should end the gamesmanship and commit to lead the country to a more stable fiscal future."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/OPINION01/303060316/Editorial-Charting-stable-fiscal-future?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Briefs: Judge approves injunction against Lansing casino

"A federal judge Tuesday put the brakes on plans for an American Indian casino in Lansing."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/BIZ/303060325/Briefs-Judge-approves-injunction-against-Lansing-casino?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Metro Detroit home prices up by 8.2% in January

"Washington — U.S. home prices jumped in January, a sign the housing market is gaining momentum as it nears the spring selling season."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/BIZ/303060330/Metro-Detroit-home-prices-up-by-8-2-January?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Snyder to sign change to Blues

"Lansing — Legislation allowing Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan to convert to a nonprofit mutual insurance company is on its way to the governor, following Senate approval Tuesday of the measure in its final form."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/BIZ/303060326/Snyder-sign-change-Blues?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Michigan Senate unlikely to meet sales tax proposal deadline

"Lansing — Rising conservative opposition to raising taxes to pay for road repairs means Senate Republicans are unlikely to meet a Thursday deadline for placing a sales tax proposal on the May 7 statewide ballot."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/POLITICS02/303060351/Michigan-Senate-unlikely-meet-sales-tax-proposal-deadline?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Wayne County Executive Ficano suggests raising Michigan sales tax

"Detroit - Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano on Tuesday continued to push for changes to the way municipalities are financed, including a possible increase in the state sales tax, one day after introducing the idea at his state of the county address."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/METRO01/303060356/Wayne-County-Executive-Ficano-suggests-raising-Michigan-sales-tax?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s

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Detroit City Council weighs appeal on emergency manager

"Detroit — Seeking to present a united front against an emergency manager, Detroit City Council members are calling on Mayor Dave Bing to speak up as they weigh a potential appeal."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/METRO01/303060347/Detroit-City-Council-weighs-appeal-emergency-manager?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p

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Michigan thwarts online attacks on records

"Lansing — The Snyder administration has fended off a 19 percent rise in online attacks on millions of state records in the past two years — a sign that cybersecurity is a growing duty for government."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130306/METRO/303060362/Michigan-thwarts-online-attacks-records?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Michigan Democrats re-launch plan to give education grants to high school graduates

"LANSING — Michigan Democrats are re-launching efforts aimed at providing grants to Michigan students to cover higher education costs."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20130305/NEWS06/130305113/Michigan-Democrats-Michigan-2020-plan?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Michigan%20news

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Editorial: Michigan Senate Republicans protect big timber's interests

"Michigan Republicans interested in shoring up their party's long-term future invariably mention the need to mute the creationist, global-warming-denying minority that has given national *GOP its anti-science*

reputation. This is what Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal was talking about a few weeks ago when he warned delegates to his party's winter meeting that Republicans "have got to stop being the stupid party.""

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130306/OPINION01/303060007/Editorial-Michigan-Senate-Republicans-protect-big-timber-s-interests?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p*

Michigan legislators to grill WSU officials over 8-year contract with faculty

"Wayne State University officials will be on the hot seat next week in Lansing, as state lawmakers plan to grill them over an eight-year contract agreement reached last week between the university and the faculty union."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130306/NEWS02/303060043/State-legislators-to-grill-WSU-officials-over-8-year-contract-with-faculty?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s*

Detroit City Council: Where's Mayor Dave Bing in the EFM fight?

"With a deadline looming to appeal their case to Gov. Rick Snyder, Detroit's elected officials remain scattered on how to fight the appointment of an emergency financial manager, and experts question whether they even stand a chance."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130306/NEWS01/303060037/Detroit-City-Council-Where-s-Mayor-Dave-Bing-in-the-EFM-fight-?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Courts across Michigan look to go electronic, paper-free

"Paying traffic tickets online."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20130306/NEWS05/303060041/Courts-across-state-look-to-go-electronic-paper-free?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Press Releases

Michigan Food Companies Explore Export Opportunities in Brazil

"

São Paulo, Brazil - The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's (MDARD) International Marketing Program Manager Jamie Zmitko-Somers, along with several food and agriculture Michigan food

and agriculture companies met, today with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials and Brazilian companies to discuss export opportunities in Brazil."

Source: *Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362521072_ag.pdf*

Senator Hopgood's "Children's Protection Act" Moves to Senate Floor

"

LANSING — Senator Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D – Taylor) today commended the Senate Judiciary Committee on its passage of the "Children's Protection Act," which was reintroduced by Sen. Hopgood in late January. Senate Bill 131 would place restrictions on parental rights of sex offenders, allowing judges to grant custody only if there is clear and convincing evidence demonstrating that doing so presents no substantial risk to that child, and that there is a preponderance of evidence demonstrating that denying custody or parenting time creates a substantial risk of harm to the child. The legislation now moves to the Senate floor."

Source: *Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362520989_hopgood.pdf*

Senate Democrats Announce Return of $10,000 Scholarship Competition

"

LANSING—Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer and members of the Senate Democratic Caucus announced the return of their successful #mi2020 Scholarship Competition today that will award up to $10,000 to one Michigan high school senior graduating this spring. To enter, students are asked to submit a short web video at www.michigan2020.com/competition that explains why Michigan needs to enact the Senate Democrats' Michigan 2020 Plan to offer free college tuition to all students."

Source: *Michigan Senate Democrats* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362518033_20.pdf*

Women's History Month Celebration and Raffle at the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

"

Lansing, MI –The Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame (MWHOF) is hosting a reception to celebrate Women's History Month on Thursday, March 14, 5-7 p.m. The program includes the opening of new exhibits, refreshments, and free admission. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the MWHOF and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Greater Lansing Area Chapter."

Source: *Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517974_michhistory.pdf*

Senate undermines science with bad anti-biodiversity legislation

"

Shortsighted legislation redefining "conservation" and restricting the ability of state land managers to consider the diversity of Michigan's flora and fauna when managing state lands and forests has passed the Michigan State Senate by a 26-11 party line vote this morning."

Source: *Michigan Environmental Council* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517913_MEC.pdf

Senate Democrats Reintroduce Michigan 2020 Plan to Invest in Michigan's Education, Economy

"

LANSING – Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer along with members of the Senate Democratic Caucus reintroduced the Michigan 2020 Plan today and said that passing it would be their highest legislative priority in 2013. Under the plan, originally introduced last year, Michigan high school graduates would be eligible to have tuition and associated costs paid for in their entirety at one of Michigan's community colleges or public universities. Since its initial introduction, the Michigan 2020 Plan has received widespread support from a variety of stakeholders, including business leaders, economic experts, educators, parents and students. After receiving a Senate hearing on the legislation last year, people from around the state are eager to see the bill passed this year. "

Source: *Michigan Senate Democrats* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517454_sendems.pdf

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Reps. Cochran, Abed Introduce Buy Michigan Bills

"

*LANSING – State Representatives **Tom Cochran** (D-Mason) and **Theresa Abed** (D-Grand Ledge) today introduced legislation that would require state departments and local governments to give preference to Michigan-based businesses that can provide the goods and services they need over foreign companies. "*

Source: *House Democratic Caucus* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517410_housedems.pdf

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Small Business Weighs In on Proposals to Modify Ballot Initiatives

"

Lansing (March 5, 2013) *– The* ***National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)*** *today told the House Elections and Ethics Committee that an overwhelming percentage of its members, all small business owners, support efforts to clamp down on Michigan's signature gathering process for ballot initiatives but not changes to the state Constitution. The Committee was holding a hearing on House Bill 4056 that would place restrictions on petition gathering for ballot proposals.*
"

Source: *National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517368_NFIB.pdf*

Michigan Sheriff's Association issues statewide pothole safety message

"

Lansing, Mich. *— The Michigan Sheriffs' Association launched a statewide public education campaign this week to warn Michigan drivers of the safety hazards of potholes. The campaign, issued as part of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters public education partnership program, will air on more than 300 radio and broadcast television stations statewide. The television message can be viewed here."*

Source: *Michigan Transportation Team* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517324_MTT.pdf*

Conyers Announces $148k Breast Cancer Treatment Grant to Wayne State

"

(WASHINGTON) – Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded Wayne State University more than $148,000 in exploratory/developmental grant funding for cancer treatment research. Breast cancer is the leading cancer-related cause of death for women. This funding was awarded through the National Cancer Institute, an organization within the National Institute of Health under HHS, and went towards a 4D Microfluidic Platform for Targeting Breast Cancer and Lymphatic Interactions. Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) issued this statement following the announcement:"

Source: *U.S. Rep. John Conyers* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362517252_conyers.pdf*

Weight restrictions imposed on some state highways in the Lower Peninsula

"

March 5, 2013 -- *Beginning 8 a.m., Monday, March 11, weight restrictions will be imposed on state trunkline highways in the lower peninsula. The weight restrictions will apply to state routes with M, I or US designations south of and including US-10 in Ludington east to M-47, south to M-46, and east to Port Sanilac."*

Source: *Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362514148_MDOT.pdf*

Robert J. Danhof, former Michigan Court of Appeals chief judge, delegate to 1961-62 state Constituti

"LANSING, MI, March 5, 2013 – Robert J. Danhof, the long-time chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals and a delegate to the 1961-62 Michigan Constitutional Convention, will be remembered for his intelligence, leadership, and dedication to public service, said Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. and Court of Appeals Chief Judge William B. Murphy. "

Source: *Michigan Supreme Court* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362514076_court.pdf*

Senate Vote Guts the Endangered Species Act

"LANSING --- Today, State Senators passed the Biodiversity Act (SB 0078) , limiting the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) ability to protect Michigan's natural resources and wildlife, and drastically redefining conservation efforts in Michigan. Sen. Tom Casperson (R - Escanaba) introduced the bill, and it passed with a 26-11 vote along party lines."

Source: *Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV)* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362513695_MLCV.pdf*

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Announces Specialty Crop Grant Opportunity

"

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced new opportunities for Michigan businesses through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Ag Marketing Service. The program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan's specialty crops. Grant proposals must be submitted to MDA-grants@Michigan.gov no later than 3 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2013."

Source: *Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362513630_ag.pdf*

Snyder: Michigan ranks No. 4 for major new corporate facilities and expansions

"

LANSING, Mich. – Site Selection magazine has named Michigan the No. 4 state for major new corporate facilities and expansions in 2012, Gov. Rick Snyder announced today."

Source: *Executive Office, Governor Rick Snyder* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362513580_snyder.pdf*

Detroit youth aim to break 'School to Prison Pipeline'

"

DETROIT MARCH 5, 2013 - YOUTH VOICE is marching to break the School to Prison Pipeline, the systemic lack of options for urban youth that funnels students directly from the school system to the juvenile and criminal justice system. On March 23 at 1pm, youth and their allies will be marching from Cass Park, 2727 Second Ave, to the Wayne County Jail and Second Baptist Church. "

Source: *YOUTH VOICE of Detroit* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362513214_youth.pdf*

Michigan Senate Criticized for Passing Anti-Science, Anti-Conservation Bill

"LANSING – Sierra Club condemned the MI Senate passage today of Senate Bill 78, which proposes to block the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) from designating and managing Michigan lands using scientific principles of biodiversity. SB 78, sponsored by Senator Tom Casperson (R - Escanaba), attempts to remove biodiversity as a management option for the MDNR. The bill has been roundly criticized by Michigan's top scientists as "ridiculous," a threat to forest health, and a reversal of almost 100 years of conservation stewardship of Michigan's public lands."*

Source: *Sierra Club Michigan* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362513139_sierra.pdf*

Office of Regulatory Reinvention Issues Recommendations for Modernizing Michigan's Inspections & Per

"March 5, 2013 – Today, the Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) publicly released its report to Governor Rick Snyder containing 27 recommendations for improving Michigan's inspections and permitting processes while continuing to protect Michigan's citizens. Gov. Snyder has reviewed the ORR recommendations and believes the ORR report is an important step in the process of reinventing Michigan government."

Source: *Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362497755_LARA.pdf*

Senate Democrats to Announce Reintroduction of Michigan 2020 Plan and $10,000 #mi2020 Scholarship Co

"

LANSING—Today Senate Democratic Leader Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) along with members of the Senate Democratic Caucus will be announcing the reintroduction of the Michigan 2020 Plan to pay for college tuition for all of Michigan's students. In addition to talking about the reintroduction of the plan, Senate Democrats will also be discussing the renewal of the $10,000 #mi2020 Scholarship Competition to provide one year's free college tuition for one 2013 Michigan high school graduate. Since the initial introduction of the Michigan 2020 Plan last year, Senate Democrats have received tremendous feedback from business leaders, economic experts, educators, parents and students about the Michigan 2020 Plan. After receiving a hearing on the legislation last year, people from around the state agree that the bill is poised to pass this year. "

Source: *Senate Democrats* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362497700_sendems.pdf

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Sen. Emmons to host Polaris Project for human trafficking forum

"

Human Trafficking 101 Forum to raise awareness about human trafficking in Michigan and discuss state, national and international efforts to crack down on the crime."

Source: *Sen. Judy Emmons* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362497420_emmons.pdf

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CONSUMERS ENERGY LAUNCHES "RECYCLE & WIN!"

"JACKSON, Mich., March 5, 2013 – Consumers Energy customers have an opportunity to win a $250 prepaid debit card by recycling an outdated refrigerator or freezer between now and the end of May."

Source: *Consumers Energy* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362497353_ce.pdf

Royal Oak Passes Ordinance Protecting LGBT People from Discrimination

"DETROIT – Last night, the Royal Oak City Commission passed an ordinance providing legal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and HIV positive people in regards to housing and employment discrimination with a vote of 6-1 in favor of passage. The victory makes Royal Oak the 22nd city in Michigan to pass such protections in absence of the State of Michigan providing discrimination protections for these frequently targeted communities."

Source: *Equality Michigan* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362496767_eqmich.pdf

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MHC Announces New Executive Director

"LANSING— The Michigan Humanities Council Board of Directors and staff are pleased to announce its new Executive Director. Erik Nordberg, a former MHC board member, will begin serving as the Executive Director on May 1."

Source: *Michigan Humanities Council* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362496714_MHC.pdf

For Immediate Release RetakeOurGov Urges Senate to Reject Obama Care Exchange Funding

"Hartland, Michigan - RetakeOurGov calls on the Senate Appropriations Committee to reject the Governor Snyder's request for $31 million to fund the implementation of Obama Care Health Insurance Exchanges in Michigan."

Source: *RetakeOurGov* **Date:** *03-06-2013* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1362496667_retake.pdf

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Friday, November 01, 2013 6:51 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

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AG calls for halt to drug license

"State Attorney General Bill Schuette is calling for the suspension of a South Lyon compounding pharmacy's license following discovery of fungi in one of its products at a Detroit hospital."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20131101/NEWS01/310310016/AG-calls-halt-drug-license*

Flint Emergency Manager Darnell Earley says 'everything on the table' to cut $650 million in legacy costs

"FLINT, MI – Flint Emergency Manager Darnell Earley says everything is on the table in hopes of preventing the city from getting a third strike of financial mismanagement."

Source: *Flint Journal* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2013/10/flint_emergency_manager_darnel.html#incart_river_default*

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee visits Auburn Bean and Grain storage facility near Standish – / 6

*"**LINCOLN TOWNSHIP, MI** — Calling his visit an opportunity to learn more about agribusinesses in his district, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township, visited the Auburn Bean and Grain Facility in Lincoln Township near Standish on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 31."*

Source: *Bay City Times* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2013/10/us_rep_dan_kildee_visits_grain.html#incart_river_default*

New DEQ rules won't change cleanup standard for dioxane plume in Ann Arbor

"A cancerous dioxane plume spreading through Ann Arbor will continue being cleaned up to the same standard that's been in place for years."

Source: *Ann Arbor News* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2013/11/pall-gelman_plume_new_state_ru.html#incart_river_default*

Ann Arbor and Lansing lawmakers make friendly wager on MSU-UM game

"State Rep. Adam Zemke's district might include Ann Arbor, but as an alumnus of Michigan State University, he bleeds green and white."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2013/10/ann_arbor_lawmaker_makes_frien.html#incart_river_default*

Michigan charities fight to save poker rooms from new regulations

"LANSING — A lively crowd of nonprofit organization members and charity poker advocates gathered at the state Capitol to express their opposition to proposed charitable gaming rule changes."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2013/11/michigan_charities_fight_to_sa.html#incart_river_default*

Chief Ingham judge 'caught by surprise' by attempt to remove state Court of Claims

*"**LANSING** — The chief judge of Ingham County Circuit Court said she's surprised and concerned by the speed with which bills to remove the State Court of Claims from her court are moving through the Legislature."*

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20131101/NEWS06/310300108/court-of-claims-lawsuit-ingham-county-appeals*

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2 Macomb communities threaten police, fire layoffs without tax hikes

"Officials in two of Macomb County's largest communities are threatening public safety cuts, including layoffs and fire station closures, if voters don't approve property tax hikes for police and fire operations."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20131101/NEWS04/311010016/Sterling-Heights-Macomb-County*

Clinton becomes treasurer, looks to improve service

*"**LANSING** — Taking charge of Michigan's taxing agency today with a pledge to improve customer service, Kevin Clinton is a little bit like a dentist who tries to put the comfiest chair beneath his drill."*

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20131101/NEWS06/311010014/Clinton-becomes-treasurer-looks-improve-service

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License-plate scanners on cop cars: Crime-fighting tool or invasion of privacy?

"The four small cameras blend in with the overhead lights on top of Macomb County Sheriff's Deputy Derek Elsey's patrol car."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20131101/NEWS05/311010022/License-plate-readers-privacy-police

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State proposes crackdown on charity poker as games explode into 'a racket'

*"**LANSING** — Players hoping to pony up to a poker table might be looking at a bust if proposed rules that would limit the venues for charitable gaming and increase oversight requirements are imposed by the state in the coming months."*

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/article/20131031/NEWS06/310310158/charity-poker-crackdown

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Duggan, Napoleon court congregations in Detroit mayoral race

"

Detroit— The mayoral candidates will be playing to the pews Sunday in hopes of gaining votes as the campaign heads into its final weekend."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20131101/METRO01/311010052/Duggan-Napoleon-court-congregations-Detroit-mayoral-race?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

Detroit's bankruptcy case draws national spotlight

"

Atlanta— The looming legal question in Detroit's bankruptcy case of whether pension benefits can be slashed despite state constitutional protections was a prominent topic of debate here Thursday at a national bankruptcy judges' meeting."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20131101/METRO01/311010049/Detroit-s-bankruptcy-case-draws-national-spotlight?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE

DPS enrollment surges after years of decline

"

Detroit— It's a problem officials at Detroit Public Schools have wanted for the last five decades: schools bulging with students."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20131101/SCHOOLS/311010051/DPS-enrollment-surges-after-years-decline?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE*

Advocacy/Opinion

Land Bank Bills Would Address Citizen, Business Complaints

"

Residents and businesses could have a way to contest land bank deals that illegally acquire property if a two-bill package were to pass."

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/19318*

Teacher Who Never Wanted Union Representation Still Forced To Be A Member

"When Matt Knapp was hired as a teacher in the Saginaw Public School district 11 years ago, he said he was given paperwork to sign to be a union member."

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/19317*

Tim Skubick: Here's how many days lawmakers expect to work in Lansing for rest of 2013

"It's not likely to happen, but if somebody out there had the money to put it on the ballot, Michigan voters would likely approve a part-time legislature faster than you can say, "I'm back home working in the district."'"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/11/tim_skubick_heres_how_many_day.html#incart_river_default*

Brian Dickerson: Michigan State Senate makes mockery of judicial independence

"In Michigan (and most other constitutional democracies), the only thing that stands between the people and the excesses of whichever political party controls the executive or legislative branches is an independent, nonpartisan judiciary."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/article/20131101/COL04/311010026/Brian-Dickerson-Michigan-State-Senate-makes-mockery-judicial-independence*

Big Brother knows you: Should you care?

"It's evident that Obamacare has a number of problems as it rolls out. In particular problem the security of information on the health exchange website. The Associated Press reports that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services officials warned that a lack of testing posed a potentially "high security risk" for the healthcare.gov site."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://blogs.detroitnews.com/politics/2013/11/01/big-brother-knows-care/*

Chapter 9 positions drawn on pensions

"

Detroit's bid to be declared eligible for Chapter 9 bankruptcy isn't yet complete before U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes, but the contours of the battle are."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20131101/BIZ/311010044/*

Press Releases

Faith Leaders Lead Immigration Rally to Rep. Mike Rogers' Office Urging Support of Immigrant Familie

"LANSING – This morning, Lansing faith leaders led members of Michigan United, Action of Greater Lansing and other immigration reform advocates in a rally that turned into a march to Congressman Mike Rogers' office. The event began at Union Missionary Baptist Church of Lansing and marched across the street to Rogers' office. Once there, activists left dozens of pairs of shoes as symbols, hoping to make real the deaths and devastation that continue to plague families as a result of the broken immigration system. The group requested a meeting with Rogers and called on him and other GOP House members to help put an end to deaths and deportations that are a direct product of the failed immigration system. "

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383248333_News from Michigan United and Action of Greater Lansing.pdf*

Women take to thrill, challenge of pheasant hunting

"Yes Women take to thrill, challenge of pheasant hunting When Jody Bachelder took a step back away from the pointing dog at her feet, a rooster pheasant sprung into flight, practically knocking her over and leaving her so temporarily dazzled she didn't even think to shoulder her shotgun."

Source: *MI Department of Natural Resources* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383247546_Showcasing the DNR.pdf*

NERD Fund Donor Lands $60 Million No-Bid Contract from Detroit Emergency Manager

"LANSING - MDP Chair Lon Johnson today called on Gov. Snyder to disclose all donors to his secret NERD Fund, including any additional donors with conflicts of interest in the wake of a report that a subsidiary of CVS Caremark, the only known contributor to the NERD Fund, had received a $60 million no-bid contract."

Source: *MI Democrats* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383245549_NERD Fund Donor Lands.pdf*

Michigan based non-profit Interstate Informed Citizen's Coalition tells architects of failed Prop 3

"Blissfield, MI 10/29/2013 A statewide renewable energy watchdog group will be protesting at the Michigan Forum of the American Wind Energy Association Monday Nov. 4th in East Lansing MI. Dozens of protesters will be traveling at their own expense from many of the major wind developments in the state. Included will be many elected and appointed township officials who are on the front lines of industrial wind development in Michigan."

Source: *American Wind Association* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383245461_Urgent Press release! IICC Demonstration at AWEA Forum Nov 4 East Lansing.pdf*

Michigan based non-profit Interstate Informed Citizen's Coalition tells architects of failed Prop 3

"Blissfield, MI 10/29/2013 A statewide renewable energy watchdog group will be protesting at the Michigan Forum of the American Wind Energy Association Monday Nov. 4th in East Lansing MI. Dozens of protesters will be traveling at their own expense from many of the major wind developments in the state. Included will be many elected and appointed township officials who are on the front lines of industrial wind development in Michigan."

Source: *American Wind Association* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383245455_Urgent Press release! IICC Demonstration at AWEA Forum Nov 4 East Lansing.pdf*

WAYNE COUNTY FOSTER PARENTING AND ADOPTION DAY

"

BOTH PROGRAMS: 12 NOON to 3:00 P.M.

How to Become a Foster Parent

How to Adopt a Child

First Hand Experiences Described "

Source: *MI Supreme Court* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383244885_Wayne County Foster Parenting and Adoption Day.pdf*

Statement by National Low Income Housing Coalition President and CEO Sheila Crowley on Senate Republ

"Today, a minority of U.S. Senators prevented the full Senate from voting on the nomination of Representative Mel Watt (D-NC) to be the director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Once again, the threat of a filibuster by Republicans has prevented an up or down vote in the Senate on a matter of great national importance. Because Mr. Watt's nomination was not allowed to go forward, an acting director will remain in charge of this vital federal agency."

Source: *National Low Income Housing Coalition* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383244714_Statement by National Low.pdf*

Lt. Governor to Meet with U.P. Business Leaders on Improving Michigan's Regulatory Efficiency

"October 31, 2013 - After more than two years transforming state government, Michigan has become a leader in implementing positive changes for business. However, state government still has too many delays, duplicative forms and impractical regulations and practices hurting Michigan's businesses. To continue to address these issues and discuss the positive impacts of recent Good Government regulatory reforms, Lt. Governor Brian Calley, Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) Director Steve Arwood and other local area business leaders are holding a business roundtable on Friday, November 1, 2013 at 1:30 p.m."

Source: *LARA* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383244375_Lt. Gov.pdf*

State Police Collects More Than 600 Pounds of Medication on National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

*"**LANSING.** The Michigan State Police (MSP) today announced that 640.8 pounds of prescription drugs were collected at MSP posts across the state during National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day held on Saturday, Oct. 26."*

Source: *MI State Police Communications* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383244305_State Police .pdf*

U.S. Senators Stabenow and Wyden available for media interviews following agriculture and climate fo

*"**Senator Debbie Stabenow**, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and **Senator Ron Wyden,** chair of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, will be available for media interviews on Monday following an event on the economic impacts of climate trends for Michigan's agriculture sector."*

Source: *Byrum Fisk* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383243375_U.S. Senators.pdf*

Dr. Benishek Sponsors Bipartisan Plan to Help Veterans in Need of Counseling

"WASHINGTON, DC: Dr. Dan Benishek (MI-01) recently sponsored bipartisan legislation that will make it easier for military veterans who suffer from mental and emotional trauma to get proper therapy when they return home."

Source: *Congressman Benishek* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383243271_Dr.pdf*

House Approves Scrap Metal Theft Reform Bills

*"LANSING –The state House of Representatives gave final approval to scrap metal bills today led by state Representatives Paul Muxlow (R-Brown City),**Rashida H. Tlaib** (D-Detroit) and state Senator Jim Ananich (D-Flint). House Bills 4593 and 4595 tighten regulations — and give prosecutors better tools to hold illegal scrappers accountable — by including all types of scrap metals, requirements for scrap metal dealers and sellers to follow and penalties for anyone who buys or sells stolen scrap metal. "*

Source: *MI Democratic Communications* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383243171_House Approves Scrap Metal Theft Reform Bills.pdf*

Reps. Zemke, Schor Make Wager over MSU/U-M Football Game Lawmakers agree to congratulate rivals on H

"Lansing – State Representatives Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) and Andy Schor (D-Lansing) announced today their bet on the upcoming Michigan-Michigan State football game this Saturday in East Lansing. Zemke is an alumnus of Michigan State, and Schor is an alumnus of the University of Michigan, and both will be cheering on their alma maters."

Source: *HOUSE DEMOCRATIC STAFF* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383243077_Reps.pdf*

Economists: Lack of Competition in Michigan's Electricity Market Threatens Job Makers, State's Econo

*"**LANSING, Mich.** – Noted economists Dr. Jonathan Lesser and Dr. Philip O'Connor today published a new examination of Michigan's energy policy and the effect competition has on electricity prices, infrastructure investment, economic investment and customer savings."*

Source: *Energy Choice Now* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383238541_Economists.pdf*

Sen. Emmons, Rep. Howrylak to participate in Nov. 4 human trafficking symposium

*"**LANSING**—Sen. Judy Emmons announced on Thursday that she will be the featured speaker at a human trafficking symposium on Monday, Nov. 4."*

Source: *Office of Senator Emmons* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383238419_EMMONS.pdf*

Hunter, Senate Vote to Pass Bill to Keep County Budget Fights Out of Courts Bill will rein in county

"LANSING—Senate Minority Floor Leader Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) and the Michigan Senate voted today to pass House Bill 4704, legislation to keep county budget disagreements out of the court system and keep funding allocation decisions within the purview of county officials and commissions."

Source: *OFFICE OF SENATOR HUNTER* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383238303_Hunter.pdf*

Clean Water Action to Highlight Key Findings of Coal Ash Report at Michigan State University

"EAST LANSING — More than 1.7 million tons of coal ash, the toxic byproduct produced by coal fired power plants, is generated every year in Michigan. Clean Water Fund's new report, Toxic Trash Exposed: Coal Ash Pollution in Michigan, shows that managing and storing that amount of waste is a challenge and presents health and environmental risks to our communities. "

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383236322_News from Clean Water Action.pdf*

Senator Warren and Representative Lori Commemorate Community Mental Health Act

"Senator Rebekah Warren (D – Ann Arbor) and Representative Matt Lori (R – Constantine) today introduced legislation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's signing of the Community Mental Health Act. "

Source: *Sen. Rebekah Warren* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383233392_sen warren.pdf*

Mark Schauer set to direct this year's most terrifying horror movie sequel: The Granholm Era, Part 2

"Michigan families will have their fair share of Halloween frights this weekend, and failed Congressman Mark Schauer is looking to add some scares of his own. His run for governor has led many to fear the possible sequel to Jennifer Granholm's 2002-2011 run of failure."

Source: *Michigan Freedom Fund* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383233185_Press Release - Scary Schauer.pdf*

Tea Party is Not Everyone's Cup of Tea

"According to a statewide poll conducted by Marketing Resource Group (MRG) and Mitchell Research and Communications, 50 percent of all Michigan registered voters disapprove of the Tea Party with 37 percent strongly disapproving. Approval of the Tea Party stands at 34 percent with 20 percent strongly approving."

Source: *Marketing Resource Group* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383233008_MRG_MRC_Tea_Party_Approval_10312013.pdf*

Court Performance Innovation grant recipients named

"Combating human trafficking. Peacemaking court. Smart phone apps that let users check in for court hearings. These are just some of the projects that Michigan courts will be pursuing, thanks to grants from the Court Performance Innovation Fund."

Source: *MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383232814_CPIF news release.pdf*

Snyder proclaims Hire a Veteran Month; connects veterans with career opportunities

"LANSING, Mich. - Gov. Rick Snyder today declared November as Hire a Veteran Month and announced a series of upcoming career fairs for veterans. He urged Michigan employers to consider veterans when making hiring decisions and help returning veterans make the transition from military service to employment."

Source: *OFFICE OF GOVERNOR SNYDER* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383232642_Snyder .pdf*

Getting Health Care Policy Right

"In 2012, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that the United States leads the world in health care research and disease treatment."

Source: *Greg MacMaster - Representative 105th House District* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383226605_Getting Health Care Policy Right.pdf*

Schuette, Arwood Move to Suspend License for South Lyon Pharmacy After Tainted Drugs Discovered

*"**LANSING** –Attorney General Bill Schuette and Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Director Steve Arwood today announced that an administrative complaint has been filed with an Order of Summary Suspension for the immediate suspension of the pharmacy licenses for Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy, a South Lyon pharmacy recently linked to the distribution of tainted dextrose injections. Schuette also moved to suspend the individual pharmacist and controlled substance licenses held by the pharmacist-owner of Specialty Medicine Compounding Pharmacy, Kenny R. Walkup, Jr., of South Lyon. Schuette's office has launched a formal investigation in coordination with the Department of Community Health and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to determine whether further legal action is warranted."*

Source: *MI Dept of Attorney General* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383226352_Schuette, Arwood .pdf*

CAPTAIN PLANET AND THE PLANETEERS TO VISIT LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

"Legislators and staff will show their support for the recently-proposed carbon pollution standards, calling on EPA to hold polluters accountable LANSING – State Representative Jeff Irwin and Nic Clark, Michigan director of Clean Water Action, will be joined today by Captain Planet and the Planeteers for a day of action."

Source: *Byrum Fisk* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383226136_CAPTAIN PLANET AND THE PLANETEERS TO VISIT LEGISLATIVE OFFICES.pdf*

Bobby McKenzie's Adds Media Firm to Campaign Team

*"**CANTON** - Bobby McKenzie's campaign to represent the people of Michigan's 11th Congressional District has hired Devine Mulvey Longabaugh, a leading political firm, to manage the campaign's media effort. Devine Mulvey Longabaugh brings decades of campaign experience to McKenzie's team. "*

Source: *Bobby McKenzie for Congress* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383224948_Bobby McKenzie.pdf*

CONSUMERS ENERGY OFFERS LOWEST NATURAL GAS PRICE OF ANY ENERGY PROVIDER IN MICHIGAN

"JACKSON, Mich., Oct. 31, 2013 – With the winter heating season starting, Consumers Energy has returned to its position of having the lowest natural gas price of any Michigan energy provider."

Source: *Consumers Energy* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383224858_Lowest gas prices.pdf*

Cancer Survivors to Urge Legislature, Governor to Restore Funding in 2015 State Budget for Screening

"Michigan cancer survivors whose lives were saved by a program that has been eliminated from the state budget will ask Gov. Rick Snyder and the Legislature to restore funding for the Cancer Prevention Program starting in the 2015 state budget."

Source: *Martin Waymire Advocacy Communications* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383224756_CancerSurvivors.pdf*

Sparrow to receive donation from Accident Fund to improve health of local workers

"Accident Fund will make a five-year donation commitment to the Sparrow Foundation fund for occupational health services"

Source: *Sparrow Hospital* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383224302_Sparrow Accident Fund advisory.pdf*

MLBA Partners with Flint Association on Educational Forums Working with liquor establishment owners

"LANSING, MI – The Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA) and Flint Neighborhoods United will be hosting two forums at Mott Community College to educate local off-premise alcohol retail establishments, or party stores, on how to create safer environments for patrons."

Source: *MI Licensed Beverage Association* **Date:** *11-01-2013* **Link:** *1383224153_MLBA.pdf*

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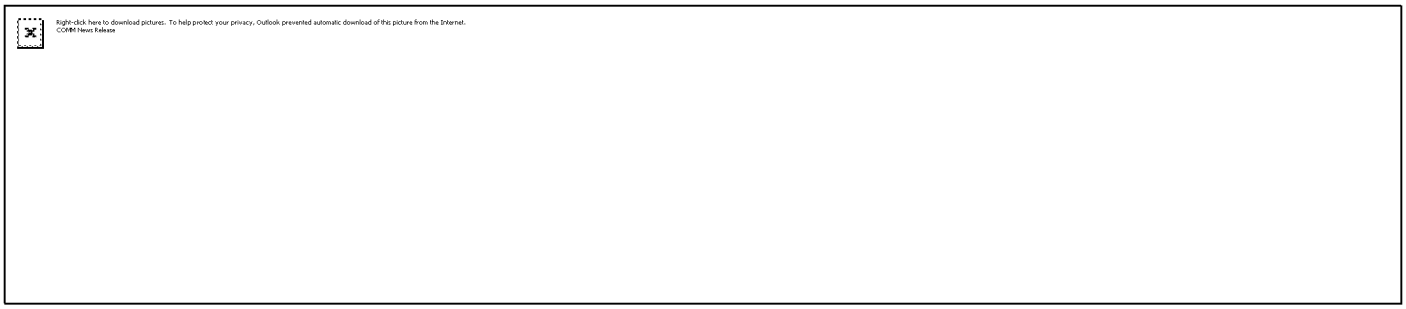
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder: City of Flint ready to move forward as financial emergency resolved



Contacts:
Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray , Governor's Office
517-335-6397

Terry Stanton, Department of Treasury
517-335-2167

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder: City of Flint ready to move forward as financial emergency resolved

Transition advisory board of city leaders to help with financial stability

LANSING, Mich. –The financial emergency in the city of Flint has been resolved and a Receivership Transition Advisory Board has been appointed to ensure a smooth transition to local control and continued financial stability for the city, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

"I was pleased to receive and accept Jerry Ambrose's recommendation that the financial emergency in Flint has been sufficiently addressed," Snyder said. "This is a new day for Flint and the city is ready to move toward a brighter future. These are important steps as we work together to transition back to local control in the city."

Snyder said Ambrose, and those who preceded him, worked diligently to finalize several critical reforms in the city, so it can return to local control. The Receivership Transition Advisory Board appointed today will work closely with local leaders to ensure Flint continues on a path toward long-term financial stability.

Ambrose notified the governor Tuesday of his determination, noting numerous accomplishments in Flint since a financial emergency was declared in November, 2011:

- Deficits in both the General Fund and Water Fund have been addressed, with a $7 million GF deficit to be eliminated through a loan authorized by the Local Financial Assistance Loan Board this morning.
- Long-term liability costs have been reduced from $850 million to $240 million. Multipliers

for remaining employees with defined benefit pension plans have been reduced with new employees enrolled in a hybrid pension plan.
- New ordinances addressing long-term financial sustainability have been enacted by City Council with support of the mayor, including a strategic plan; a biennial budget and five-year financial projections; and, establishment of a fund balance reserve, including establishment of a budget stabilization fund.
- The structure of the city organization has changed significantly. A city administrator has been hired with expanded control over daily activities. The workforce has been reduced by more than 20 percent with city operations to better reflect and meet current needs.
- In November 2014, voters approved revisions to the current charter and approved establishment of a Charter Review Commission, which will consider the city's future form of governance, including whether to create a city manager.

Ambrose had previously enacted a two-year budget for the city and issued his final order as emergency manager this morning. The order outlines responsibilities of elected officials and their collaboration and cooperation with the RTAB.

The new board includes:
- Frederick Headen, legal advisor to the state treasurer (state treasurer designee).
- Brian Larkin, director at Flint and Genesee County Chamber of Commerce (Department of Technology, Management and Budget director designee).
- David McGhee, officer with the Skillman Foundation (representing persons with relevant professional experience).
- Robert McMahan, president of Kettering University (representing persons with relevant professional experience.
- Beverly Walker-Griffea, president of Mott Community College (representing persons with relevant professional experience).

"I am very pleased to appoint such distinguished people to this important post," Snyder said. "Each of these people cares deeply about the future of this great city and I'm certain they will work closely with Mayor Walling and city council members to move Flint forward and maintain a strong financial path."

For more information about Public Act 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, visit the Local Government Fiscal Health page on the Department of Treasury's web site at www.michigan.gov/treasury.

###

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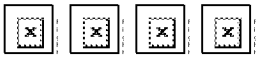

This email was sent to fergusonm1@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: Flint River Watershed Coalition <Flint_River_Watershed_Coalition@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 5:09 PM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: Happy Holidays from the FRWC

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Dec 22, 2015

Happy Holidays from the FRWC

Rediscover YOUR Flint River

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.
Mott vid capture 2

The C. S. Mott Foundation produced an incredible video about OUR Flint River. We share this as our small gift to you this holiday season!

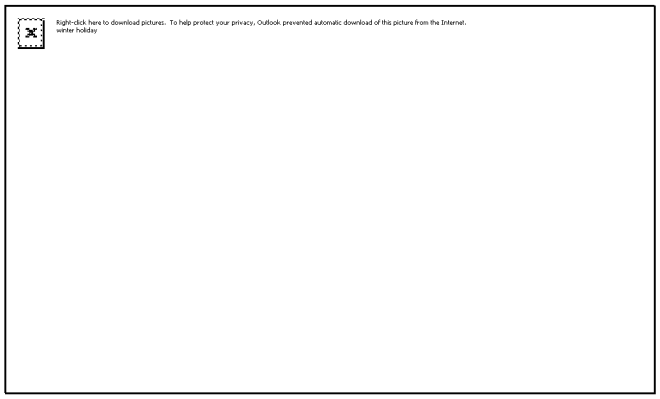
Check out the Foundation's focus on the Flint

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28th - Voice of the River Annual Celebration. 6-9 PM at the Sloan Museum

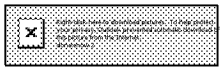
Support the Flint River Watershed Coalition today!

River here.

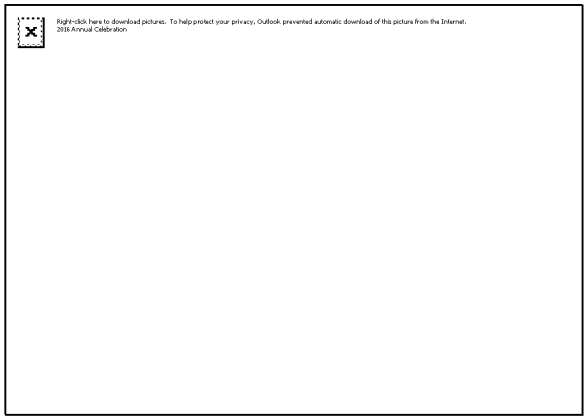


Happy of Holidays to you!!

-- The board and staff of the FRWC



Save the Date!!

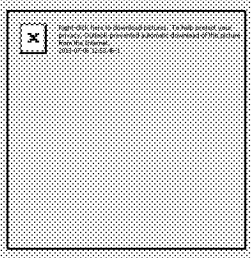


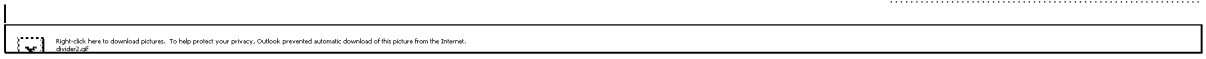
Join us on January 28th at the Sloan Museum in Flint for an evening of fun, food, and friends.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available! Contact Rebecca at 810-767-9559 or rfedewa@flintriver.org.

Partnering to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed.

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. We envision a day when the future of our drinking water is secure and the integrity of the Flint River is protected. We believe that all people should have access to the river for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the economic value it provides to our communities. The FRWC was incorporated as a non-profit 501c3 organization in August of 1998.





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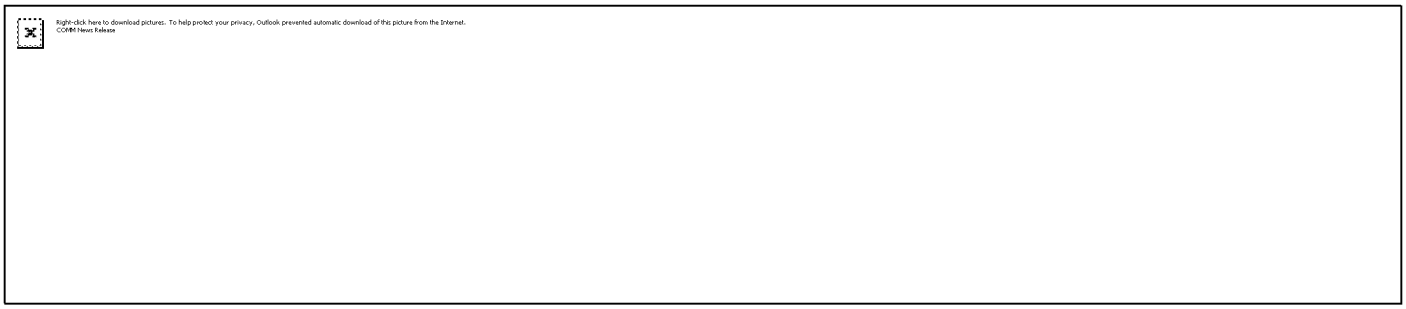
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:57 PM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder: Detroit Public Schools financial emergency continues



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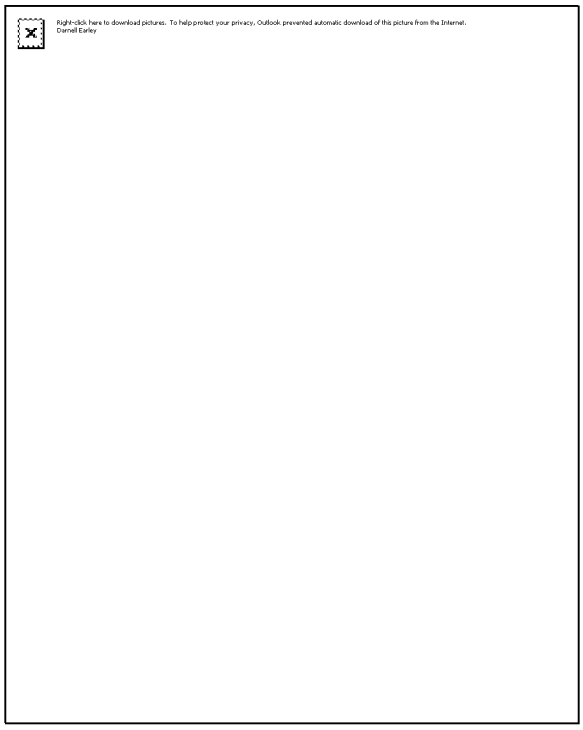
Terry Stanton, Department of Treasury
517-241-0782

Michelle Zdrodowski, Detroit Public Schools
313-873-3238

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder: Detroit Public Schools financial emergency continues

Darnell Earley named new financial manager as community discusses future of city's public education; transitional emergency manager named in Flint



LANSING, Mich. – Detroit Public Schools remains under a financial emergency as community leaders start discussions about a long-term reinvention to build a stable, financially secure system that creates a brighter future for all city students, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

With the district struggling with a nearly $170 million deficit, Snyder said it is necessary to continue with an emergency manager while community discussions move forward. He today announced the appointment of Darnell Earley, following the provisions of Public Act 436 of 2012. Earley replaces Emergency Manager Jack Martin effective today.

The transition in Detroit Public Schools comes as the Coalition for Future of Detroit Schoolchildren, convened by the Skillman Foundation, starts a community discussion about the future of all the city's schools. That work will continue and Snyder plans to meet with the coalition members later in the week.

"A thriving public school system is an essential part of Detroit's comeback," Snyder said. "Financial challenges unquestionably hinder efforts to improve academics. I appreciate the hard work of Jack Martin, who oversaw the district during an extremely challenging period. Darnell Earley has a track record of success and can guide the district as we work collectively and collaboratively to turnaround the fiscal crisis and ensure a quality education for the city's school children that they need and deserve."

Snyder made the announcement at Detroit Public School District's Burton International Academy.

Earley has served as the city of Flint's emergency manager since September 2013. His experience includes serving as Saginaw city manager, Flint city administrator and Ingham County's budget director and deputy controller. Earley is a municipal finance expert known for working closely with community organizations.

Earley will be replaced in Flint by Jerry Ambrose, who since December 2011 has served as

financial adviser to Flint's emergency manager. Earley's term in Flint was expected to expire in April, and the city is still expected to transition back to local control at that time.

"Important community discussions are underway about creating a brighter future for education in Detroit," Earley said. "It's vital for the district to be on firmer financial footing so this work can move forward. Education must be a cornerstone of a strong, revitalized Detroit."

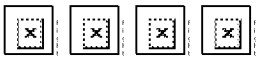
Snyder praised Martin for his leadership of the state's largest school district during challenging times. Martin worked to stabilize the district's enrollment after 20 years of significant losses. He also restored art, music and athletic programs at elementary and middle school levels and redesigned career tech programs to address current needs in the skilled trade marketplace.

Martin also refocused the district's real estate strategy, selling and leasing a number of unused properties to generate several million dollars for the city schools.

"I took this job because it meant I would be helping children get the education they need to be productive, successful members of our community," Martin said. "Every action I've taken over the last 18 months has been about the students and fixing the system so every child in Detroit can receive the quality education they deserve."

###

STAY CONNECTED:



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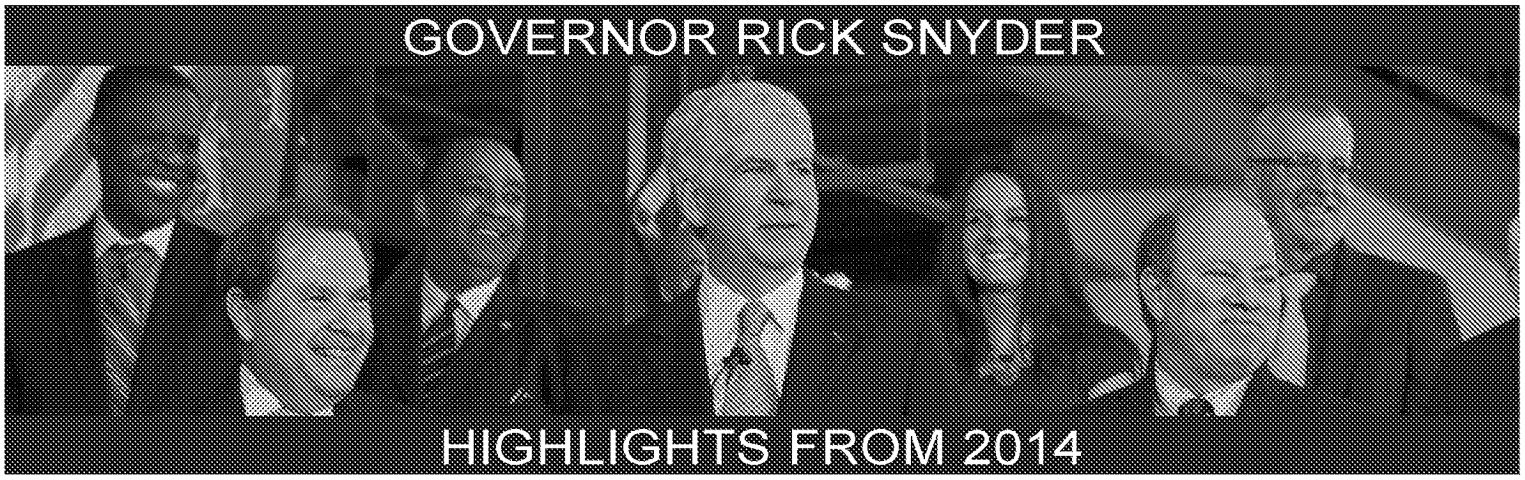
THE REINVENTION OF **MICHIGAN CONTINUES.**
2015 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS



In 2014, we continued our focus on creating more and better jobs for Michiganders while solving our state's toughest problems. More than 300,000 private sector jobs have been created since December 2010, over half a million Michiganders now have health care under the Healthy Michigan plan, and Detroit is on the threshold of a brighter future. Together, we achieved great results, but our work is not yet done.

MAKING MICHIGAN #1 IN SKILLED TRADES

- **The Community College Skilled Trades Equipment Program** will make $50 million available to community colleges for the purchase of training equipment for in-demand occupations, and the **Skilled Trades Training Fund** helps Michigan companies find the talent they need by training Michiganders for skilled trades.
- **Expanded career apprenticeships** with the MAT2 apprenticeship program in high-tech fields, more than doubling the number of students and participating companies.
- **FIRST Robotics** continues to grow, and Michigan is now first in the nation with 349 high school teams -- more than any other state.

HELPING MICHIGAN BUSINESSES GROW

- **Eliminated the Personal Property Tax,** removing a disincentive for businesses to expand.
- **Pure Michigan Business Connect** continues to connect Michigan businesses with each other so they can grow. The program has facilitated $2 billion in contracts since it started in 2011.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

- **Expanded Preschool Education** for low-income children with $65 million in additional funding in FY2015, helping to make Michigan a no-wait state for preschool.
- **Pathways to Potential** provides better service to Michiganders by bringing caseworkers to 219 schools in 22 counties. The program has reduced chronic absenteeism by 33% for 2013-2014 school year in Pathways schools.

HELPING MICHIGANDERS

- **Healthy Michigan** was launched in April 2014, and more than 500,000 low-income, working Michiganders are enrolled. Within first nine months we have seen almost 350,000 primary and preventive care visits, over 26,000 mammograms and over 12,000 colonoscopies.

THE REINVENTION OF **MICHIGAN CONTINUES.**
2015 STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014 (continued)

- **Helping People with Disabilities:** Issued an executive directive eliminating hurdles faced by people with disabilities as they seek a career in public service and called for increased training for all state employees to raise awareness of disability etiquette and best practices.
- **Jobs for Veterans:** Partnered with Hiring Our Heroes program to help active-duty members find jobs after leaving the military; added $4.7 million for a tuition assistance program for Air and Army National Guard personnel; launched a 24/7, 365-day hotline (1-800-MICH-VET) to provide veterans and their families access to benefits they deserve.
- **Serving Older Michiganders** by increasing funding to make Michigan a "no-wait" state for in-home services and to combat elder abuse.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Secure Cities Partnership** has reduced violent crime from 2011 to 2014 by 20.2% in Detroit, 28.1% in Flint, 28.3% in Pontiac and 26.7% in Saginaw.
- **Investing in Public Safety** to train more troopers and to update the state's public safety communications system, bringing Michigan's trooper strength from 957 in 2011 to 1,184 in 2015.

CONSERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- **Expanded Recycling** with a statewide initiative to double Michigan's recycling rate within two years, and we're on a path to success.

PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RESPONSE

- We've seen good government at its best in the preparedness and response to several disaster situations throughout our state that impacted the lives of thousands. Whether it was the flooding in Southeast or Mid-Michigan, addressing a propane shortage in the Upper Peninsula, or even preparing for the threat of Ebola, we saw cooperation and coordination from all levels of government that shows we are prepared to respond to unforeseen threats to our people.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **Balanced Budget:** We've had four years of balanced budgets, all of which were completed in June, giving school districts, local governments and other recipients of state funding the info they need to plan their budgets.

RESTORING OUR CITIES

- **Detroit:** Detroit's bankruptcy was completed, securing pensions, putting the city on a sound fiscal path, allowing for a reinvestment into city services, safeguarding the Detroit Institute of Arts, and improving the quality of life for the city's 700,000 residents.
- **Other Cities:** The financial emergencies in Benton Harbor and Allen Park were resolved last year, and we are on a path to transition out of financial emergency in Flint. Progress is being made in restoring fiscal health to the public sector, and we should be proud that we're tackling the tough challenges at all levels.

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:40 AM
To: Buckberry, Gary (DTMB);Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB);Kennedy, Brian (DTMB);Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: NASBO State Budget Press Clips, Week of October 5, 2015

From: NASBO [mailto:nasbo-direct@nasbo.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:16 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: NASBO State Budget Press Clips, Week of October 5, 2015

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NASBO logo

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US Map

State Budget Press Clips

A weekly compilation of press articles discussing state finance issues.

For further information contact Brian Sigritz at (202) 624-8439.

National

Is This the Way States Can Sell Tax Hikes for Transportation?
Pew Trusts - StateLine.org - 10/7/2015

Medicaid Has Great Responsibility Without Great Power
Governing.com - 10/6/2015

The Upcoming Supreme Court Cases That Matter Most for States and Localities
Governing.com - 10/6/2015

How the Record $20 Billion Settlement From BP Will Be Used
Governing.com - 10/6/2015

These states spend more on prisons than colleges
Washington Post - 10/5/2015

National League Of Cities Issues Report On Urban America's Shaky Finances
Forbes.com (Forbes Magazine) - 10/4/2015

The Week in Public Finance: Chicago's Shaky Future, the Real Taxpayer Burden and Good News for Retirees
Governing.com - 10/1/2015

As Retirees Outnumber Employees, Pensions Seek Saviors
Governing.com - 10/1/2015

Alabama

Gov. Bentley says decision to close driver's license offices not race base
Mobile Press-Register - 10/6/2015

Evidence says more Alabama state parks could close in 2016
AL.com - 10/6/2015

Supreme Court denies Bentley request for opinion on lottery, casino games
Birmingham News - 10/2/2015

New tax already taking toll on Alabama smokers
Montgomery Advertiser - 10/2/2015

Alaska

State plans to lay up more ferries
Juneau Empire - 10/7/2015

Legislators demand more cuts before addressing revenue
Alaska Dispatch News - 10/7/2015

Credit ratings agency notes negative impact on Alaska of Shell's departure from Arctic
Alaska Dispatch News - 10/6/2015

Amid cuts, UAS moves focus to enrollment
Juneau Empire - 10/2/2015

Forum examines state's fiscal future
Juneau Empire - 10/1/2015

Arizona

Full-day kindergarten in Arizona: If you want it, you may have to pay
Arizona Republic, AZCentral.com & KPNX-TV NBC 12 Phoenix - 10/6/2015

Arizona child-welfare chief: 'Money was not well spent'
Arizona Republic, AZCentral.com & KPNX-TV NBC 12 Phoenix - 10/3/2015

Douglas education plan focuses on pay, ending Common Core
Tucson Arizona Daily Star - 10/2/2015

Arkansas

Community colleges get $4 million for job-training programs
Arkansas News.com - 10/6/2015

State to appeal preliminary injunction in Planned Parenthood lawsuit
Arkansas News.com - 10/5/2015

State revenues for September down from last year, above forecast
Arkansas News.com - 10/2/2015

State bond guarantee programs get rating upgrade from Standards & Poors
Arkansas News.com - 10/1/2015

California

CSU faculty demand raises, vote on strike this month
Contra Costa Times - 10/7/2015

New public pension proposals target future employees
Sacramento Bee - 10/6/2015

$43 million in California fire prevention money goes unspent
Contra Costa Times - 10/6/2015

CalPERS long-term care insurance pool shrinks
Sacramento Bee - 10/2/2015

Colorado

U.S. officials consider Colorado prisons for Gitmo detainees
Denver Post - 10/3/2015

Connecticut

State income tax revenue is down
Waterbury Republican-American - 10/7/2015

State, Tribes Ink Keno Revenue Share
CT News Junkie - 10/6/2015

Malloy stands his ground on budget cuts, transportation, hospitals
New Haven Register - 10/5/2015

Malloy: National Lack Of Spending On Transportation 'Gigantic Problem'
Hartford Courant - 10/2/2015

Lembo sees state budget shedding the red
Waterbury Republican-American - 10/2/2015

State's deficit deeper than estimate by $42.3 million
Waterbury Republican-American - 10/1/2015

Delaware

DSU grant to help at-risk kids go to college
Wilmington News Journal (Delaware Online) - 10/2/2015

Florida

Lawmakers debate rule on failing charter schools
Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel & SouthFlorida.com - 10/6/2015

State earmarks $10 million for port dredging next year; still far short of money needed for job
Jacksonville Times-Union & Jacksonville.com - 10/6/2015

Senate panels vote to trim business taxes
Orlando Sentinel - 10/6/2015

Lawmaker doctors propose alternative ideas for health care reform
Tampa Bay Times and Tampa Bay.com - 10/1/2015

Georgia

Sales tax holiday this weekend in Georgia
Atlanta Journal-Constitution - 10/1/2015

Hawaii

State may be out $1.7B in taxes
Honolulu Star-Advertiser - 10/4/2015

UH regents reach budget impasse
Honolulu Star-Advertiser - 10/2/2015

State orders audit of its IT spending
Honolulu Star-Advertiser - 10/1/2015

Idaho

Tax cuts? Top state business official tells lawmakers: Not today
Boise Idaho Statesman - 10/6/2015

Idaho broadband costs could fall $5 million below projections
Boise Idaho Statesman - 10/5/2015

Illinois

Illinois stops paying local health clinics for STD testing
Springfield State Journal-Register - 10/7/2015

Illinois reducing fees on college savings plan
Illinois Daily Herald - 10/7/2015

Gov. Rauner: Illinois budget standoff 'could go on for a while'
Springfield State Journal-Register - 10/5/2015

Illinois budget impasse affecting emergency call systems
Illinois Daily Herald - 10/5/2015

State budget wrangling could create cash flow crunch for CWLP
Springfield State Journal-Register - 10/5/2015

Illinois treasurer warns of effects of budget impasse
Illinois Daily Herald - 10/3/2015

State revenues down by nearly $1 billion in first quarter
Springfield State Journal-Register - 10/3/2015

Indiana

Teacher shortage group inching toward solutions
Northwest Indiana Times (nwi.com) - 10/6/2015

Iowa

Higher ed gets lions share of Iowa gaming revenues
Sioux City Journal - 10/7/2015

Iowa agencies to spend $500,000 on energy plan
Des Moines Register - 10/6/2015

Kansas

State to delay changes in services for disabled Kansans after complaints
Wichita Eagle & Kansas.com - 10/7/2015

Kansas inks efficiency study for $2.6M, rejecting lowest bid
Lawrence Journal-World - 10/6/2015

Kansas cuts health aid to children of state workers in half, will allow children to join federal program
Topeka Capital-Journal - 10/5/2015

Kansas progressing toward 2020 higher education goal
Topeka Capital-Journal - 10/3/2015

Gov. Sam Brownback favors new school funding approach; Moody's calls it 'negative'
Topeka Capital-Journal - 10/2/2015

Kansas misses tax estimates by $31.7 million in September
Wichita Eagle & Kansas.com - 10/2/2015

Kentucky

How will Kentucky's next governor deal with the state's struggling public pension systems?
Lexington Herald-Leader - 10/3/2015

Louisiana

State coastal board proposes sending money left over from coastal projects to La. 1 elevation work
Baton Rouge Advocate - 10/4/2015

Louisiana preschools might lose $22.5 million in federal funding
New Orleans Times-Picayune & Nola.com - 10/3/2015

Maine

Drugs, guns, conservation and LePage dominate proposed legislation by Maine lawmakers
Central Maine - 10/5/2015

Maine counties likely to ask for more money to cover jails
Central Maine - 10/4/2015

Maryland

Horseshoe Casino Baltimore sees September revenue decline as others gain
Baltimore Sun - 10/6/2015

Md. changes name, structure of economic development agency
Baltimore Sun - 10/1/2015

Massachusetts

Mass. spends more on prisons than on public colleges
Boston Globe and Boston.com - 10/6/2015

MGM says its $800 million commitment to Springfield casino is unwavering
Boston Globe and Boston.com - 10/5/2015

States shrinking rainy day fund sparks concern
Boston Globe and Boston.com - 10/4/2015

Michigan

Bills target property tax cuts for 'big box'

Detroit Free Press - 10/3/2015

Budget bill add-on awaits future state funds for Flint water
Mlive.com - 10/1/2015

Mich. House passes bill adopting 'presumptive parole'
Detroit Free Press - 10/1/2015

Minnesota

Minnesota schools begin setting local tax rates for 2016
St. Paul Pioneer Press - Twin Cities.com - 10/2/2015

Mississippi

Ballot could confuse voters on school funding
Hattiesburg American - 10/6/2015

Aging infrastructure plagues Parchman
Jackson Clarion-Ledger - 10/3/2015

Missouri

Corrections officers support talk of Missouri state employee pay hike
Missouri Net - 10/6/2015

Fight brewing over Missouri cutting jobless benefits
Kansas City Star & KansasCity.com - 10/5/2015

Dental benefits for poor adults in Missouri remains in limbo
St. Louis Post-Dispatch - 10/5/2015

Missouri House leaders push governor to support state employee pay raise
Missouri Net - 10/1/2015

Montana

Extra reserves give state plenty of options
Bozeman Daily Chronicle - 10/1/2015

Nebraska

State board seeks funds for program including sex education
Lincoln Journal Star - 10/4/2015

Nevada

New state administration chief has lots to keep him busy
Las Vegas Review-Journal - 10/3/2015

Drought talks could bring legislative showdown in Nevada
Las Vegas Review-Journal - 10/3/2015

Judge rejects petition to repeal $1.4 billion state tax hike
Las Vegas Review-Journal - 10/1/2015

New Hampshire

Commission will discuss a proposal to tax fuel-efficient vehicles to raise money for highway fund
Manchester Union Leader - 10/4/2015

NH prevails in $236m battle with Exxon Mobile
Manchester Union Leader - 10/3/2015

State records a $73 million surplus for 2015
Manchester Union Leader - 10/1/2015

New Jersey

Kean University cutting jobs in reorganization plan
Newark Star-Ledger/NJ.com - 10/6/2015

Public worker retirements climbing again with N.J. pension talks
Newark Star-Ledger/NJ.com - 10/4/2015

New Mexico

Land and Water Conservation Fund expires; fight looms in Congress
ABQJournal Online - 10/6/2015

Martinez takes labor fight to U.S. Supreme Court
ABQJournal Online - 10/6/2015

NM earns $1.5M grant to fight human trafficking
ABQJournal Online - 10/1/2015

New York

NY comptroller: Upstate secession would not be a smart financial move
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle - 10/6/2015

Cuomo and De Blasio Tangle Again Over Citys M.T.A. Funding
New York Times - 10/2/2015

Special education tuition to rise
Albany Times-Union - 10/2/2015

North Carolina

Lots of talk, not much movement on education
Raleigh News & Observer - 10/4/2015

UNC happy about new spending authority in state budget
Raleigh News & Observer - 10/3/2015

Legislature leaves hot topics on McCrorys desk
Charlotte Observer - 10/1/2015

North Dakota

Panel approves $160M for North Dakota water supply projects
INFORUM-Fargo - 10/7/2015

Taxable sales at 4-year low
Bismarck Tribune - 10/7/2015

Ohio

Revised charter school bill applauded
Toledo Blade - 10/7/2015

No state pensions for some teachers under charter school bill; Ohio Federation of Teachers upset over the late change
Cleveland Plain Dealer & Cleveland.com - 10/7/2015

Cincy schools: Charters are 'siphoning' money
Cincinnati Enquirer & Cincinnati.com - 10/6/2015

Legalized marijuana sales could make Ohio $300 million, says budget office
Columbus Dispatch - 10/2/2015

Ohio task force still studying severance tax options
Akron Beacon Journal and Ohio.com - 10/2/2015

Task force lists ways colleges can cut costs
Toledo Blade - 10/2/2015

Ohio Turnpike celebrates toll collecting for 60 years
Toledo Blade - 10/1/2015

Oklahoma

Some states use sales tax to fund education
NewsOK.com - 10/4/2015

300 Oklahoma railroad crossings to get upgrades
NewsOK.com - 10/4/2015

Education tax increase would cost average family $252
NewsOK.com - 10/4/2015

Oregon

Kicker rebate confirmed -- and you'll get a bit less
Portland Oregonian, Hillsboro Argus, Oregon Live.com - 10/6/2015

Pennsylvania

House begins consideration of governors tax plan
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - 10/7/2015

State-owned universities might get cash advances if budget impasse endures
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - 10/7/2015

Wolf's plan to end state budget impasse includes higher taxes on income, gas drilling
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - 10/6/2015

Wolf: State needs broad-based tax increase to avoid $2B deficit

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review - 10/5/2015

Wolf says deal on taxes needed to avoid steep spending cuts
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette - 10/5/2015

Rhode Island

38 Studios: Red flags seen early in bond plan
Providence Journal - 10/6/2015

South Carolina

After past opposition, SC delegation now seeks flood aid
The State - 10/6/2015

Senators eye federal aid package for state
Greenville Online - 10/6/2015

Obama OKs federal funding for certain S.C. residents, governments affected by flood
Charleston Post & Courier - 10/6/2015

S.C. roads repairs will take time, money
The State - 10/5/2015

Who'll blink first Supreme Court or lawmakers in school funding feud?
Charleston Post & Courier - 10/3/2015

South Dakota

Educators: Time for a change on teacher salaries
Sioux Falls Argus Leader - 10/6/2015

School funding fix: Five places the money could
Sioux Falls Argus Leader - 10/3/2015

Daugaard presses Congress for long-term highway funding bill
Sioux Falls Argus Leader - 10/2/2015

Task force weighs school funding options
Sioux Falls Argus Leader - 10/1/2015

Tennessee

Gov. Haslam says long-term solution needed for transporatation funding
Chattanooga Times Free Press - 10/7/2015

Harwell: Insure Tennessee faces stiff challenges
Knoxville News-Sentinel - 10/6/2015

Gov. Haslam cool on using unexpected revenues to cut Hall Income Tax
Chattanooga Times Free Press - 10/1/2015

Texas

U.S. and 5 states, including Texas, announce $20B settlement with BP over gulf oil spill
Dallas Morning News - 10/5/2015

State purchase of buildings could revitalize Alamo Plaza
My San Antonio.com - 10/5/2015

UT regents signal intention to hike tuition next fall and a year later
Austin American-Statesman - 10/2/2015

Texas plans to ease Medicaid cuts affecting disabled kids
My San Antonio.com - 10/1/2015

$10M OKed for school bus seat belts largely spent elsewhere
Austin American-Statesman - 10/1/2015

Utah

Lawmakers hear support for Medicaid expansion but not for taxing health care providers
Salt Lake City Deseret Morning News - 10/7/2015

State says it will fund Planned Parenthood until Dec. 31
Salt Lake City Deseret Morning News - 10/3/2015

Vermont

Shumlin: VT Health Connect ready
Burlington Free Press - 10/1/2015

Virginia

Port of Virginia will ask the state for $350M to fund big plans
Norfolk Virginian-Pilot/HamptonRoads.com - 10/3/2015

West Virginia

WV budget cuts expected to hurt services
Charleston Gazette - 10/6/2015

State higher education system part of 4 percent budget cut
Charleston Gazette - 10/6/2015

Tomblin announces 4 percent budget cut for state agencies
Charleston Gazette - 10/5/2015

WV tax reform committee hears recommendation to repeal personal property tax
Charleston Gazette - 10/5/2015

Wisconsin

Scott Walker urges Republican lawmakers to borrow $350 million more for road projects
Madison.com-Wisconsin State Journal-Capital Times - 10/7/2015

Senate Dems to unveil 'Badger Blueprint' fall agenda
Lacrosse Tribune - 10/6/2015

Cost of delaying road projects pegged at $160 million
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - 10/5/2015

Report: UWM dipped deeper into reserve funds than UW-Madison
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - 10/5/2015

UW regents to consider waiving out-of-state student limits
WISC-TV Channel 3000.com Madison - 10/1/2015

Wyoming

Legislature to consider tobacco tax increase
Casper Star-Tribune - 10/7/2015

Capitol Square Project faces new budget problems
Cheyenne Wyoming Tribune-Eagle - 10/7/2015

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From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Buckberry, Gary (DTMB);Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB);Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB);Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Subject: Fwd: Floor Sub for HB 4102
Attachments: H01133'15 (H-2).pdf; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Starr, Scott (DTMB)" <StarrS1@michigan.gov>
> **Date:** October 13, 2015 at 1:11:06 PM EDT
> **To:** "Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)" <duncann1@michigan.gov>, "McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)" <mcneelyj@michigan.gov>, "Gossman, Colleen (DTMB)" <Gossmanc@michigan.gov>, "Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)" <shoemakerl@michigan.gov>, "Fosdick, David (DTMB)" <FosdickD@michigan.gov>, "Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)" <KimmithD@michigan.gov>, "Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)" <jamesonr@michigan.gov>, "Harkins, Chris (DTMB)" <HarkinsC1@michigan.gov>
> **Cc:** "Roberts, John (DTMB)" <RobertsJ9@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: Floor Sub for HB 4102**
>
> Attached is the House floor substitute for the supplemental, which could be taken up in the House as early as today. If you could, please take a look at your relevant areas and let me know if you see any issues. Thanks.

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4102

A bill to make, supplement, and adjust appropriations for various state departments and agencies for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016; to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

PART 1

LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Sec. 101. There is appropriated for the various state departments and agencies to supplement appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, from the following funds:

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,775,000
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,775,000
Total federal revenues		0
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	6,775,000

Sec. 102. LEGISLATURE

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	50,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	50,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		0
State general fund/general purpose	$	50,000

(2) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Criminal justice policy commission	$	50,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	50,000

Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	50,000

Sec. 103. DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,725,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,725,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	6,725,000

(2) ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

Legal settlement	$	7,725,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,725,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Risk management revolving fund		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	6,725,000

Sec. 104. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		0
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(2) ONE-TIME BASIS ONLY APPROPRIATIONS		
MSF, special grants	$	(500,000)
MSF, special grants		500,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

PART 1A

LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Sec. 151. There is appropriated for the various state departments and agencies to supplement appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, from the following funds:

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions	3.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	9,350,100
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers			0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	9,350,100
Federal revenues:			
Total federal revenues			0
Special revenue funds:			
Total local revenues			0
Total private revenues			0
Total other state restricted revenues			2,200,000
State general fund/general purpose		$	7,150,100

Sec. 152. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions	2.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	7,300,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers			0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	7,300,000
Federal revenues:			
Total federal revenues			0
Special revenue funds:			
Total local revenues			0
Total private revenues			0

Total other state restricted revenues			1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose		$	6,300,000
(2) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION			
Full-time equated classified positions 2.0			
City of Flint emergency water services		$	6,000,000
Drinking water and environmental health--2.0 FTE positions.....			300,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	6,300,000
Appropriated from:			
Special revenue funds:			
Settlement funds			1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose		$	5,300,000
(3) REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION			
Laboratory services		$	1,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	1,000,000
Appropriated from:			
State general fund/general purpose		$	1,000,000

Sec. 153. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY			
Full-time equated classified positions 0.0			
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	1,850,100
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers.....			0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	1,850,100
Federal revenues:			

Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	850,100
(2) DEPARTMENTWIDE ADMINISTRATION		
Rent and state office facilities	$	100
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	100
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	100
(3) CHILDREN'S SERVICES AGENCY - JUVENILE JUSTICE		
In-home community care	$	(400,000)
In-home community care		400,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(4) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		
Emergency services local office allocations	$	1,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	1,000,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(5) FIELD OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Full-time equated classified positions 0.0		
Michigan rehabilitation services--(526.0) FTE		

positions	$	(130,927,900)
Michigan rehabilitation services--526.0 FTE positions		130,927,900
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
Social security act, temporary assistance for needy families		0
Capped federal revenues		0
Total other federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Local vocational rehabilitation match		0
Private funds - gifts, bequests, and donations		0
Rehabilitation service fees		0
Second injury fund		0
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

(6) FAMILY, MATERNAL, AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Childhood lead program	$	850,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	850,000
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	850,000

Sec. 154. DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions 1.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000

Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		200,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(2) OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION		
Full-time equated classified positions 1.0		
Bureau of construction codes--1.0 FTE position	$	200,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Construction code fund		200,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

PART 2

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 201. In accordance with the provisions of section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending

from state resources in this appropriation act for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 is $7,775,000.00 and state appropriations paid to local units of government are $0.00.

Sec. 202. The appropriations made and expenditures authorized under this act and the departments, commissions, boards, offices, and programs for which appropriations are made under this act are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sec. 301. (1) From unexpended and unencumbered funds appropriated in 2010 PA 191 for branch and central operations, $6,000,000.00 is appropriated for a business application modernization project and shall be reappropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 in an appropriation line entitled information technology services and projects.

(2) The funds described in subsection (1) shall remain available for expenditure to implement provisions of business application modernization ongoing costs. The unexpended funds reappropriated into the information technology services and projects line item are considered work project appropriations, and any unencumbered or unallotted funds are carried forward into the succeeding fiscal year. The following is in compliance with section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the projects is to modernize the technical infrastructure to support the business needs of the department.

(b) The projects will be completed by contract staff and state employees.

(c) The total estimated cost of all projects is $6,000,000.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2019.

Sec. 302. (1) Unexpended and unencumbered amounts of funding remaining in accounts appropriated in section 301 of 2011 PA 83, for implementation of the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, for the secretary of state, shall be reappropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 in an appropriation line item entitled help America vote act.

(2) The funds described in subsection (1) shall remain available for expenditure to implement provisions of the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, section 37 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.37, and other election reforms. Consistent with the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, the unexpended funds reappropriated into the help America vote act line item are considered work project appropriations and any unencumbered or unallotted funds are carried forward into succeeding fiscal years. The following is in compliance with section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the projects is to implement provisions of the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, section 37 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.37, and other election reforms.

(b) The projects will be completed by state employees, by contracts with private vendors, or by grants to local units of

government.

(c) The total estimated cost of these projects is identified in each line-item appropriation.

(d) The tentative completion date for these projects is September 30, 2019.

STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Sec. 401. Unexpended and unencumbered amounts of DOT, federal railroad administration (ARRA) funds appropriated in 2011 PA 157 for high-speed intercity passenger rail (ARRA) shall not lapse pursuant to section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a, but instead are reappropriated for expenditure as originally intended and are a work project meeting the following criteria:

(a) The purpose of the project to be carried forward is to preserve and invest in transportation infrastructure of the state of Michigan.

(b) The projects will be accomplished by state employees and by contract.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project is $26,711,800.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Sec. 501. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for special grants, the fund shall allocate $500,000.00 for the purpose of funding the cost of GED testing and certification as provided by this section. The workforce development agency shall administer a

Michigan GED-to-school program, which shall cover the cost of providing the GED test free of charge to individuals who meet all of the following requirements:

(a) The individual has not previously been administered a GED test free of charge under this section.

(b) The individual meets at least 1 of the following requirements:

(*i*) Prior to taking the GED test, the individual successfully completed a WDA-approved GED preparation program.

(*ii*) Prior to taking the GED test, the individual completed the official GED practice test and the individual's score indicated that he or she is likely to pass.

(2) A WDA-approved GED preparation program shall include all of the following:

(a) Instructional and tutorial assistance.

(b) GED test practice.

(c) Required attendance at program instructional sessions.

(d) A curriculum that prepares students for opportunities in postsecondary education and the job market.

(e) Information on potential postsecondary and career pathways.

(f) Counseling on preparing for and applying to college.

(g) Personal and job readiness skills development.

(h) Comprehensive information on college costs and financial aid.

(i) College and career assessments.

(j) Computer-based instruction, practice, or remediation.

(3) By January 1, 2016, the workforce development agency shall post online an announcement of the Michigan GED-to-school program, minimum standards for GED preparation program approval, and approval procedures.

(4) By April 1, 2016, the workforce development agency shall do all of the following:

(a) Develop procedures consistent with this section under which individuals can take the GED test without charge.

(b) Provide program information for educators and students on the workforce development agency website, including explanations of the procedures developed under this subsection, and contact information for questions about the program.

(c) Provide an estimate of the full-year cost of the program to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on general government, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director.

(5) By September 30, 2016, the workforce development agency shall report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on general government, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director on utilization of the GED incentive program, including numbers of GED certifications issued by location, year-to-date expenditures, and numbers of participants qualifying under subsection (1)(b)(*i*) or (*ii*), or both.

(6) The unexpended funds appropriated for the GED-to-school program are designated as a work project appropriation, and any unencumbered or unallotted funds shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and shall be available for expenditure for projects

under this section until the projects have been completed. The following is in compliance with section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the project is to fund the cost of GED testing and certification for certain individuals as provided by this section.

(b) The projects will be accomplished by utilizing state employees or contracts with private vendors, or both.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project is $500,000.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2019.

PART 2A

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 1201. In accordance with the provisions of section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending from state resources in this appropriation act for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 is $9,350,100.00 and state appropriations paid to local units of government are $6,000,000.00.

Sec. 1202. The appropriations made and expenditures authorized under this act and the departments, commissions, boards, offices, and programs for which appropriations are made under this act are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Sec. 1251. From the funds appropriated for the city of Flint emergency water services, the department is authorized to pay up to $6,000,000.00 for reconnection services to the Detroit water and sewerage department or its successor. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the parties and a successful reconnection has occurred to the Flint water system. These funds are intended to pay reconnection costs through June 30, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Sec. 1301. From the funds appropriated in part 1A for Michigan rehabilitation services, the department shall allocate $6,100,300.00, including federal matching funds, to service authorizations with accredited, community-based rehabilitation organizations for job development and other community employment-related support services.

Sec. 1302. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1A for in-home community care programs, $400,000.00 shall be used to expand or create new in-home care and community-based juvenile justice services to rural counties through a grant making process. Counties that received funds for the purpose described in section 587 of article X of 2013 PA 59 are not eligible to receive the funds in this section. The department shall have contracts in place for the full amount of funds for the purpose described in this section by January 15 of the current fiscal year.

(2) By June 30 of the current fiscal year, the department

shall submit a report that describes the program expansion and expenditures in detail to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the senate and house policy offices.

REPEALERS

Enacting section 1. Sections 587 and 806 of article X of 2015 PA 84 are repealed.

Enacting section 2. Section 1069 of article VIII of 2014 PA 252 is repealed.

From: Wearsch, David (MDOT)
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 10:21 AM
To: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Work Project Letter

Sounds good, thank you Matt!

From: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Wearsch, David (MDOT) <WearschD1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Work Project Letter

Hi Dave—

I lied. The work project letter hasn't gone out yet. We're waiting for the FY15 supplemental to pass so we can include the ARRA re-approp and a few other similar items. I'll forward along as soon as it does go out. The FY15 Supp had some boilerplate added relative to the Flint water situation, which delayed things.

Cheers,

M

Matt Ferguson
Transportation Specialist
State Budget Office – Office of Economic Development
State of Michigan
Romney Bldg., 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
fergusonm1@michigan.gov
TEL: 517.241.8326

From: Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: New Freep Editorial on Flint

Ouch…

http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/10/08/flint-water-crisis-obscene-failure-government/73578640/

M

Matt Ferguson
Transportation Specialist
State Budget Office – Office of Economic Development
State of Michigan
Romney Bldg., 6th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
fergusonm1@michigan.gov
TEL: 517.241.8326

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:47 AM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good

FYI.

From: Bob Murphy [mailto:bmurphy@masu.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:02 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good

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Welcome to the First Edition of *Stewardship*

Welcome to the first edition of ***Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good***, brought to you by the Michigan Association of State Universities. Published monthly, *Stewardship* will serve as a media showcase for the tremendous outreach the state universities display in serving their students and communities as well as the State of Michigan and beyond. Covering issues as diverse as K-12 education, economic development, health care, environmental sustainability, and public safety, these media accounts will affirm that **Michigan's state universities are *public* universities serving the *public* interest.**

Civic Engagement & Civic Education

Warming U.P. the Sault
The Sault Evening News (Oct. 12, 2015)

Bill Clinton to speak at MSU next month
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

NMU shows off expanded archive
WLUC TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Grand Valley State University announces speakers for 2016 MLK Commemoration Week
Holland Sentinel (Oct. 19, 2015)

Trayvon Martin lawyer talks to Central Michigan University on civil rights
USA Today (Oct. 20, 2015)

MSU debuts largest U.S. media collection in country
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

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Talking on racism
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Economic Development

Innovation and Entrepreneurialism

White House honoring University of Michigan scientist
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The Oakland Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

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The Mining Journal (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University Unveils MakerBot Innovation Center, First in Midwest
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What can a city hall do for a business? [UMD]
Crain's Detroit Business (Oct. 29, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

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Woolly mammoths WERE wiped out by hunters: Tusks suggest that calves were forced to wean earlier because of human predators [UM]
Daily Mail (Oct. 16, 2015)

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Tech Green Enterprise recycles, hosts seminar
The Mining Gazette (Oct. 22, 2015)

University of Michigan boosts biosciences, sustainability
WTOL TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

WMU Prof.: Get ready for more-frequent, more-intense storms after Patricia
WTVB AM (Oct. 29, 2015)

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WLUC TV (Oct. 31, 2015)

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MLive (Oct. 27, 2015)

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MLive (Oct. 29, 2015)

K-12 Outreach

Students, teachers gain research experience from Saginaw Valley, Dow Foundation STEM program
Midland Daily News (Oct. 19, 2015)

Iron Range STEM Showcase Offers Hands-on Science for All Ages [MTU]
WDIO TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

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MLIve (Oct. 22, 2015)

U-M college prep program to offer full scholarships
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 23, 2015)

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WWMT TV (Oct. 9, 2015)

Keenan: Wayne State police chief says campus is safe
The Detroit News (Oct. 20, 2015)

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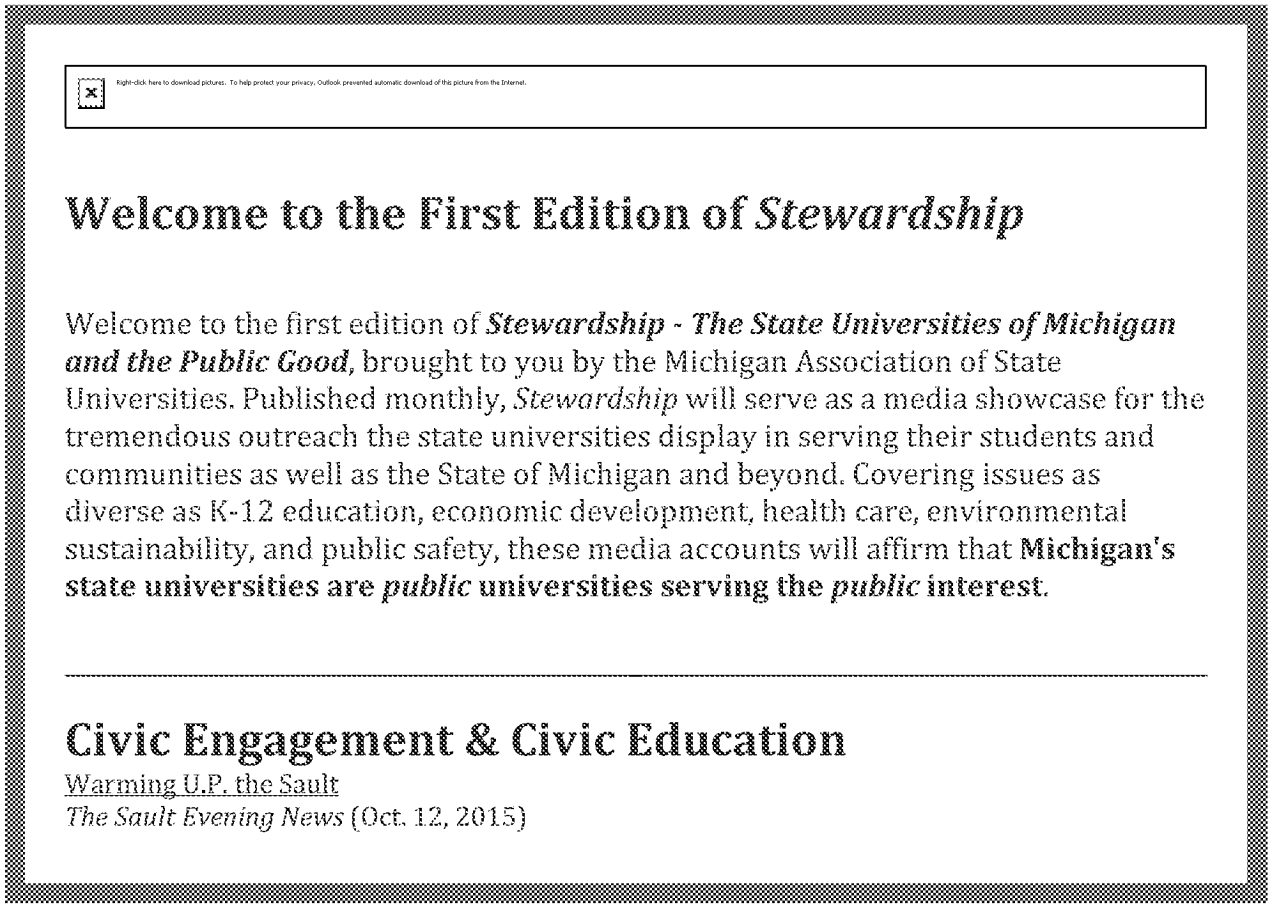
From: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good

Thanks!

From: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:29 AM
To: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good

Judging by the titles alone, there might be things in here you find interesting.

From: Bob Murphy [mailto:bmurphy@masu.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:02 AM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good



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From: Storm Water Solutions Magazine <mail@sgc-ecms.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:12 AM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: Residents of Flint, Mich., to Sue City, State Over Lead in Drinking Water

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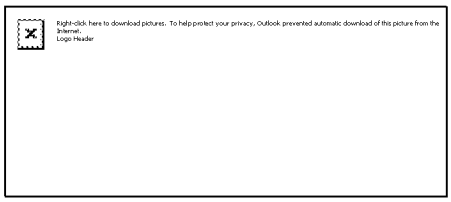
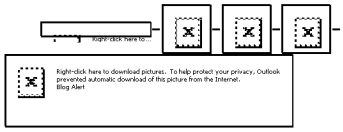
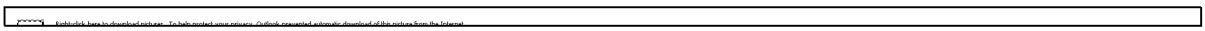
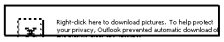






Flood Findings

By Mary Beth Nevulis
Current flood models do not account for cities' impact on local rainfall patterns, which could end up causing urban planners to significantly underestimate the impact and frequency of floods in urban areas, according to a new Purdue study. The study showed that impermeable surfaces such as. .



Industry News

Top Stories

Residents of Flint, Mich., to Sue City, State Over Lead in Drinking Water

Residents of Flint, Mich., together with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan and the Natural Resources Defense Council, announced their intention to sue state and city officials for ongoing violations of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act amid the city's current lead...

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Award Recognizes Efforts to Increase Awareness, Safeguard Natural Resources from Climate Change

As part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan and the National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy, an... **MORE**

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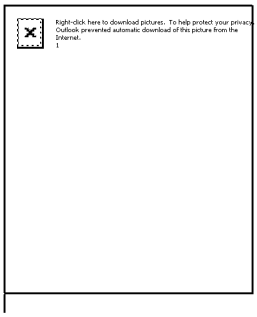
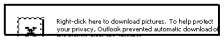


Lake George Beach Road Construction Project

Warren County, N.Y., was searching for a way to reduce the harmful runoff emptying into Lake George. The amount of salt in the lake had doubled over the past 20 years, largely due to dense development, which increased the volume and flow rate of storm water. Improving Beach Road, which runs along ..



_More News

- Environmental Connection 2016 Early Bird Registration Ends Dec. 11
- ALTA Environmental to Conduct City of Carlsbad Water Quality Monitoring, Assessment Program
- Water Environment Federation Names Director of Storm Water Programs
- CWEA Searches for California's Best High School Water Research Project
- National Ground Water Assn. Launches Partnership with SplashLink.com

Poll

Is the Waters of the U.S. rule an industry problem or an industry boon?

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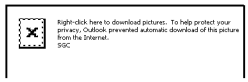

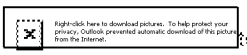

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3030 Salt Creek Lane Arlington Heights, IL 60005

From: Bob Murphy <bmurphy@masu.org>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 12:32 PM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities and the Public Good - Jan. 4, 2016

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January 4, 2016

Civic Engagement & Civic Education

U-M Library lands papers of indie film producer
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 2, 2015)

NMU Brings Holiday Cheer to Marquette
WLUC TV (Dec. 2, 2015)

'Star Wars': WMU wants to know what the films have taught you about ethics
MLive (Dec. 4, 2015)

EMU student from Livonia launches campus food pantry
Hometown Life (Dec. 4, 2015)

Muslim Student Association speaks out regarding San Bernardino attack [MTU]
WLUC TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

5 takeaways from Ben Carson's visit to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti [EMU, UM]
MLive (Dec. 9, 2015)

UM-D students urge City Council to vote on Syrian refugee resolution
Arab American News (Dec. 10, 2015)

LSSU Student Government seeks to create food pantry
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News (Dec. 11, 2015)

University group works to organize shuttle bus service to help those who live downstate [LSSU]
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News (Dec. 12, 2015)

NMU faculty, staff donate to Cheer Club
The Mining Journal (Dec. 13, 2015)

Michigan student raises funds, hope for Humans of New York refugee scientist

USA Today (Dec. 15, 2015)

University forum discusses tactics about ISIS [NMU]
ABC 10 News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Herrick Library to collect stories of Holland's Asian, Pacific Islander residents
Holland Sentinel (Dec. 22, 2015)

MSU creates center to help struggling Michigan local governments
Michigan Radio (Dec. 29, 2015)

Culture & Placemaking

Concert caps off Native American Heritage Month [UM]
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 1, 2015)

Ferris State University Students to Put On Free Holiday Concert
9 & 10 News (Dec. 8, 2015)

National Endowment for the Arts awards Grand Rapids $50K in grants [GVSU]
MLive (Dec. 8, 2015)

University of Michigan students help fight blight in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood
WXYZ TV (Dec. 11, 2015)

GVSU music students to perform in national parks
WZZM TV (Dec. 14, 2015)

Economic Development

Innovation & Entrepreneurialism

Midland-based Map-N-Tour receives business accelerator funding [OU]
Midland Daily News (Dec. 7, 2015)

La. Tech faculty team selected for NSF Pathways to Innovation Program [GVSU]
The News Star (LA) (Dec. 8, 2015)

UM-Flint student starts bow tie business in his apartment
WJRT TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

Grand Rapids firm to begin trials on Alzheimer's drug that improves memory [GVSU]
MLive (Dec. 9, 2015)

Q&A: How clean-energy policies drive economic development [OU]
Midwest Energy News (Dec. 10, 2015)

A conversation with a queen of start-up innovation
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

Grand Valley State University graduate students, alumni compete for $1M prize
Holland Sentinel (Dec. 16, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

Energy Department awards $12.4 million to 4 Michigan projects [UM]
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 1, 2015)

Simulation technology close imitation of fantasy films [CMU]
Central Michigan Life (Dec. 6, 2015)

MSU helps to fight crime with CSI-style technology
Michigan Radio (Dec. 7, 2015)

New software analyses words, gestures to detect lies [UM]
The Economic Times (India) (Dec. 10, 2015)

10 Most Efficient Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles for Winter Weather [MTU, UM]
The Street (Dec. 9, 2015)

WMU to hold first public input sessions on expansion of BTR Park
MLive (Dec. 10, 2015)

Federal grant to help gather historical info on migrants [GVSU]
9&10 News (Dec. 15, 2015)

MTU professor studies how to properly dispose of nano particles
The Mining Journal (Dec. 15, 2015)

UM researchers win grant for protective gear research
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 15, 2015)

Could Evolution Ever Yield a 'Perfect' Organism? [MSU]
Discover Magazine (Dec. 16, 2015)

Humans Are Slamming Into Driverless Cars and Exposing a Key Flaw [UM]
Bloomberg (Dec. 17, 2015)

The case of the sticky protein [MTU]
Phys.org (Dec. 18, 2015)

Rare isotope accelerator takes shape on MSU's campus
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 22, 2015)

Cronyism Causes the Worst Kind of Inequality [UM]
Bloomberg View (Dec. 24, 2015)

Environmental Sustainability

Tech analysis backs dust charge
Mining Gazette (Dec. 1, 2015)

Limestone dumped in Lake Michigan aims to rehab reef [CMU]
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 2, 2015)

Large solar dawns in Michigan, but residential incentives may sunset [MSU]
Great Lakes Echo (Dec. 4, 2015)

Pollution sampling not so simple [MTU]
Mining Gazette (Dec. 5, 2015)

EMU to hold State of the Strait conference
Eastern Echo (Dec. 5, 2015)

Oil spill, high waves: A Great Lakes disaster scenario [UM]
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 6, 2015)

Endangered or not? Scientists, lawmakers renew gray wolf debate [MTU]
MLive (Dec. 13, 2015)

New '2030 District' vows to slash downtown energy use by 50 percent [GVSU, FSU]
MLive (Dec. 14, 2015)

Faculty Perspective & Expertise

WMU Professor: Progress made this week at Paris Climate Summit
WNWN FM (Dec. 4, 2015)

Can you spot the crab? [NMU]
The Straits Times [Singapore] (Dec. 6, 2015)

Michigan could soon part ways with straight-ticket voting [NMU]
WLUC TV (Dec. 7, 2015)

Flu Shots for Hospital Workers Save Lives [UM]
The Wall Street Journal (Dec. 13, 2015)

Sensible Explainer: Susan Dynarski [UM]
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Dec. 13, 2015)

Northern Michigan Economists, Experts Reacts To US Interest Rate Uptick [CMU]
9&10 News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Genetically modified fish: coming to a store near you? [NMU]
WLUC TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

What does Federal interest rate hike mean for local consumers? [OU]
The Oakland Press (Dec. 16, 2015)

Is a 'Star Wars' lightsaber possible? MSU profs explain
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 18, 2015)

Q&A: Paul Isely, Associate Dean, Grand Valley State University Seidman College of Business
MiBiz (Dec. 20, 2015)

West Michigan doctor calls 'Concussion' movie an 'a-ha' moment for football players, coaches [GVSU, MSU]
MLive (Dec. 22, 2015)

Health Care

MSU Team Comes Up With Depression Plan
WILX TV (Dec. 1, 2015)

RENEW-U exercise machine developed at Michigan Tech
WLUC TV (Dec. 4, 2015)

Water tests conducted at Flint homes by Wayne State University researchers
MLive (Dec. 5, 2015)

UM survey: National teenage use of illegal drugs falls
The Detroit News (Dec. 16, 2015)

K-12 Outreach

Students get hands-on introduction to STEM fields [OU]
The Detroit News (Dec. 2, 2015)

Hour of Code week [MTU]
WLUC TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

CMU mentoring program gives elementary kids a buddy during lunch
The Morning Sun (Dec. 10, 2015)

'Shop With a Cop' brings holiday cheer to Ypsilanti area kids [EMU]
MLive (Dec. 10, 2015)

Folk music camp coming to NMU
WLUC TV (Dec. 17, 2015)

Global Outreach

See the world with fellow U-M, MSU, WSU alumni
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

Indian-American Surgeon Aims to Save Lives on Indian Roads [MSU]
The New Indian Express [India] (Dec. 20, 2015)

PUC partners international universities for research [SVSU]
STARR FM [Ghana] (Dec. 30, 2015)

Public Safety

Battle Creek base's new cyber unit to bring 70 new jobs
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 9, 2015)

Michigan Tech's ROTC comments on combat eligibility for women

WLUC TV (Dec. 10, 2015)

New trial sought for man in Detroit girl's '96 murder [UM]
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 14, 2015)

Saginaw approves $300K grant to help victims of crime [SVSU]
MLive (Dec. 22, 2015)

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From: StateBudgetOffice
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 9:53 AM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: Supplemental letter
Attachments: 2016-1 Supplemental_October 2015_ Flint water emergency.docx

Ryan,

Per your request.

Thanks,
Caron

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE BUDGET OFFICE
LANSING

JOHN S. ROBERTS
DIRECTOR

October 8, 2015

The Honorable Dave Hildenbrand, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

The Honorable Al Pscholka, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Legislators:

SUBJECT: Supplemental Request 2016-1

Attached please find supplemental recommendations for fiscal year 2016 for the departments of Environmental Quality, Health and Human Services, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Nancy Duncan at (517) 373-0870.

Sincerely,

John S. Roberts
State Budget Director

Attachment

cc: Arlan Meekhof, Senate Majority Leader
Kevin Cotter, Speaker of the House
Jim Ananich, Senate Minority Leader
Tim Greimel, House Minority Leader
Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee
Senate Fiscal Agency
House Fiscal Agency
Departments
Dick Posthumus, Executive Office
Dennis Muchmore, Chief of Staff
Nancy W. Duncan, Deputy State Budget Director
Michael J. Moody, Office of Financial Management
Internal State Budget Office

111 S. CAPITOL • P.O. BOX 30026 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov • (517) 373-7560

	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY		
	(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY		
	Full-time equated classified positions 2.0		
	GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,300,000
	Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
	Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
	ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,300,000
	Federal revenues:		
	Federal funds		0
	Special revenue funds:		
	Total local revenues		0
	Total private revenues		0
	Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
	State general fund/general purpose	$	6,300,000
	(2) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION		
	Full-time equated classified positions 2.0		
	City of Flint emergency water service	$	6,000,000
	Drinking water and environmental health - 2.0 FTE positions		300,000
	GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	6,300,000
	Appropriated from:		
	Special revenue funds:		
	Settlement funds		1,000,000
	State general fund/general purpose	$	5,300,000
	(3) REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION		
	Laboratory services	$	1,000,000
	GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	1,000,000
	Appropriated from:		
	Special revenue funds:		

State general fund/general purpose ..... $ 1,000,000

BOILERPLATE:

Sec. xxx. From the funds appropriated for the *City* of Flint emergency water services, the department is authorized to pay up to $6.0 million for re-connection services to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the parties and a successful re-connection has occurred to the Flint Water System. These funds are intended to pay re-connection costs through June 30, 2016.

EXPLANATION:

This supplemental provides $6.0 million to support the re-connection of the City of Flint to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department, $1.0 million for testing water samples, and $300,000 for home and school inspections to ensure the safety of the City of Flint's water system.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(1) APPROPRIATION SOMMA.RY

Full-time equated classified positions ..... O.O

GROSS APPROPRIATION ..... $ 1,850,000

Interdepartmental grant revenues:

Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers 0

ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION ..... $ 1,850,000

Federal revenues:

social security act, temporary assistance for needy families ... 0

Capped federal revenues 0

Total other federal revenues 0

Special revenue funds:

Total local revenues 0

Total private revenues 0

Total local and private revenues 0

Merit award trust fund 0

Total other state restricted revenues 1,000,000

State general fund/general purpose ..... $ 850,000

(2) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Emergency services local office allocations ..... $ 1,000,000

GROSS APPROPRIATION ..... $ 1,000,000

Appropriated from:

Special revenue funds:

Total other state restricted revenues 1,000,000

State general fund/general purpose ..... $ 0

(3) FAMILY, MATERNAL, AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Childhood lead program ..... $ 850,000

GROSS APPROPRIATION ..... $ 850,000

Appropriated from:

Special revenue funds:

State general fund/general purpose ..... $ 850,000

EXPLANATION:

The department is funding the purchase of water filters for Flint residents and is partnering for their distribution with the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. In addition, it will make arrangements for appropriate health care and other clinical personnel to address child blood level concerns in that community.

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions 1.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues.....		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues.....		0
Total private revenues.....		0
Total other state restricted revenues.....		200,000
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	0

(2) OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

Full-time equated classified position..... 1.0		
Bureau of construction codes	$	200,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.	$	200,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Construction code fund.....		200,000
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	0

EXPLANATION:

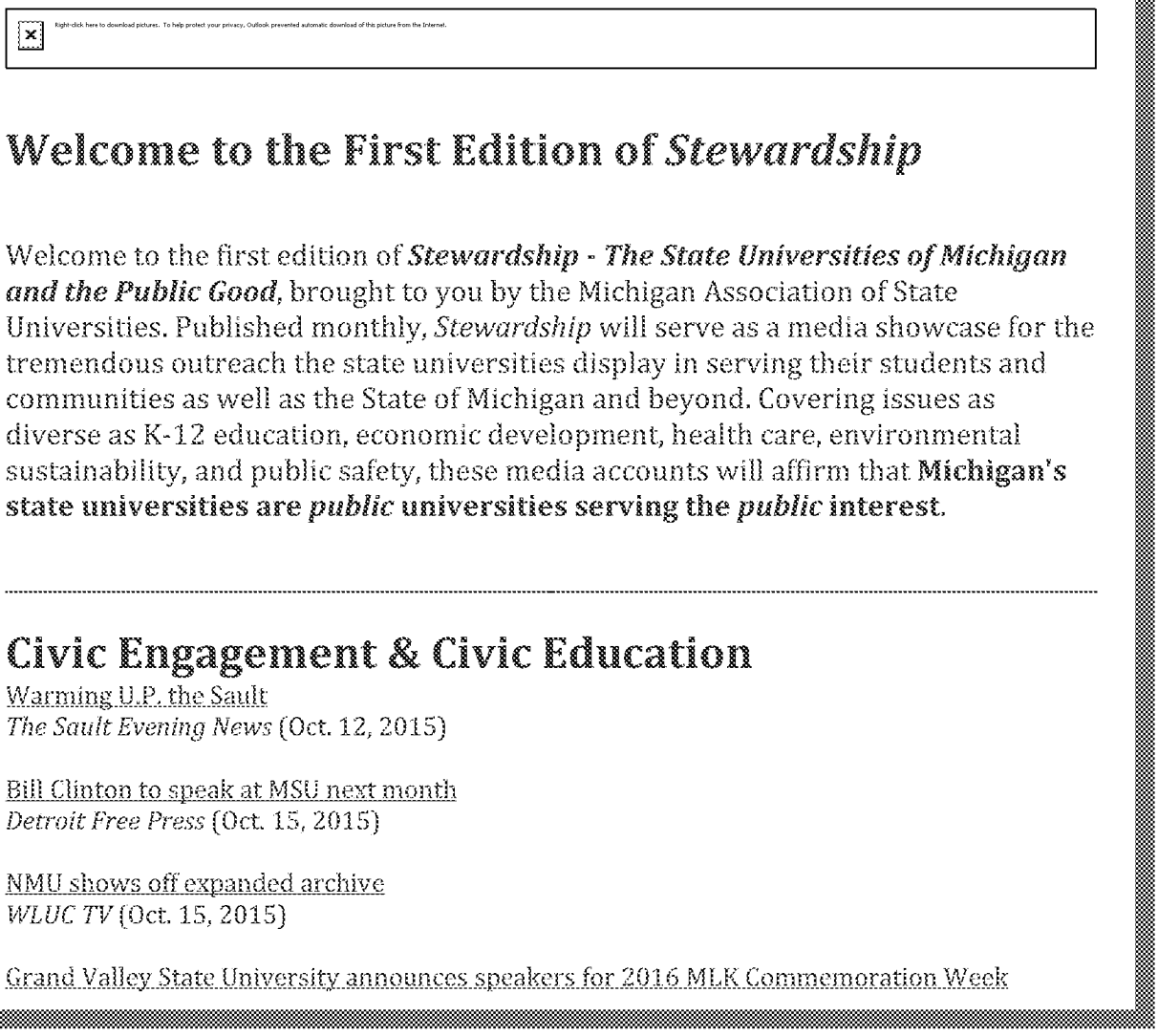
This supplemental provides $200,000 in construction code funds to support efforts in ensuring the safety of the City of Flint's water system. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will use this budgetary

authorization and existing resources for plumbing inspections of schools and health facilities within the City of Flint.

From: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:29 AM
To: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good

Judging by the titles alone, there might be things in here you find interesting.

From: Bob Murphy [mailto:bmurphy@masu.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:02 AM
To: Fink, Ryan (DTMB)
Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good



Holland Sentinel (Oct. 19, 2015)

Trayvon Martin lawyer talks to Central Michigan University on civil rights
USA Today (Oct. 20, 2015)

MSU debuts largest U.S. media collection in country
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

Links between leadership and mental illness explored in Saginaw Valley State University Lecture
Midland Daily News (Oct. 20, 2015)

Eight things to look out for at TEDx Oakland
The Oakland Post (Oct. 22, 2015)

NMU celebrates Make a Difference Day
WLUC TV (Oct. 24, 2015)

CMU students making Christmas brighter for vets
Midland Daily News (Oct. 25, 2015)

Presidential Candidate Martin O'Malley Comes to UM-Dearborn
The Michigan Journal (Oct. 27, 2015)

Talking on racism
Ferris State Torch (Oct. 28, 2015)

Native American Elder speaks at NMU
WLUC TV (Oct. 28, 2015)

Economic Development

Innovation and Entrepreneurialism

White House honoring University of Michigan scientist
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 9, 2015)

Automation Alley opens Innovation Lab at Oakland University
The Oakland Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

Erickson: NMU committed to innovation
The Mining Journal (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University Unveils MakerBot Innovation Center, First in Midwest
9 and 10 News (Oct. 22, 2015)

What can a city hall do for a business? [UMD]
Crain's Detroit Business (Oct. 29, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

MSU celebrates 50 years of cyclotron beams

Lansing State Journal (Oct. 9, 2015)

Michigan State to expand lab for diamond growing
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 14, 2015)

How Michigan helped map path to the Internet
The Detroit News (Oct. 15, 2015)

NMU professor contributes to first field description of whale species
WJMN TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Woolly mammoths WERE wiped out by hunters: Tusks suggest that calves were forced to wean earlier because of human predators [UM]
Daily Mail (Oct. 16, 2015)

U-M botanical garden displays clone of ancient redwood
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

UM's $150M biosciences initiative to add 30 faculty
The Detroit News (Oct. 23, 2015)

Michigan State gets $5.8M grant to improve potato production
WTOL TV (Oct. 27, 2015)

Environmental Sustainability

Oakland University to host symposium on climate change
The Oakland Press (Oct. 8, 2015)

Michigan State researchers studying algae on Torch Lake
The Detroit News (Oct. 12, 2015)

Grand Valley State University, Hastings Township complete sustainable rural recycling prototype
Holland Sentinel (Oct. 14, 2015)

Invasive species conference held at NMU
WJMN TV (Oct. 22, 2015)

Tech Green Enterprise recycles, hosts seminar
The Mining Gazette (Oct. 22, 2015)

University of Michigan boosts biosciences, sustainability
WTOL TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

WMU Prof.: Get ready for more-frequent, more-intense storms after Patricia
WTVB AM (Oct. 29, 2015)

Permaculture garden holds Halloween block party [NMU]
WLUC TV (Oct. 31, 2015)

Health Care

University of Michigan study explores social relationships, well-being in Detroit area
The Tribune (IN) (Oct. 12, 2015)

New $93M Wayne State center to study health disparities
The Detroit News (Oct. 13, 2015)

GVSU student: breast cancer can't stop me
WOOD TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

CMU faculty performs breast cancer research
The Morning Sun (Oct. 22, 2015)

Wayne State doctor: Women pass lead damage to grandkids
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 24, 2015)

Let's talk about health care: All have stake in deciding resource allocation, experts say [GVSU]
MLive (Oct. 27, 2015)

Blood lead clinic to be held for Flint children in Burton
MLive (Oct. 29, 2015)

K-12 Outreach

Students, teachers gain research experience from Saginaw Valley, Dow Foundation STEM program
Midland Daily News (Oct. 19, 2015)

Iron Range STEM Showcase Offers Hands-on Science for All Ages [MTU]
WDIO TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University receives $5 million STEM donation from Midland Foundation
Midland Daily News (Oct. 21, 2015)

Blueberry program triples with 1,000 Genesee students, new scholarships [UM-F]
MLive (Oct. 22, 2015)

U-M college prep program to offer full scholarships
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 23, 2015)

Michigan Tech's residence halls to host Halloween Safe House
WLUC TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

Grand Valley State, other colleges to host science demonstrations at Grand Rapids mall
Daily Journal (Indiana) (Oct. 24, 2015)

Teaching Teachers To Teach: It's Not So Elementary [UM]
NPR, (Oct. 24, 2015)

Trick-or-treat at the U-M Museum of Natural History
MLive (Oct. 26, 2015)

Global Outreach

International University Officers to Visit Zimbabwe
Voice of America - Zimbabwe (Oct. 17, 2015)

Public Safety

WMU student non-profit looks to bring awareness to domestic violence
WWMT TV (Oct. 9, 2015)

Keenan: Wayne State police chief says campus is safe
The Detroit News (Oct. 20, 2015)

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From: Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:25 PM
To: Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: Re: Lapse Estimate

Thanks. That makes sense.

Chris Harkins

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2015, at 2:24 PM, "Fosdick, David (DTMB)" <FosdickD@michigan.gov> wrote:

> Department moved lapse estimate from $40.0 million to $39.0 million to account for cost of water filters in Flint.

From: Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:38 PM
To: Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: Re: Flint Water

Thanks for the help David. Sorry to dump this stuff and run.

Chris Harkins

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 7, 2015, at 5:05 PM, "Fosdick, David (DTMB)" <FosdickD@michigan.gov> wrote:

> I have to pick up Nolan. Office is pretty cleared out. If you need anything you can reach me on my cell.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
> **Sent:** Wednesday, October 07, 2015 4:44 PM
> **To:** Fosdick, David (DTMB)
> **Subject:** Re: Flint Water
>
> Can you please make sure Susan knows if that wasn't already communicated?
>
> Harkins
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
> On Oct 7, 2015, at 1:41 PM, "Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)" <duncann1@michigan.gov> wrote:
>
> > John is inclined to include the DHHS settlement money in the supplemental (versus a later contingency fund transfer). Get is all out of the way at one time….
> >
> > Nancy Duncan
> > Deputy State Budget Director
> > 517-373-0870

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:43 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: DHHS Supplemental information

1. $1.0 million restricted funds in the Public Assistance unit; Emergency Services Local Office Allocations line; fund source = Total Other State Restricted Funds

2. $850,000 GF – in the Family, Maternal, and Children's Health Services unit; Childhood Lead Program line

3. No boilerplate

4. EXPLANATION - For the Department of Health and Human Services, in addition to the purchase of water filters, funds will be used to conduct visits by nurses and certified Environmental Blood Level Investigators to families in Flint. Nurses will monitor child blood lead levels for changes and communicate with primary care providers if other tests are required. Nurses will also conduct developmental screenings and if necessary make referrals for services in the community. They will also conduct nutritional assessments and counseling. Environmental Blood Level Investigators will test various surfaces in the home for lead, collect dust samples and submit to the lab and conduct detailed inspections. Investigators will also prepare detailed reports summarizing the results of the investigations and coordinate those results with the nurses making home visits.

From: Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB);Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Work Project Number

Importance: High

Can either one of you please provide me with the Flint Water Safety Work Project Number? I would like to reference it in our Implementation Plan for the $1,016,000 but since we didn't enter it, I am unable to locate it.

Cindy Masterson
Health Services Budget Division Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Office 517-241-2409
Fax 517-241-4845

From: Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 8:26 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Cc: Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Work Project Number

Perfect. Thanks Dean.

Cindy Masterson
Health Services Budget Division Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Office 517-241-2409
Fax 517-241-4845

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 8:19 AM
To: Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Cc: Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Work Project Number

Hope this is what you need.

From: Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Work Project Number
Importance: High

Can either one of you please provide me with the Flint Water Safety Work Project Number? I would like to reference it in our Implementation Plan for the $1,016,000 but since we didn't enter it, I am unable to locate it.

Cindy Masterson
Health Services Budget Division Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Office 517-241-2409
Fax 517-241-4845

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 1:10 PM
To: Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Cc: Kangas, Susan (DHHS);Masterson, Cindy (DHHS);Fosdick, David (DTMB);Becker, Timothy (DHHS);Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Subject: RE: FY16 and FY17 DHHS Flint Supplemental Request

Farah – we need to discuss the fund sourcing of the proposed FY 16 supplemental and the FY 17 request.

First thoughts – available Healthy Michigan Funds can be a part of this, but what about other federal and restricted funds?

Also, which line items will be affected? I assume more than just the Childhood Lead Program line.

From: Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 4:28 PM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Cc: Kangas, Susan (DHHS); Masterson, Cindy (DHHS); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Scott, Teri (DHHS); Carlisle, Phyllis (DTMB); Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Granger, Patricia (DHHS)
Subject: FY16 and FY17 DHHS Flint Supplemental Request
Importance: High

Nancy/Chris – Attached is the DHHS proposed supplemental request related to the City of Flint. We've attempted to provide detailed descriptions of each item requested. The FY16 funding levels are requested in addition to the supplemental dollars already approved in October 2015. The FY17 funding levels proposed assume full year costs, not increases from FY16.

We wanted you to have this as soon as possible. Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Farah

Farah A. Hanley
Senior Deputy Director, Financial Operations Administration
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
320 South Walnut Street
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 335-6821 direct
(517) 242-5736 mobile

From: White, Keith (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 8:47 AM
To: Fosdick, David (DTMB);Mukuna, Herve (DTMB)
Subject: FW: MHP/DHHS Operation Workgroup Conference Call 877-336-1831, Code: 4836727

Grabbing a coffee, and listening to this as I finish up with the Pharm. Adjustments, then look and hopefully find the balance problem with Med Services.

From today's agenda at the operations meeting---highlights show potential interest areas.

1. New Contract – update on subcontractor issue raised at CEO meeting
2. MDHHS org charts
3. MI Health Account – What would plans think about 1) conducting reminder calls and 2) allowing credit card payments?
4. **MI Child conversion issues**
5. **HMP Enrollment Update**
6. **HMP Waiver Update**
7. HMP Incentive Random Sample – quarterly. Does MDHHS have a calendar on when these sample reporting will be due? This was part of the performance bonus in FY15. Will this be part of the performance bonus or compliance review?
8. HRA Letters/gift cards – will MDHHS be requiring plans to add reference to using gift cards for healthy behaviors (no tobacco or alcohol)?
9. Update on changes to Quarterly Statement and Copy of the UofM study on recommended changes
10. **Blood lead test results from state lab – Will MDHHS be providing this info to the plans? In what format? How often?**
11. L 15-73 – City of Flint Blood Lead Guidelines
12. **2016 Compliance Review – Final documents – confirm due date for first submission**
13. **Final performance bonus requirements for FY2016**
14. **Rate sheets – when will these be provided? When will updated rates be provided for new risk scores for ABD/CSHCS population? When will the recoup and repay process occur?**
15.
16. **The new specialty Drugs approved by the P & T committee/Update on Solvadi**
17. Other

Keith

From: Klein, Susie (DHHS)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:49 AM
To: Asman, Leslie (DHHS); Babb, Abbey (DTMB); Bragg, Darryl (DHHS); Brege, Charlette (DHHS); Brown, Ashiya (DHHS); Cannon, T'Shara (DHHS); Cheryl Bupp (CBupp@mahp.org); Copeland, Rachel (DHHS); Dara Ford; Denny, Julianne (DHHS); DuPuis, Julie (DHHS); Eggleston, Debbie (DHHS); Eklund, Jeff (DHHS); Erika Walton; Green, Kellie (DHHS); Greyerbiehl, Sandra (DHHS); Hamilton, Kimberly (DHHS); Heinicke, Kimberly (DHHS); Hengesbach, Jamy (DHHS); Hyde, Charlene (DHHS); Keisling, Brian (DHHS); Kennedy, Sharon (DHHS); Kreiner, Meta (DHHS); Krysiak, Matthew (DHHS); Kwasnik, Monica (DHHS); LaBon, Nneka (DHHS); Landfair, Theresa (DHHS); LaPres, Marie (DHHS); Laurthel Hayes (laurthelhayes@maximus.com); Lipsey, Ashleigh (DHHS); Marcus Brisbo; Martin, Kelli (DHHS); Matthew Carper (Matthewcarper@maximus.com); McCausey, Latina (DHHS); McKellar, Mozell (DHHS); Miles, Richard C. (DHHS); Pierpoint, Marea (DHHS); Prokop, Jackie (DHHS); Ridge, Deb (DHHS); Robin LaFrance (robinlafrance@maximus.com); Rutledge-Wolf, Samantha (DHHS); Severin, Christina (DHHS); Taylor, Leslie (DHHS); Todd, Carly (DHHS); Villasurda, Jon (DHHS); Webster, Kyle (DHHS); White, Keith (DTMB); Williams, Ron (DHHS); Donna West; Karen Bunio; Kellie Rice; Melissa Holmquist; Michael Parr; Nancy Busch; Ramia Kaji (rkaji@mibluecrosscomplete.com); Ruth Evans; Sudha Gadgil (vgadgil@midwesthealthplan.com); Tiffany Stone; Vicki Laney; Stiffler, Kathleen A. (DHHS); Larner, Trena (DHHS); Danielle Devine
Cc: Anne Levandoski; Nicole Sandstrom; Katie Quinnell; Sheryl Waudby; Linda Alexander; Slawinski, Heather (DHHS); Rancilio, Gina (DHHS); kristen.burleson@priorityhealth.com; Bryan Cole; Elaine Zettel; Angela Bradford; Barb.D@priorityhealth.com; Sheila.Wilson@priorityhealth.com
Subject: RE: MHP/DHHS Operation Workgroup Conference Call 877-336-1831, Code: 4836727

Good Morning,

Just a reminder, tomorrow's meeting will be held as a conference call only. Attached are the documents you will need for the call. Please use the following toll free number when calling in: 877-336-1831, Access Code: 4836727.

Thank you,
Susie Klein

MIHA Executive Report Novembe...

1-5-16 Operations Workgroup Ag...

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Klein, Susie (DHHS)
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Klein, Susie (DHHS); Asman, Leslie (DHHS); Babb, Abbey (DTMB); Bragg, Darryl (DHHS); Brege, Charlette (DHHS); Brown, Ashiya (DHHS); Cannon, T'Shara (DHHS); Cheryl Bupp (CBupp@mahp.org); Copeland, Rachel (DHHS); Dara Ford; Denny, Julianne (DCH) (DennyJ@michigan.gov); DuPuis, Julie (DHHS); Eggleston, Debbie (DHHS); Eklund, Jeff (DHHS); Erika Walton; Green, Kellie (DHHS); Greyerbiehl, Sandra (DHHS); Hamilton, Kimberly (DHHS); Heinicke, Kimberly (DHHS); Hengesbach, Jamy (DHHS); Hyde, Charlene (DHHS); Keisling, Brian (DHHS); Kennedy, Sharon (DHHS); Kreiner, Meta (DHHS); Krysiak, Matthew (DHHS); Kwasnik, Monica (DHHS); LaBon, Nneka (DHHS); Landfair, Theresa (DHHS); LaPres, Marie (DHHS); Laurthel Hayes (laurthelhayes@maximus.com); Lipsey, Ashleigh (DHHS); Marcus Brisbo; Martin, Kelli (DHHS); Matthew Carper (Matthewcarper@maximus.com); McCausey, Latina (DHHS); McKellar, Mozell (DHHS);

Miles, Richard C. (DHHS); Pierpoint, Marea (DHHS); Prokop, Jackie (DHHS); Ridge, Deb (DHHS); Robin LaFrance (robinlafrance@maximus.com); Rutledge-Wolf, Samantha (DHHS); Severin, Christina (DHHS); Taylor, Leslie (DHHS); Todd, Carly (DHHS); Villasurda, Jon (DHHS); Webster, Kyle (DHHS); White, Keith (DTMB); Williams, Ron (DHHS); Donna West; Karen Bunio; Kellie Rice; Melissa Holmquist; Michael Parr; Nancy Busch; Ramia Kaji (rkaji@mibluecrosscomplete.com); Ruth Evans; Sudha Gadgil (vgadgil@midwesthealthplan.com); Tiffany Stone; Vicki Laney; Stiffler, Kathleen A. (DCH) (StifflerK@michigan.gov); Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Cc: Anne Levandoski; Nicole Sandstrom; Katie Quinnell; Sheryl Waudby; Linda Alexander; Slawinski, Heather (DHHS); Rancilio, Gina (DHHS); kristen.burleson@priorityhealth.com; Bryan Cole; Elaine Zettel; Angela Bradford; Barb.D@priorityhealth.com; Sheila.Wilson@priorityhealth.com
Subject: MHP/DHHS Operation Workgroup Conference Call 877-336-1831, Code: 4836727
When: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Conference Call Only

We have decided to hold this meeting as a conference call only. For DHHS staff at Capitol Commons I booked 4th Floor SW conf. room.

We will send agenda out Monday morning.

Conference call number: 877-336-1831, Code: 4836727

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

DHHS/MHP Operations Workgroup Agenda

Teleconference Only

January 5, 2016, 9:00 am – Noon

CALL IN NUMBER: 877-336-1831, ACCESS CODE: 4836727

1. New Contract – update on subcontractor issue raised at CEO meeting
2. MDHHS org charts
3. MI Health Account – What would plans think about 1) conducting reminder calls and 2) allowing credit card payments?
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14. Rate sheets – when will these be provided? When will updated rates be provided for new risk scores for ABD/CSHCS population? When will the recoup and repay process occur?
15. The new specialty Drugs approved by the P & T committee/Update on Solvadi
16. Other

NEXT MEETING: January 19, 2016
Teleconference Only

From: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Harkins, Chris (DTMB);Fosdick, David (DTMB);Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Cc: Beurer, Terrence (DHHS);Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Stigall, Jill (DHHS);Gillette, Patrice (DHHS);Scott, Teri (DHHS);Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Subject: ESLOA - FY15 Work Project Request for Flint Water Safety
Attachments: F - FY15 DHHS Work Project Flint Water Safety.docx

Attached is a FY 2015 work project request to carry forward the general fund balance in the DHS Emergency Services Local Office Allocations appropriation to provide water filters for MDHHS clients in the City of Flint.

Please contact me if there are any questions.

Thanks,
Susan

Susan Kangas, Director
Bureau of Budget
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
517-373-7787

DHHS Fiscal Year: 2015

Work Project	Emergency Services Local Office Allocations - Flint Water Safety
Estimated Completion Cost	$1,016,000
Estimated Completion Date	9/30/2016
Appropriation Number	32640
Appropriation Title	Emergency services local office allocations
Estimated End of Year Appropriation Balance	$1,016,000
Estimated Total Carry Forward Amount	$1,016,000
Work Project Carry Forward	"Entire Balance"
Fund Number (D23)	0901 – Est. end of year balance $1,016,000
Fund Name (D23)	State General Purpose / General Fund
Estimated End of Year Fund Balance	$1,016,000
Estimated Total Carry Forward Amount	$1,016,000
Project Purpose:	
The Department will utilize surplus FY 2015 Emergency services local office allocation funding to distribute residential water filters for MDHHS clients (FIP, FAP, CDC, SDA, SSI and WIC clients) as outlined in the official action plan for the City of Flint. It is estimated 14,427 client households are located in zip codes 48503 and 48504. The water filters will be maintained by the Community Action Agency for distribution to local offices as needed.	
Is there statutory authority designating this project?	No
Public Act and Boilerplate Section	N/A
Is Implementation Plan available for review?	In development. Multi-departmental collaborative with State of Michigan DEQ, MDHHS, Federal EPA, City of Flint, Genesee County and other stakeholders, partners participating in the plan's development.
Summary of Implementation Plan	
This is part of the roll out of the entire implementation plan that is currently on a fast track to ensure: testing at schools and homes; determine lead exposure of residents; water testing; corrosion controls; technical assistance; water improvement and replacement of faulty water lines. Both short and long-term action plans are being developed for immediate implementation, but are not complete or ready for review. DHHS has developed specific coding structures and is currently developing policy protocols and staff alerts to institute the distribution of water filters and to provide services as authorized as quickly as possible.	

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 6:26 AM
To: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Cc: Harkins, Chris (DTMB);Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Subject: Work Project Report
Attachments: WP Fiscal Agency Reports_2015-10-20.pdf

This is the 200+ page report that we send to the fiscals on each work project for all departments. The presumption is that there are department implementation plans backing up the summaries (of course, there are no required formats for the full implementation plans – they can be whatever you choose). Regarding new versus continuing work projects, it's not clear what Kevin wants without asking him.

Work Project Management System

Agriculture and Rural Development — Not In Statute — Fiscal Year: 2015

Work Project: Strategic Growth Initiative Grants - 3580

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,400,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Food and agriculture industry growth initative - one time basis	01079	$1,000	$1,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1000	$1,000	$1,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Food and Agriculture Industry Growth Initiative	01255	$200,000	$200,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1000	$200,000	$200,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of these grants is to support research, education and technical assistance efforts identified as emerging or critical to business development and growth of the food and agriculture industry in Michigan. Eligible entities include educational institutions, economic development organizations, non-profits, agricultural producer networks or cooperatives and agricultural businesses that produce, process or market Michigan grown agricultural products.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

MDARD established two award rounds, one in March and the second in September. This work project would allow time to adequately complete the committee work for the second round in order to award quality grants. Grant awards will be announced in early October and encumbrances established after agreements are drafted.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Strategic Growth Initiative Grants - 3580

Work Project: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Home Protection Unit - 3244

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$6,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Home Protection Unit	01080	$2,800,000	$2,800,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Homeowner Protection Fund	3800	$2,800,000	$2,800,000

Project Purpose

These funds are made available under the Joint State-Federal Foreclosure Settlement.

The Home Protection Unit will provide added law enforcement and consumer protection support under the use restrictions placed on the foreclosure funds by the consent judgement. The consent judgement restricts funds to avoid preventable foreclosures, ameliorate effects of the foreclosure crisis, enhances law enforcement efforts against financial fraud, and compensates the state for costs resulting from alleged unlawful conduct of defendants.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Attorney General's Home Protection Unit is staffed with three limited-term attorneys, three investigators, one financial specialist, one legal secretary and two part-time students. The Unit provides legal and consumer protection enforcement to prevent foreclosures and fight financial fraud, subject to the terms of the foreclosure settlement. There are many outstanding cases that will extend past the end date of this work project, and the Attorney General will be requesting a new appropriation in FY 2017, subject to available funds.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 296 of 2012, Section 203

End of Information for: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Home Protection Unit - 3244

Work Project: Student Safety Hotline - 3407

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$2,371,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Student Safety Hotline	01060	$1,850,000	$1,850,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Student Safety fund	4105	$1,850,000	$1,850,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to operate a multi-media student safety hotline.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Student Safety Act (P.A. 183 of 2013) required a Request for Proposals for operating the Student Safety Hotline (MSP won the contract in May, 2014). The program, entitled "OK 2 SAY", was launched during the 2014-2015 school year. "OK 2 SAY" is a program designed to empower Michigan students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, and law enforcement to share and respond to student safety threats. The Attorney General is working with the project partners to implement the requirements of the Student Safety Act.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 102 of 2013, Section 252

End of Information for: Student Safety Hotline - 3407

Work Project: Public Safety Initiative - 3595

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$904,300	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Public Safety Initiative	01070	$740,000	$740,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0010	$740,000	$740,000

Project Purpose

These resources are intended to reduce backlogs for outstanding warrants within cities designated as high crime areas of the state - notably Detroit, Pontiac, Saginaw, and Flint. This will enable an increase in prosecutions and incarceration of offenders, resulting in reduced crime in high-risk areas.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide contractual legal assistance, memoranda of understanding have been entered into between the Attorney General's Office and specific local county prosecutor offices which encompass the cities of Detroit, Pontiac, Saginaw, and Flint.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Public Safety Initiative - 3595

Work Project: Sexual Assault Prosecutions - 3578

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$3,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Sexual Assault Prosecutions	08000	$2,900,000	$2,900,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0010	$2,900,000	$2,900,000

Project Purpose

These resources will assist prosecutions arising from sexual assault evidence kits discovered by Michigan State Police upon the closing of the Detroit crime laboratory.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A memorandum of understanding has been entered into between the Attorney General, Wayne County, Michigan State Police, and Detroit Police Department. The memorandum of understanding provides investigating, prosecuting, victim advocacy and data analytic services to Wayne County for approximately three years.

Sec. 320 of PA 252 of 2014 requires a spending plan to be approved by the State Budget Director. Approval was transmitted by the State Budget Director to the Legislature on May 15, 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Sexual Assault Prosecutions - 3578

Work Project: Enterprise IT Solution - 3549

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$6,200,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services & Projects	06000	$3,000,000	$3,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
State Casino Gaming Fund	0078	$2,300,000	$2,300,000
State Service Fee Fund	0079	$700,000	$700,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Enterprise IT Solution is to allow the Michigan Gaming Control Board to reduce the current 30 applications supported by IT to a more cohesive environment using one to three commercial off the shelf solution products.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

MGCB has created a Project Charter as a plan to accomplish Phase 1 of this project. This purpose of Phase 1 is to identify all of the business requirements needed to move forward to granting a request for proposal (RFP). Phase 1 is scheduled to be completed by May 2016 and will be considered complete after final issuance of a vendor contract.

Phase 2 cannot be completed until a vendor is chosen. However, MGCB has conducted spotlight presentations with a few vendors to better gauge system and implementation cost. Estimation was also received of DTMB support charges related to implementation of the system. Based on this research, total budgeted cost is $5,900,000. MGCB is planning final end-user rollout of the Enterprise IT Solution as 9/30/2017.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Enterprise IT Solution - 3549

Work Project: Electronic Health Record Incentive Program - 3515

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$586,394,200	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Electronic health record incentive program	34020	$72,950,000	$72,950,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$950,000	$950,000
Federal	0300	$72,000,000	$72,000,000

Project Purpose

Promote adoption and use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) by Eligible Hospitals (EH's) and Eligible Professionals (EP's) by administering 100% Federal incentive payments, and increase the interoperability of State systems to support meaningful use and health information exchange. The latter requires the upgrade of state health related systems to support federally required health IT standards, and the activities are federally funded at 90%.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The plan includes the following activities: 1) Administration of Medicaid incentive payments to Medicaid EH's and EP's; 2) Oversight of the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, including routine tracking of meaningful use attestations and reporting mechanisms: and 3) Pursuit of initiative to encourage the adoption of certified EHR technology for the promotion of health care quality and the electronic exchange of health information; 4) MiHin, MiPage, and Data HUB activities which are Governor's priorities. The total combined estimated completion cost of the overall project is $586.4 million through FY16. This reflects only the current amount approved by CMS through the Advanced Planning Document for the first five years of the project, plus the estimated incentive payments that are 100% Federal. The general fund associated with the project is to match federal Medicaid administration dollars needed to administer the 100% federally funded incentive payments and adapting technology for the promotion of health care quality and the electronic exchange of health information. The total project is anticipated to last 10 years.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article IV,
Section 1501

End of Information for: Electronic Health Record Incentive Program - 3515

Work Project: Electronic Health Record Incentive Program - 3562

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$586,394,200	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Electronic health record incentive program	34020	$112,450,000	$112,450,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$450,000	$450,000
Federal	0300	$112,000,000	$112,000,000

Project Purpose

Promote adoption and use of Electronic Health Records (EHR) by Eligible Hospitals (EH's) and Eligible Professionals (EP's) by administering 100% Federal incentive payments, and increase the interoperability of State systems to support meaningful use and health information exchange. The latter requires the upgrade of state health related systems to support federally required health IT standards, and the activities are federally funded at 90%. This funding will be used to provide the State match.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The plan includes the following activities: 1) Administration of Medicaid incentive payments to Medicaid EH's and EP's; 2) Oversight of the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, including routine tracking of meaningful use attestations and reporting mechanisms: and 3) Pursuit of initiative to encourage the adoption of certified EHR technology for the promotion of health care quality and the electronic exchange of health information; 4) MiHin, MiPage, and Data HUB activities which are Governor's priorities. The total combined estimated completion cost of the overall project is $586.4 million through FY16. This reflects only the current amount approved by CMS through the Advanced Planning Document for the first five years of the project, plus the estimated incentive payments that are 100% Federal. The general fund associated with the project is to match federal Medicaid administration dollars needed to administer the 100% federally funded incentive payments and adapting technology for the promotion of health care quality and the electronic exchange of health information. The total project is anticipated to last 10 years.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article IV, Section 1501

End of Information for: Electronic Health Record Incentive Program - 3562

Work Project: Health Innovation Emerging Issues - 3588

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Health Innovation Grants	11250	$47,200	$47,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$47,200	$47,200

Project Purpose

To award grants to address emerging issues and encourage cutting edge advances in health care including strategic partners in both the public and private sectors.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Award grants to strategic partners in both the public and private sectors to address emerging issues. Some of the issues these partners are addressing are Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, hearing loss, mental health, and breastfeeding education among others issues. A majority of grants have been issued, but work project authorization is needed to obligate remaining funds.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article IV, Section 717

End of Information for: Health Innovation Emerging Issues - 3588

Work Project: Mental Health Innovation - 3520

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$5,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Mental Health Innovation	14240	$1,600,000	$1,600,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$1,600,000	$1,600,000

Project Purpose

This project will address a priority of the Mental Health and Wellness Commission which is to improve case management and treatment systems for high risk children and their families, including state hospital, residential and non residential settings.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

There are multi-faceted planning and evaluation efforts under way especially involving children who are placed in the state institution and who have proven not successful in community placements, even with high intensity wrap around services in the home or foster care setting. The plan is to develop a very specialized private residential setting (called a psychiatric residential treatment facility) which is Medicaid reimbursable for a very narrow set of very high risk children. Michigan does not have one of these types of settings yet so there will be one time development work involved as well as creating the path for this to become part of our Medicaid program on an ongoing basis. Additionally, there will be teams developed to provide support for these same high risk children and others as they move from the psychiatric residential treatment facility or state hospital to community settings with treatment services following them. The two support teams and Psychiatric Residential Treatment facility need to be developed together in order for this to be a successful model for the highest risk children.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article IV, Section 1901(2)

End of Information for: Mental Health Innovation - 3520

Work Project: All Payers Claims Data Base - 3516

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$300,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Medical Services Administration	34010	$300,000	$300,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$300,000	$300,000

Project Purpose

MDCH is to create and develop a transparency database website for paid claims upon enactment of enabling legislation.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A complete implementation plan will be drafted when enabling legislation has been passed. The All Payers Claims Database will be developed using a combination of contractual and state staff and resources.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: All Payers Claims Data Base - 3516

Work Project: Detroit HIV/STD Clinic - 3650

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$450,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Essential Local Public Health Services	12263	$450,000	$450,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$450,000	$450,000

Project Purpose

To establish and operate a medical clinic in Detroit that specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted disease.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This clinic shall serve as the clinical referral site for the city health department and for the MDHHS STD surveillance and intervention unit that is based in Detroit. Bids for renovating a building are due by September 30, 2015; the goal is to award a contact by the end of October.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Detroit HIV/STD Clinic - 3650

Work Project: Mental Health and Wellness Commission - 3617

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$30,606,700	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Behavioral Health Program Administration	01130	$24,544,200	$24,544,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$6,502,500	$6,502,500
Federal	0300	$18,041,700	$18,041,700

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Mental Health Commission Recommendations	14241	$4,537,500	$4,537,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$575,000	$575,000
Federal	0300	$3,962,500	$3,962,500

Project Purpose

The 2014 Mental Health and Wellness Commission (MHWC) formed several recommendations to improve the lives of and outcomes for individuals and families living with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders in the state. This work project will support thirty initiatives that directly address the MHWC recommendations.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The FY 2015 appropriation provided $30.6 million for 30 Mental Health and Wellness Commission (MHWC) initiatives, consistent with the recommendations of the Governor's Mental Health and Wellness Commission. The project plan would be to carry forward unspent funds in order complete these initiatives. The work project dollars are proposed to be distributed proportionally to the current MHWC initiatives based upon the original FY 2015 allocation of funding. The department intends to fully spend the FY 15 work projected dollars by the end of FY 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Mental Health and Wellness Commission - 3617

Work Project: MIDocs - Graduate Medical Education Consortium - 3599

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Medical Services Administration	34010	$500,000	$500,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$500,000	$500,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of MIDocs is to develop freestanding residency training programs in primary care and other ambulatory care-based specialties.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

These funds will be used to prepare a report detailing how new residency training programs could be designed along with a plan for retaining students in these programs post-residency, legally create the consortium, prepare to obtain ACGME accreditation, and develop new residency programs.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: MIDocs - Graduate Medical Education Consortium - 3599

Work Project: Prenatal Home Visiting Program - 3579

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,250,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Prenatal Care Outreach and Service Delivery Support	14289	$550,000	$550,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$550,000	$550,000

Project Purpose

To enhance services provided under the Rural Home Visitation Program. These services will provide the following outcomes: (1) Improve maternal and newborn health, (2)Reduce child injuries, child abuse, neglect and maltreatment and reduction of emergency department visits, (3)Improve school readiness and achievements, (4)Reduce crime and domestic violence, (5)Improve family economic self-sufficiency, and (6)Improve coordination and referrals for other community resources and supports.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Using General Purpose Funding, the overall project will be completed during FY2016. The implementation plan builds on the progress made in FY2015. The project schedule includes achieving full implementation of evidence-based, prevention focused home visiting services in Regions 1 (Upper Peninsula), Region 2 (Northwest) and Region 3 (Northeast), based on the plan developed by a regional stakeholders group and submitted by each of those regions.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Prenatal Home Visiting Program - 3579

Work Project: Regional Trauma Coordination - 3596

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,800,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Emergency Medical Services Program	18358	$2,196,800	$2,196,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Victim Services Fund	0205	$2,196,800	$2,196,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Statewide Trauma System	18360	$1,295,000	$1,295,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Victim Services Fund	0205	$1,295,000	$1,295,000

Project Purpose

Develop per statute and administrative rules a regionalized, coordinated and accountable system of care for the injured in Michigan. This includes supporting regional trauma networks, verifying and designating trauma facilities, and collecting trauma data in a state trauma registry. It will also support the efforts of the existing 62 Medical Control Authorities (MCA) to organize into 8 regions to enhance efficiencies, support regionalization, and improve communication and the use of resources.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The work plan for 2016 includes verifying and designating approximately 93 acute care facilities; supporting data entry into the state trauma registry; and supporting trauma education for pre-hospital providers, registrars, trauma program managers and others. This project will facilitate the tracking and identification of the injured from the field to definitive care. Supporting injury prevention and interfacing with other partners to advance injury prevention initiatives is also an outcome. The MCA initiative will continue the work begun in 2015 to support the organization of 62 existing MCAs into regional organizations or networks, analysis and assessment of the MCA structure/EMS system, and medical communication and data systems within that structure.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Regional Trauma Coordination - 3596

Work Project: SIGMA Interface Projects - 3672

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$923,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services and Projects	80000	$510,300	$510,300	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0100	$510,300	$510,300

Project Purpose

The state of Michigan is in the process of developing a new accounting system, SIGMA, and the existing system, MAIN, will be phased out. As a result of this new system, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Health Services Programs (previously the Department of Community Health) has several systems that were developed to directly interface with MAIN. Due to the implementation of SIGMA, many of DHHS' systems must be modified in order to interface with SIGMA.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Summary of implementation plan: The DHHS is in the process of working with the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), Project SIGMA staff, and vendors to develop the interfaces needed between multiple department systems with the new accounting system, SIGMA. The DHHS systems that are directly impacted by SIGMA include ASAP, Crime Victim Payments, Data Warehouse, Egrams, Family Support System, and the MSA Manual Payment System. Below is the breakdown of funding needed for each one:

	GROSS	FEDERAL	STATE
ASAP	$145,000	$108,750	$36,250
Crime Victim Payments	$150,000	-0-	$150,000
Data Warehouse	$468,000	$234,000	$234,000
Egrams	$100,000	$50,000	$50,000
Family Support System	$20,000	-0-	$20,000
MSA Manual Payment System	$ 40,000	$20,000	$20,000

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: SIGMA Interface Projects - 3672

Work Project: State Innovation Model Grant - 3629

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$69,999,600	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Health Policy Administration	18430	$18,634,600	$18,634,600	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0300	$18,634,600	$18,634,600

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to transform the healthcare system, payment reformation, and population health improvement. Also, to ensure access to high quality care, integrate primary care and behavioral health, coordinate with community resources, and support health information technology and exchange. Some targets are healthier babies, reducing emergency department utilization, and reducing several chronic diseases including diabetes, hypertension, depression, obesity and alcoholism.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The work plan is to create systems that coordinate complex care with medical, behavioral and human services, link with community health innovation regions for better performance outcomes, and align and integrate care management between providers and health plans. Move away from fee-for-service over time, reduce costs by removing waste from the health system, provide upfront investments for health information technology, continuous improvement infrastructure, and community health, and assure data transparency to promote good decision-making.

As part of the DHHS spending plan, costs are broken down by fiscal year and by grant category. The department has entered into one contract with MPHI which will also subcontract some of the work identified in work plan, and additional grants will be issued in FY 16. All other contracts/grants will be issued using the state's current procurement guidelines. For initial implementation in FY 15, the department has budgeted around $1 million contractually to MPHI, as a majority of expenditures will occur in FY 16-FY 18. For FY 16, $16.1 million is estimated for MPHI contracts and $4.2 million for state expenses (local funding and state staff) for a total of $20.3 million. In FY 17, $26.8 million is estimated for contracts and state expenses and $22 million in FY 18.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: State Innovation Model Grant - 3629

Work Project: Digitize Prisoner Records - 3381

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$1,129,500	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
One Time -Info Tech Svcs & Projects	03115	$500,000	$500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$500,000	$500,000

Project Purpose

This funding will be used to digitize prisoner files and medical records for archiving with the ability for quick retrieval.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A business analysis has been conducted to determine which existing State of Michigan enterprise system is appropriate for Department of Corrections document management. Funding will pay for all hardware, software, licenses, and services needed to accomplish the project.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Digitize Prisoner Records - 3381

Work Project: Offender Management System Legacy Modernization - 3601

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Budget and operations administration	02060	$250,000	$250,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$250,000	$250,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Correctional facilities administration	29507	$250,000	$250,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$250,000	$250,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Field operations	22250	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information technology services and projects	05083	$500,000	$500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$500,000	$500,000

Project Purpose

Funding will be used to continue work on the Offender Management System (OMS) information technology project.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department of Technology, Management and Budget will continue work to phase out the Department of Corrections - legacy Offender Management System and its supporting systems, with Phase I of the project complete and continuing with work on Phase II.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Offender Management System Legacy Modernization - 3601

Work Project: Prisoner Education Enhancement - 3591

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Education program - one-time enhancement costs	03118	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

Funding will be used to purchase specialized tablet computers and software for use with the prisoner education program. Funding may also be used to equip prisoner vocational training programs.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Specialized tablet computers and software will be procured through either existing contracts or an RFP process. One-time vocational equipment will also be procured for the department's vocational training sites.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Prisoner Education Enhancement - 3591

Work Project: Swift & Sure Sanctions Probation Program - Michigan Rehabilitation Services - 3590

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Interdepartmental grant to the department of human services for swift and sure	19345	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

Funding will be used through an interagency agreement with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) to assist individuals who have a history of probation violations and exceptional mental health needs.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) shall provide assistance through contracting with community-based vocational rehabilitation organizations for job placement and other support services for eligible probationers referred from the MDOC.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Swift & Sure Sanctions Probation Program - Michigan Rehabilitation Services - 3590

Work Project: Vera Institute of Justice Grant - 3394

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$1,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Education Program	29005	$500,000	$500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Private	0320	$500,000	$500,000

Project Purpose

Private funding is available to enable prisoners within two years of their earliest release date to initiate post-secondary education services while incarcerated and continue after release. Education plays a key role in reducing recidivism rates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This pilot will be delivered at Macomb and Parnall Correctional Facilities where specific groups of prisoners are prepared for return to the cities of Pontiac and Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo Valley and Oakland Community Colleges have partnered with MDOC to provide post-secondary education services to the project participants. Comprehensive computer-generated testing and college-level assessments will identify individual prisoner needs to allow for the development of specific intervention strategies. College counseling, family integration, and mentoring will support prisoners during re-entry into the community.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Vera Institute of Justice Grant - 3394

Work Project: District Dissolution Transition Costs - 3430

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$5,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
District Dissolution Transition Costs	22127	$2,806,300	$2,806,300	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$2,806,300	$2,806,300

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to reimburse eligible school districts for costs incurred by districts that inherited buildings from the dissolved school districts of Buena Vista and Inskster. "Dissolved school district" means a school district that has been declared dissolved under section 12 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.12.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Districts that have inherited buildings will continue to incur costs until the buildings are either sold or demolished. These costs have continued into FY15, and will continue into FY16, and possibly beyond.

The department developed a reimbursement application process and a reimbursement distribution process. Reimbursable costs include, but are not limited to, the costs of maintenance, utilities, security, or insurance associated with, or the demolition of, buildings transferred from a dissolved school district to the eligible district. The reimbursement made to eligible districts for all of the property transferred from a single dissolved school district shall not exceed the total cumulative sum of $2,500,000 for all of the eligible districts to which property was transferred from that dissolved school district.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 116 of 2014, Section 20g

End of Information for: District Dissolution Transition Costs - 3430

Work Project: First Robotics - 3535

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
First Robotics	22183	$518,500	$518,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$518,500	$518,500

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to provide grant funds to districts to provide pupils in grades 7 to 12 with expanded opportunities to improve mathematics, science and technology skills by participating in events hosted by a science and technology development program known as FIRST (for inspiration and recognition of science and technology) robotics.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Grants to school districts of $1,481,550 have been awarded. The department will be conducting a competitive grant process in October 2015 to award of the remaining funds. The remaining balance will be expended during FY16.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 196 of 2014, Article I, Section 99h

End of Information for: First Robotics - 3535

Work Project: Kindergarten Entry Status Assessment - 3147

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$3,250,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Early Learning Assessment	22289	$2,255,000	$2,255,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	2124	$2,255,000	$2,255,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement a kindergarten entry status assessment.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department has been granted funding under P.A. 29 of 2012, to develop an assessment tool to assist local schools in determining the proficiency of trainers, schools and kindergarten teachers.

Funds shall be used for the following purposes: (1) professional development for trainers, schools and kindergarten teachers (2) purchasing the license for the assessment tool and the online system for entering assessment findings, and other integration costs with the existing P-20 data system (3) outreach and education for parents and families, and (4) project implementation and management.

During the FY15-16, the following implementation activities are expected to be initiated/continued in support of this work project:

(1) Continue support for an Education Research Consultant 14 to provide management in support of implementing an operational Kindergarten Entry Assessment.
(2) Continue to pilot and/or field-test a Kindergarten Entry Assessment solution with Teaching Strategies Gold to train. This contract will continue to remain in a pilot/field-test status due to continued low saturation/ participation by the field during the 2014-15 school year. These field-test opportunities provide rich training to the field as well as allow increased familiarity with the assessment to teachers and students.
(3) Begin the process of evaluating our current contract with Teaching Strategies Gold as well as investigate other possible solutions for this assessment to provide input to a future Request for Proposal (RFP) to continue these efforts for kindergarten entry assessment as well as meeting the requirements of P.A. 29 of 2012.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 29 of 2012, Section 32g

End of Information for: Kindergarten Entry Status Assessment - 3147

Work Project: Principal Educator Evaluation Training - 3392

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$2,250,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Principal Educator Evaluation Training	22283	$747,300	$747,300	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$747,300	$747,300

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to provide grants to districts to support professional development for principals and assistant principals in a department-approved training program for implementing educator evaluations as required under section 1249 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1249.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Work that will continue to be performed during FY 16 includes:

Offer a grant application window in the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) to ISD, LEA, and PSA districts to submit Personnel Identification Codes (PICs) from the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP) for their principals and assistant principals interested in evaluation training programs. Districts must apply for grants by selecting one of the approved educator evaluation training models. Once the application window has closed, verify that submitted PICs are from personnel assigned in the REP as principals and/or assistant principals and approve those that are; deny those that are not coded as principals and/or assistant principals in the REP. Notify district MEGS+ applicants of approval/denial status for submitted PICs in applications.
Expend grant awards for approved submitted PICs in district applications to district. Conduct survey among districts receiving grant funds for purpose of obtaining feedback. Priority is given to districts that have new building administrators who have not previously received training in programs funded under this section.

As of 7/18/15, awards in the amount of $1,152,680 have been distributed. The balance will be awarded to eligible districts that apply for training grants. MDE plans to expend the remaining funds by the end of FY17.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 60 of 2013, Section 95

End of Information for: Principal Educator Evaluation Training - 3392

Work Project: Principal Educator Evaluation Training - 3461

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,250,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Principal Educator Evaluation Training	22283	$200,800	$200,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$200,800	$200,800

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to provide grants to districts to support professional development for principals and assistant principals in a department-approved training program for implementing educator evaluations as required under section 1249 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1249.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Work that will continue to be performed in FY16 includes:

Offer grant application window in the Michigan Electronic Grants System Plus (MEGS+) to ISD, LEA, and PSA districts to submit Personnel Identification Codes (PICs) from the Registry of Educational Personnel (REP) for their principals and assistant principals interested in evaluation training programs. Districts must apply for grants by selecting one of the approved educator evaluation training models. Once the application window has closed, verify that submitted PICs are from personnel assigned in the REP as principals and/or assistant principals and approve those that are; deny those that are not coded as principals and/or assistant principals in the REP. Notify district MEGS+ applicants of approval/denial status for submitted PICs in applications.
Expend grant awards for approved submitted PICs in district applications to district. Conduct survey among districts receiving grant funds, for purpose of obtaining feedback. Priority is given to districts that have new building administrators who have not previously received training in programs funded under this section.

As of 7/18/15, awards in the amount of $1,152,680 have been distributed. The balance will be awarded to eligible districts that apply for training grants. MDE plans to expend the remaining funds by the end of FY16.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 60 of 2013, Section 95

End of Information for: Principal Educator Evaluation Training - 3461

Work Project: Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant - 3422

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$51,737,500	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge	22288	$48,513,500	$48,513,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	2126	$48,513,500	$48,513,500

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to increase the number of low-income and disadvantaged infants, toddlers, and preschoolers enrolled in high-quality early learning programs.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Michigan's Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC) is comprised of seven projects to be implemented collaboratively by MDE, MDHHS, DTMB (CEPI), MiAEYC, and ECIC. Detailed scope of work documents and budgets have been developed and are continuously updated for each of the projects. Interagency agreements, MOUs, and contract amendments are updated/initiated on an "as needed" basis. A sub-recipient monitoring plan has been drafted and executed with grant partners.

Project activities include:
1. Increased access for children with high needs to high-quality learning programs. MDE plans to work on the development of key indicators for child care licensing and create scholarships to improve access to high quality early learning settings.
2. Increased opportunities for licensed and unlicensed subsidized home care providers to improve the quality of their programs. MDE is working on several marketing and incentive programs to increase participation.
3. Improved family engagement in childhood early learning and development. MDE is bringing on board family engagement consultants to improve family engagement.
4. Expanded efforts to identify and promote children's physical, social and emotional health.
5. Increased professional development opportunities for early learning care providers.
6. Development of an early learning data system to monitor and evaluate quality standards of individual programs.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 116 of 2014, Section 32r

End of Information for: Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant - 3422

Work Project: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) - 3531

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$41,500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Technology Infrastructure Grants	22136	$35,362,900	$35,362,900	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$35,362,900	$35,362,900

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to provide grant funds to districts for the development or improvement of district readiness for integrated teaching and learning enhanced by technology.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

So far this fiscal year, total payments to school districts equal $6,137,100. The department will be conducting a competitive grant process for award of the remaining funds. The department is also working with grantees to monitor the specific statewide activity objectives and deliverables.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 196 of 2014, Article I, Section 22i(4)

End of Information for: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant (TRIG) - 3531

Work Project: Tiered Quality Improvement Rating System for Early Childhood Program Providers - 3148

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$9,250,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Early Learning Assessment	22289	$396,400	$396,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	2124	$396,400	$396,400

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement a tiered quality improvement rating system for early childhood program providers.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Great Start to Quality is Michigan's tiered quality rating and improvement system for licensed/registered early learning and development programs and unlicensed, subsidized providers.

Funds shall be used for the following purposes: (1) hiring and training of raters and quality improvement specialists; (2) alignment of state licensing, Michigan early learning standards and the state professional registry; (3) comprehensive assessment of settings across multiple quality indicators, including early childhood educator qualifications, quality improvement planning and support for at least 1/3 of early learning settings; (4) purchase of educational rating tools; (5) creation of a data system tracking the supply of high-quality early learning settings that links high-need children with quality settings; (6) family and parent education; (7) evaluation; and (8) quality improvement funds.

The implementation plan outlines how activities will support the following: (1) Parents will increase their knowledge about why quality matters and will use ratings information to inform their early learning and care choices; (2) Provide quality improvement supports and resources to early learning programs and unlicensed subsidized providers; (3) Incorporation of Michigan's early learning expectations and core competencies into all workforce development opportunities for early learning providers; (4) Evaluation of early learning and development programs quality based on Great Start to Quality standards.

Remaining funds will be used to seek bids and enter into a contract with an outside vendor to complete the evaluation component of the project.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 29 of 2012, Section 32g

End of Information for: Tiered Quality Improvement Rating System for Early Childhood Program Providers - 3148

Work Project: Distressed Districts Emergency Grants - 3667

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
District Emergency Contingency Fund	22139	$3,822,000	$3,822,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
District Emergency Contingency Fund -SAF	2139	$3,822,000	$3,822,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to extend spending authority to fund grants to distressed districts meeting eligibility requirements described in section 11r of the State School Aid Act, 2014 PA 196, MCL 388.1611r.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Grant amounts are determined by the State Treasurer after consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Districts eligible for a grant must meet either of the following requirements:

1.) The district has adopted a resolution authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the district approved by the State Treasurer, but the dissolution has not yet taken effect; or

2.) The district is a receiving district under section 12 of the revised school code, MCL 380.12, and the district enrolls pupils who were previously enrolled in a dissolved district in the immediately preceding school year.

Before disbursing funds, the state treasurer must notify the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid and the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies. The notification must include, at a minimum, the district receiving funds, the amount of the funds awarded, an explanation of the district conditions leading to the need for the fund, and the intended use of funds.

Money in the distressed districts emergency grant fund at the close of a fiscal year remains in the fund and does not lapse to the state school aid fund or to the general fund.

$178,000 has been spent in FY15, based on supplemental language allowing for the payment to Lighthouse Academy for the loss in federal Title I funds pursuant to PA 85 of 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Distressed Districts Emergency Grants - 3667

Work Project: Dynamic Online Reporting Tool - 3573

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$3,200,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
States Assessment	22245	$22,539,700	$3,200,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$22,539,700	$3,200,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to develop or select an online reporting tool to provide student-level assessment data in a secure environment to educators, parents, and pupils immediately after assessments are scored.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Division of Accountability Services within the Department of Education is investigating ways to use a phased-in approach to divide the project into smaller segments. They intend to have the first stage ready in early October. A proof-of-concept pilot is scheduled to be prepared by spring 2016, with statewide implementation expected the following year.

The primary goal of the project is to build or utilize an existing online tool to provide immediate access to all statewide assessments that have been administered to one or more students during a one-year period. A second goal is to provide easy expandability of the reporting tool to assist schools and districts with gathering additional data sources, such as collection of information for the Early Literacy Initiative. The tool will utilize a pre-authenticated security approach to restrict the amount and type of information available to each user.

In FY16, MDE plans to expend $3.2 million of funding for the initial statewide implementation of the primary goal, which will include software development/adaptation and hosting for the pilot and initial rollout.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Dynamic Online Reporting Tool - 3573

Work Project: Educational Data Decision Support System - 3423

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$15,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Database for Educational Performance Information	22285	$4,184,800	$4,184,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	2124	$4,184,800	$4,184,800

Project Purpose

This project will enable the state to continue the development of, and support the connection of the statewide P-20 student longitudinal data system (SLDS) with the web-based educational portal which provides information to leaders, teachers and the public. These components are needed to build upon the foundation established with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of a system that will assist the state in achieving the Governor's goals aimed at increasing the level of integration of secondary and postsecondary education opportunities, ensuring a higher level of career and college readiness for our students and for improving compliance with both state and federal reporting mandates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The dollars requested for carryover for this project will be utilized to fund infrastructure, software implementation, training, staffing and related costs.

Specific activities include the following:
1. Analysis and reporting needs assessment
2. Infrastructure planning
3. Hardware and software acquisition, testing and development within the state's technical environment
4. Internal training on the use of the system's analytical and reporting tools
5. Development and deployment of reports and analytical tools

It is anticipated that the remaining balance of the work project will be spent down in FY16.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Educational Data Decision Support System - 3423

Work Project: Educational Data Decision Support System - 3589

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$15,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Database for Educational Performance Information	22285	$9,026,300	$9,026,300	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	2124	$9,026,300	$9,026,300

Project Purpose

This project will enable the state to continue the development of, and support connecting the statewide P-20 longitudinal data system with the web-based educational portal which provides information to leaders, teachers and the public. These components are needed to build upon the state's investment of a system that will assist in achieving the Governor's continued goals aimed at increasing the level of integration of secondary and postsecondary education opportunities, ensuring a higher level of career and college readiness for our students, improving matching and enhancing reporting for workforce and workforce training initiatives and for improving compliance with both state and federal reporting mandates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The dollars requested for this project will be utilized to fund infrastructure, software implementation, training, staffing and related costs.

Specific activities include the following:
1. Analysis and reporting needs assessment
2. Infrastructure planning
3. Hardware and software acquisition, testing and development within the state's technical environment
4. Internal training on the use of the system's analytical and reporting tools
5. Development and deployment of reports and analytical tools

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Educational Data Decision Support System - 3589

Work Project: Educator Evaluations - 3666

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$14,800,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Educator Evaluation System	22146	$14,800,000	$14,800,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	2124	$2,700,000	$2,700,000
School Aid Fund	2146	$12,100,000	$12,100,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to support the implementation of educator evaluation systems for public school teachers and school administrators.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department is developing a process to support the implementation of educator evaluations across school districts consistent with the provisions of ESB 103. Supported work to be implemented in FY16 includes the following:

1) Development, deployment, and maintenance of technical assistance materials to provide guidance to districts in the technical aspects of educator evaluations;

2) Disbursement of funds for training of teachers, evaluators and observers;

3) Establishment and maintenance of a list of teacher evaluation tools that have efficacy, to be used by districts to evaluate teachers and administrators.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Educator Evaluations - 3666

Work Project: Interim Benchmark Assessments - 3201

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$17,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
States Assessment	22245	$2,464,600	$2,464,600	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$2,464,600	$2,464,600

Project Purpose

Support the development, administration, scoring and reporting of interim benchmark assessments pursuant to the state education reform legislation.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

MDE is continuing to expand its current assessment system in order to meet education reform legislation passed in July of 2011, which is also expected to become a key component of a reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Act. In support of providing measures that will give local districts options to include student achievement data in their teacher and principal evaluations (as locally bargained) the department will continue to expand its development, including pilot/field-testing, of Interim Assessments (IA's) in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. The focus for this upcoming year will be on expanding our assessments through IA's for grades K-3 in support of the Governor's Early Literacy Initiative as well as high school for math and ELA. Finally development of model assessments for non-core classes (ie: art, physical education, computers, etc.) will be addressed. The interim assessments will be administered through an online assessment application. This was competitively bid in the fall of 2014 for the 2015-16 school year and beyond. The online administration as well as the item development for the interim assessments will be part of two contracts with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) for the 2015-16 school year.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Interim Benchmark Assessments - 3201

Work Project: Michigan School for the Deaf Dorm Upgrades - 3675

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$190,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Private Gifts - Deaf	04420	$157,000	$157,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Private	1715	$157,000	$157,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to allow the Michigan School for the Deaf (MSD) to replace worn, damaged furniture in the dormitory, upgrade lighting in the dorms, paint walls, add drapes to the bedrooms, and provide other updates as needed.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department is in the process of purchasing materials to upgrade the dorm facilities. Contracts will be made in the beginning of FY16, with the dorm upgrades complete by 9/30/16.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Michigan School for the Deaf Dorm Upgrades - 3675

Work Project: Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) - 3536

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,800,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Teacher Certification Test Updates	22142	$1,800,000	$1,800,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	2124	$1,800,000	$1,800,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the work project is to develop and update teacher certification tests to reflect current education standards.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Office of Professional Preparation is working with their current licensure examination and item development contractor, NCS Pearson, Evaluation Systems (ES), to proceed with updates to standards. In addition, OPPS is focusing on crucial content areas that see a large proportion of teacher candidate enrollment. These areas align with the Governor's 3rd Grade Reading Initiative, legislative mandates on improving K-3 literacy, the Revised School Code, and other State Board of Education policies. This planning, which began in the 2014-2015 school year, allows for maximum involvement of expert stakeholders, such as Michigan K-12 teachers and representatives from teacher education programs. The development of the standards will also involve key MDE personnel who will jointly participate in ES-facilitated committee meetings with the shared purpose of writing teacher preparation standards that reflect Michigan's best thinking in these critical areas. Funds will start to be expended in the fall of 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) - 3536

Work Project: Project SIGMA Interfacing and Implementation - 3576

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$100,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Operations	03801	$100,000	$100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$100,000	$100,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to target any available IT resources for necessary conversion or interface activities to ensure the successful implementation of Project SIGMA within MDE.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Funds will be used for SIGMA implementation within MDE. Funds will be used for application conversion costs, beyond what is covered by the SIGMA contingency fund, and for any unexpected costs related to SIGMA interfaces and/or implementation tasks.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Project SIGMA Interfacing and Implementation - 3576

Work Project: Student Assessment Transition - 3572

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$18,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
States Assessment	22245	$22,539,700	$18,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Aid Fund	0122	$22,539,700	$18,000,000

Project Purpose

Continued modernization of statewide student assessment processes and systems so it has the capabilities needed to comply with the state education reform legislation, as Michigan continues the transition to online assessment as required under Section 104 of the state school aid act, MCL 388.1704.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

During the 2015-16 school year, MDE will continue to transition to online assessment tools that meet the requirements of state and federal law and will continue to provide accurate results in a more timely manner. The M-STEP English Language Arts and mathematics summative assessments initiated many of these changes in spring 2015. To continue this transition successfully with science and social studies assessments, the department is enhancing the MDE item banking and secure site systems to handle additional technology-enhanced items and adaptive testing. State statute also requires administration of assessments in 9th and 10th grade in spring 2016, which adds effort and funding needs to the assessment program. When completed, these assessment tools will be more in line with the educational experiences of today's students. The continuation of this transition during the 2015-16 summative assessment cycle will allow for expedited administration, scoring and reporting and will enable the department to meet new requirements for educator evaluation and student growth measures.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Student Assessment Transition - 3572

Work Project: CMI - Brownfield Grants - 3412

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$5,500,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Brownfield Grants	04538	$4,633,600	$4,633,600	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CMI - Response Activities	0781	$4,633,600	$4,633,600

Project Purpose

Provide grants to local units of government and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Provide grants to local units of government for brownfield redevelopment activities. Conduct environmental assessment and site reclamation at contaminated properties that have redevelopment potential.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VII, Section 309

End of Information for: CMI - Brownfield Grants - 3412

Work Project: CMI - Brownfield Grants - 3550

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$5,500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Brownfield Grants	04538	$5,500,000	$5,500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CMI - Response Activities	0781	$5,500,000	$5,500,000

Project Purpose

Provide grants to local units of government and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Provide grants to local units of government for Brownfield Redevelopment activities. Conduct environmental assessment and site reclamation at contaminated properties that have redevelopment potential.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VII, Section 309

End of Information for: CMI - Brownfield Grants - 3550

Work Project: Emergency Cleanup Action - 3413

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$4,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Emergency Cleanup Actions	04570	$2,511,500	$2,511,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Fund	0563	$102,100	$102,100
Cleanup & Redevelopment Fund	0661	$2,409,400	$2,409,400

Project Purpose

To provide emergency cleanup activities at sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup activities at sites of environmental contamination, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Emergency Cleanup Action - 3413

Work Project: Emergency Cleanup Actions - 3551

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Emergency Cleanup Actions	04570	$3,837,000	$3,837,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Fund	0563	$837,100	$837,100
Cleanup & Redevelopment Fund	0661	$2,999,900	$2,999,900

Project Purpose

To provide emergency cleanup activities at sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup activities at sites of environmental contamination, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Emergency Cleanup Actions - 3551

Work Project: Environmental Cleanup and Redevelopment Program - 3137

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$9,932,100	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Environmental Cleanup & Redevelopment Program	04530	$3,500,000	$3,500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Environmental Protection Bond Fund	0770	$3,500,000	$3,500,000

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup and redevelopment activities at sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Utilize contractors to provide cleanup and redevelopment work in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 236 of 2012, Section 231

End of Information for: Environmental Cleanup and Redevelopment Program - 3137

Work Project: Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Response Activities - 3414

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$30,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Environmental Cleanup & Redevelopment Program	04530	$29,999,500	$29,999,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Strategic Water Quality Initiative Fund	0790	$29,999,500	$29,999,500

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup and redevelopment activities at sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup actions at environmentally contaminated Part 201 sites (Natural Resources & Protection Act 451 of 1994, Part 201) where the actions will improve the water quality of the state primarily utilizing contractors. Site requirements include: the site is orphaned (i.e. the party that caused the contamination is no longer in existence or can't be identified); the property is located within an area serviced by a publicly owned sanitary sewer system; and the actions will address existing or imminent unacceptable risks arising from conditions that contribute to nonpoint source water pollution.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Response Activities - 3414

Work Project: Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Response Activities - 3554

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$15,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Environmental Cleanup & Redevelopment Program	04530	$14,999,400	$14,999,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Strategic Water Quality Initiative Fund	0790	$14,999,400	$14,999,400

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup and redevelopment activities at sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup actions at environmentally contaminated Part 201 sites (Natural Resources & Protection Act 451 of 1994, Part 201) where the actions will improve the water quality of the State primarily utilizing contractors. Site requirements include: the site is orphaned (i.e. the party that caused the contamination is no longer in existence or can't be identified); the property is located within an area serviced by a publicly owned sanitary sewer system; and the actions will address existing or imminent unacceptable risks arising from conditions that contribute to nonpoint source water pollution.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Response Activities - 3554

Work Project: Refined Petroleum Product Cleanup Program - 3311

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$30,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Prod Cleanup Program	04580	$5,515,000	$5,515,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Fund	0563	$5,515,000	$5,515,000

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup activities at 'orphan' underground storage tank releases where the owner/operator is unkown, deceased, not viable, or is unwilling to undertake necessary cleanup activities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup activities at leaking underground storage sites, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 200 of 2012, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Refined Petroleum Product Cleanup Program - 3311

Work Project: Refined Petroleum Product Cleanup Program - 3415

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$32,500,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Prod Cleanup Program	04580	$32,461,000	$32,461,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Fund	0563	$32,461,000	$32,461,000

Project Purpose

To provide activities at "orphan" underground storage tank releases where the owner/operator is unknown, deceased, not viable, or is unwilling to undertake necessary cleanup activities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup activities at leaking underground storage tank sites, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Refined Petroleum Product Cleanup Program - 3415

Work Project: Refined Petroleum Product Cleanup Program - 3553

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$32,900,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Prod Cleanup Program	04580	$32,899,800	$32,899,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Refined Petroleum Fund	0563	$32,899,800	$32,899,800

Project Purpose

To provide activities at "orphan" underground storage tank releases where the owner/operator is unknown, deceased, not viable, or is unwilling to undertake necessary cleanup activities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup activities at leaking underground storage tank sites, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VII, Section 302

End of Information for: Refined Petroleum Product Cleanup Program - 3553

Work Project: Underground Storage Tank Authority - 3543

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$20,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Program	01350	$20,000,000	$20,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund	0564	$20,000,000	$20,000,000

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup activities at underground storage tank releases. Companies will make a claim through the authority for reimbursement cost associated with cleanup efforts.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

As of the middle of July 2015 the Underground Storage Tank Authority members have been appointed by the governor. The first meeting of the authority was on July 7, 2015.

One of the first tasks of the authority will be to hire the administrator; that process is currently underway. Once the administrator is hired, procedures will be written in order to pay claims to companies who have had a release of a petroleum product into the environment after the effective date of 12/29/2014 per P.A. 416 of 2014. We expect to the authority to start making claim payments in FY16.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 6 of 2015, Section 401

End of Information for: Underground Storage Tank Authority - 3543

Work Project: Aquifer Protection and Dispute Resolution - 3288

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$600,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Surface Water	04811	$550,000	$550,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Aquifer Protection Revolving Fund	0658	$550,000	$550,000

Project Purpose

The owner of a small-quantity well may submit a complaint alleging a potential groundwater dispute if the small-quantity well has failed to furnish the well's normal supply of water or the well has failed to furnish potable water and the owner has credible reason to believe that the well's problems have been caused by a high-capacity well.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Legislative amendments to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act added regulations to allow Aquifer Protection and Dispute Resolutions. These amendments allow an owner of a small-quantity well to file a complaint with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) if the well fails to furnish its normal water supply or fails to furnish potable water and the owner believes that the failure was caused by a high-capacity well. If an investigation concludes that the groundwater was lowered resulting in an impairment of continued use of the area's groundwater resources caused by the high-capacity well, the MDEQ Director can declare a dispute and order immediate provision of potable water and order the high-capacity well owner to restrict the water usage. The MDEQ and MDARD have signed agreements in place and have developed processes for customers to file such complaints. The appropriated funding for the Aquifer Protection and Dispute Resolution is projected to last for at least five years, currently in year 3.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Aquifer Protection and Dispute Resolution - 3288

Work Project: Electronic Document Management - 3548

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,850,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Electronic Document Management	07010	$1,694,200	$1,694,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,694,200	$1,694,200

Project Purpose

The DEQ is implementing a department-wide solution for Electronic Document Management (EDM). The EDM solution will support management of all documents and all correspondence received by and within the department in accordance with record retention schedules. Additional benefits include providing public-facing frequently requested information, reducing the number for FOIAs received, reducing building space used for paper file storage, creating efficiencies in accessing/maintaining information, and ensuring continued compliance with document integrity.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The DEQ will be phasing in EDM over the next few years with each of the divisions and district offices. The detailed implementation plan includes 1) evaluating and establishing a common set of indexes for all divisions/offices to use, 2) the purchase of necessary equipment such as high volume scanners, 3) staff training, 4) contracted services and limited term positions for document preparation as well as the actual scanning, and 5) scanning historical and current documents.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Electronic Document Management - 3548

Work Project: Great Lakes Protection Fund/Water Strategy - 3552

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$213,900	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Office of the Great Lakes	01017	$87,000	$87,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Great Lakes Protection Fund	0522	$87,000	$87,000

Project Purpose

The Office of the Great Lakes will be implementing four key elements of the Water Strategy funded through the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Office of the Great Lakes will be implementing certain elements of the Water Strategy and will be funding these elements through the Great Lakes Protection Fund. Four key elements to be implemented are as follows:

* Research & Implementation study - $118,900
* Host Water Summit - $50,000
* Great Lakes Island Research and Outreach - $25,000
* Monitoring and Technology Implementation/ Blue Accounting - $20,000

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Great Lakes Protection Fund/Water Strategy - 3552

Work Project: Manistique River Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) - 3292

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$20,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative	01010	$19,250,000	$19,250,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0213	$19,250,000	$19,250,000

Project Purpose

To conduct a remedial investigation/feasibility study, remedial design, and implementation of the selected remedial option for the remediation of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-laden sediments within the Manistique River Area of Concern (AOC).

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Manistique River, 1.7 miles from the dam in Manistique to the harbor, is designated as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC). To successfully carry out this project the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) developed a remedial investigation/feasibility study during January and February of 2015 with the goal of Remedial Action (RA) taking place in early fall of 2015. A design contractor was secured in spring of 2014 and they have completed a data gap analysis. Based on review of available data, the contractor has recommended additional sampling needs, which will push the implementation of the remediation to FY 2016. We will work with the design contractor to get a level of effort in place to carry out the remediation in 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Manistique River Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) - 3292

Work Project: MiWaters - 3188

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$6,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Land and Water Interface Permit Programs	04804	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Land and Water Permit Fees	0526	$2,500,000	$2,500,000

Project Purpose

Develop a new database that will combine approximately two major and 25 minor databases into one.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Windsor Solutions has developed the new MiWaters information system which is scheduled to be deployed as Version 1.0 in August of 2015. Some deferred functionality is scheduled to be deployed in Version 1.1 by September 30, 2015. However, enhancements and modifications will be required during FY16.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: MiWaters - 3188

Work Project: Muskegon Cleanup Site - 3140

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$6,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Muskegon Cleanup Site	04532	$6,000,000	$6,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$6,000,000	$6,000,000

Project Purpose

To provide environmental cleanup activities at the Zephyr Naph Sol Refining project in Muskegon County.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a feasibility study and remedial design to determine the most efficient, effective, and economical alternative to remediate the contamination resulting from oil refinery operations. This work is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2015, with environmental cleanup and remediation activity anticipated in the Spring of 2016, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Muskegon Cleanup Site - 3140

Work Project: Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Response Activities - 3309

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$30,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Environmental Cleanup & Redevelopment Program	04530	$5,000,000	$5,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Strategic Water Quality Initiative Fund	0790	$5,000,000	$5,000,000

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup and redevelopment activities at sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup actions at environmentally contaminated Part 201 sites (Natural Resources & Protection Act 451 of 1994, Part 201) where the actions will improve the water quality of the state primarily utilizing contractors. Site requirements include: the site is orphaned (i.e. the party that caused the contamination is no longer in existence or can't be identified); the property is located within an area serviced by a publicly owned sanitary sewer system; and the actions will address existing or imminent unacceptable risks arising from conditions that contribute to nonpoint source water pollution.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Response Activities - 3309

Work Project: SIGMA Agency Readiness - 3559

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$300,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services & Projects	01150	$300,000	$300,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Air emission fees	0504	$36,200	$36,200
Land & Water Permit Fees	0526	$16,900	$16,900
Oil & Gas Regulatory Fund	0546	$38,000	$38,000
Refined Petroleum Fund	0563	$112,600	$112,600
Solid Waste Management Fund - Staff Acct	0647	$19,700	$19,700
Public Water Supply Fees	0651	$11,700	$11,700
NPDES Fees	0656	$7,700	$7,700
Cleanup and Redevelopment Fund	0661	$57,200	$57,200

Project Purpose

To prepare DEQ information technology systems for the implementation of the Statewide Integrated Information Management Application (SIGMA.)

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Implementation of Michigan Cashiering and Accounts Receivable System (MiCARS) will require modifications to the toolkits used to transfer data from MDEQ databases into MiCARS. Modifications will also be required to one of MDEQ's major databases, ERNIE (Environmental Response Network Information Exchange) to accommodate the new account coding structure required for SIGMA. ERNIE is a database used by DEQ's Remediation and Redevelopment Division to track activities and expenditures incurred to clean up sites of environmental contamination.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: SIGMA Agency Readiness - 3559

Work Project: State Owned Sites Cleanup Program - 3142

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$4,400,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
States Sites Cleanup Program	04553	$2,301,700	$2,301,700	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
State Site Cleanup Fund	0665	$2,301,700	$2,301,700

Project Purpose

To provide cleanup activities at state owned sites of environmental contamination.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To provide cleanup activities at state owned sites of environmental contamination, primarily utilizing contractors and done in accordance with approved work plans.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: State Owned Sites Cleanup Program - 3142

Work Project: Water Withdrawal Assessment Program - 3191

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$650,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Water Withdrawal Assessment Program	04818	$325,000	$325,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CMI- Clean Water Fund	0785	$325,000	$325,000

Project Purpose

To enhance and update the water withdrawal assessment tool.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department has entered into several joint funding agreements with the US Geological Survey to strengthen the Water Withdrawal Program.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Water Withdrawal Assessment Program - 3191

Work Project: Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG) - 3614

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tuition Grants Program	03512	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0100	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose is to carry forward unexpended Tuition Grant funds from the FY15 appropriation to the FY16 appropriation to be used for student awards.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The carry forward funds in this work project will be combined with the 2015-2016 appropriated funds to increase the total amount available for awards. This new amount is to determine the maximum award amount that can be paid for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 196 of 2014, Section 252(4)

End of Information for: Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG) - 3614

Work Project: Automated Data Processing - 3432

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$1,535,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Automated Data Processing	02006	$575,000	$575,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$575,000	$575,000

Project Purpose

Update data processing equipment, software, and services. Continued implementation and support of data processing services to the Members and employees of the House. Informational access and processing by Members and employees will be greatly improved. If not approved, this would greatly reduce the accuracy and productivity of the House Members and staff.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Purchase equipment, software, supplies, and services in order to support and implement data processing requirements and technology improvements.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VIII, Section 607

End of Information for: Automated Data Processing - 3432

Work Project: Automated Data Processing - 3545

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,017,800	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Automated Data Processing	02006	$1,050,000	$1,050,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,050,000	$1,050,000

Project Purpose

Update data processing equipment, software, and services. Continued implementation and support of data processing services to the Members and employees of the House. Informational access and processing by Members and employees will be greatly improved. If not approved, this would greatly reduce the accuracy and productivity of the House Members and staff.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Purchase equipment, software, supplies, and services in order to support and implement data processing requirements and technology improvements.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 607

End of Information for: Automated Data Processing - 3545

Work Project: Cora Anderson Building - 3431

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$1,600,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Cora Anderson Building	02003	$575,000	$575,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$575,000	$575,000

Project Purpose

Maintenance and upgrading the Cora Anderson Building and House facilities. Continued maintenance of the facilities of the House ensures a safe and productive work environment. If not approved, the facilities cannot be maintained properly.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Purchase equipment, supplies, and services for maintenance of the Cora Anderson Building and House facilities.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VIII, Section 606

End of Information for: Cora Anderson Building - 3431

Work Project: Cora Anderson Building - 3544

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,100,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Cora Anderson Building	02003	$1,100,000	$1,100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,100,000	$1,100,000

Project Purpose

Maintenance and upgrading the Cora Anderson Building and House facilities. Continued maintenance of the facilities of the House ensures a safe and productive work environment. If not approved, the facilities cannot be maintained properly.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Purchase equipment, supplies, and services for maintenance of the Cora Anderson Building and House facilities.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 606

End of Information for: Cora Anderson Building - 3544

Work Project: Center for Hope Building Renovation - 3558

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Flint Catholic Charities: Center for Hope	85140	$250,000	$250,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0901	$250,000	$250,000

Project Purpose

Flint Catholic Charities plans to renovate and restore the building in the City of Flint where its Center for Hope program is housed.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Restoration and renovations on the 67,000+ square foot Center for Hope facility in Flint will include: brick masonry/concrete repairs, roof replacement, mechanical, electrical/wiring updates, elevator equipment and installation, thermal and moisture protection, door and window replacement, interior finishes, and updates to exterior walkways. Work on this project will not begin until the conclusion of a fund raising campaign by Flint Catholic Charities in early FY 2016. $500,000 in state funding support was appropriated in the FY 2015 budget; $250,000 in DHS and DTMB. Work projects are being requested in both departments.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Center for Hope Building Renovation - 3558

Work Project: Child Support Enforcement Initiatives - 3217

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$5,769,500	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Child support enforcement operations	83100	$1,941,400	$1,941,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0903	$1,310,900	$1,310,900
Child Support Restricted Revenue	0910	$630,500	$630,500

Project Purpose

This funding will be used for technological improvements and upgrades to support continued efforts to improve child support enforcement collections. Funding will also be used to hire temporary staffing to address a significant work backlog.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Staff at the DHHS Office of Child Support continue to work with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) to make improvements to the program's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system and to support technological upgrades for operations. It has initiated a project to replace the existing Friend of the Court / Prosecuting Attorney IVR system to meet DTMB standards and is in the process of transferring ongoing IVR support to the DTMB Enterprise Contact Center (MiECC) platform.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Child Support Enforcement Initiatives - 3217

Work Project: Flint Water Safety - 3680

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,016,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Emergency services local office allocations	32640	$1,016,000	$1,016,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0901	$1,016,000	$1,016,000

Project Purpose

To distribute residential water filters for MDHHS clients in order to address drinking water safety concerns in Flint.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

DHHS will facilitate the distribution of water filters as outlined in the official action plan for the City of Flint. The water filters will be maintained by the Community Action Agency for distribution to local offices and clients as needed.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Flint Water Safety - 3680

Work Project: Homeless Program Funding - 3606

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$513,400	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Homeless Programs	32610	$513,400	$513,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0901	$363,400	$363,400
Federal	0928	$150,000	$150,000

Project Purpose

To improve services to homeless individuals and families by creating higher quality shelter programs and shelter diversion initiatives where possible.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Three program initiatives are proposed by DHHS.

(1) Detroit Shelter Diversion Pilot: A pilot initiative to divert families seeking shelter who are homeless, or about to enter homelessness, from having to enter the shelter system if at all possible - $150,000.

(2) Master Lease Pilot: A pilot initiative to provide a more effective temporary housing arrangement, through master leasing, in areas lacking emergency shelter or areas with insufficient emergency shelter capacity - $100,000.

(3)Shelter Quality Improvement Funding: An initiative to create higher quality emergency shelters with increased capacity and/or more effective service delivery - $263,400.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Homeless Program Funding - 3606

Work Project: Office of Inspector General Case Management System - 3313

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$2,500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Inspector general information technology	84200	$1,146,500	$1,146,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0901	$716,700	$716,700
Federal	0903	$429,800	$429,800

Project Purpose

To consolidate the Office of Inspector General's case tracking and management from 3 systems into one uniform system and augment fraud detection efforts. A consolidated case management system will allow for coordination between investigators and result in more convictions and positive recoupment activities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The effort to consolidate the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) case management systems has experienced several unexpected performance issues that have delayed project completion. Change order requests were implemented in order to address technical fixes or enhance system performance. The department is requesting a work project to achieve implementation during FY 2016. DTMB and the OIG continue to collaborate on this initiative.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Office of Inspector General Case Management System - 3313

Work Project: Youth in Transition Services Pilot - 3528

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$250,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Youth in Transition	74420	$240,000	$240,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0901	$240,000	$240,000

Project Purpose

Provide supportive services to youth who are transitioning out of the foster care.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Spectrum Child and Family Services was awarded the Wayne County Education contract in the amount of $250,000 for a period covering 2/1/15 to 1/31/18, with two one year options to extend. The contract is for a Detroit based agency to provide educational supports to youth who have not yet obtained a high school diploma or GED, are 17 years old or older, not currently in an education program or are at least one academic year behind his/her graduation class. Spectrum Child and Family Services will work with Wayne County MDHHS staff to educate them regarding this opportunity, and to ensure youth who are referred are eligible and aware of this opportunity. It is anticipated that the full three years will be utilized to provide services through this contract.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Youth in Transition Services Pilot - 3528

Work Project: Autism Coverage Fund - 3382

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$15,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program	50100	$5,411,000	$5,411,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Autism Coverage Fund	4018	$5,411,000	$5,411,000

Project Purpose

Operate an autism coverage reimbursement program to encourage carriers to provide coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders and treatment of autism spectrum disorders and, to the extent coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders and treatment of autism spectrum disorders is required under section 416e of the nonprofit health care corporation reform act, 1980 PA 350, MCL 550.1416e, or section 3406s of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3406s, to offset any additional costs that may be incurred as a result of the mandate.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

DIFS has developed the application, approval, and compliance process necessary to operate and manage this program. The department has developed and implemented the use of an application form to be used by carriers and third party administrators who seek reimbursement for the coverage of autism spectrum disorders. The program standards, guidelines, templates, and any other forms used by the department to implement this program have been published and are available on the department's website.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Autism Coverage Fund - 3382

Work Project: Autism Coverage Fund - 3507

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$11,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Autism Coverage Fund	50100	$2,499,900	$2,499,900	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Autism Coverage Fund	4018	$2,499,900	$2,499,900

Project Purpose

Operate an autism coverage reimbursement program to encourage carriers to provide coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders and treatment of autism spectrum disorders and, to the extent coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders and treatment of autism spectrum disorders is required under section 416e of the nonprofit health care corporation reform act, 1980 PA 350, MCL 550.1416e, or section 3406s of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3406s, to offset any additional costs that may be incurred as a result of the mandate.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

DIFS has developed the application, approval, and compliance process necessary to operate and manage this program. The department has developed and implemented the use of an application form to be used by carriers and third party administrators who seek reimbursement for the coverage of autism spectrum disorders. The program standards, guidelines, templates, and any other forms used by the department to implement this program have been published and are available on the department's website.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Autism Coverage Fund - 3507

Work Project: Health Insurance Premium Review Cycle III - 3638

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$3,370,800	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Insurance Rates and Forms	30200	$650,000	$650,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	4025	$650,000	$650,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Health Insurance Premium Rate Review-Cycle III Work Project is to enhance the insurance rate review process to enable collection, analysis and display of health care pricing data as part of the rate review process. The project will also provide additional rate review training for staff and maintain actuarial services to assist staff in their rate review functions.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The work plan goals include: (1) continued work toward greater insurance rate transparency; (2) continued training for rate review staff; (3) expansion of rate review to the large group market; (4) implementation of best practices in the industry related to rate review; and (5) continued use of the services of contractual actuarial consultants.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Health Insurance Premium Review Cycle III - 3638

Work Project: Child Support Swift and Sure Sanctions Pilot Program - 3370

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$400,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Drug Treatment Courts	09100	$250,000	$250,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1001	$250,000	$250,000

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

This project will establish a Child Support Swift and Sure Sanctions Pilot Program to address the hurdles parents are facing which prevent them from being in their children's lives and contribute to them not meeting their monthly child support obligation. The goal is to empower the parent to be able to address these issues and, in turn, provide them with the means to comply with their court ordered obligations now and until their child is considered to be an adult.

Summary of implementation plan

The target population is those payers who want to pay but currently do not have the ability to pay their child support obligations due to obstacles such as chronic unemployment, lack of education, lack of skills, substance abuse, criminal records, and mental health issues. This will include payers at the establishment phase of their child support obligation, ideally preventing the accumulation of arrearages, and those families having contact with the court system in other aspects, such as existing neglect and abuse or juvenile delinquency cases.

Once admitted to the program, participants must willingly participate and follow all program guidelines. For example, for participants who need employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, parenting classes, or require other services, as necessary, the court may arrange for the participant to obtain such services and monitor clients' active participation. Each particular service shall become part of the participant's individualized case service plan, and the participant must remain in compliance with that plan in order to successfully complete the program. Failure to comply with or successfully complete the individualized service plan may result in sanctions such as more frequent court appearances, more restrictive treatment options, tether restrictions, or incarceration.

The first quarter of this project was used to finalize project details in preparation for full implementation. Contracts with service providers were put in place, staff hired, case process flows developed etc. Then a small test pilot group of six (6) participants were admitted into the program to assist the county in evaluating the current intake process and correct any complications in the operational details and process flows. Full implementation has now taken place and new referrals into the project are being made on a regular weekly basis.

The quarterly report from February to April of 2015 shows 42 active participants, with a goal of 100 participants. Of the 42 participants, 37 (88%) have had increased parenting time since entering the program. Twenty eight (67%) of the participants have either obtained employment or enrolled in school since entering the program. The remaining participants are completing resumes, putting in job applications, and going to interviews. The pilot will continue to work toward developing a model that can be replicated in other courts, similar to the drug court models.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Child Support Swift and Sure Sanctions Pilot Program - 3370

Work Project: Indigent Defense Commission - 3494

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$750,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Indigent Defense Commission	01550	$200,000	$200,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1001	$200,000	$200,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to allow the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission to develop proposed minimum standards for the local delivery of indigent criminal defense services that meet constitutional requirements for effective assistance of counsel.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC)is formed in accordance with MCL 780.987. The commission shall develop and submit the proposed minimum standards to the Supreme Court. Opposition to the proposed minimum standards may be submitted to the Supreme Court in a manner defined by the Supreme Court. Once the minimum standards are approved by the Supreme Court, they are not subject to challenge.

The MIDC is charged with the development, implementation, enforcement and modification of minimum standards, rules, and procedures to ensure that indigent criminal defense services provide effective assistance of counsel and are consistently delivered to all indigent adults in this State. This includes investigating, auditing and reviewing the operation of indigent criminal defense services to assure compliance with the commissions minimum standards. The commission is also charged with hiring an executive director and determining the appropriate number of staff needed to accomplish the purpose of the MIDC consistent with annual appropriations. This work project will provide start-up costs related to renting and furnishing office space, purchase of office equipment and supplies, the initial hiring of necessary staff and contractual services if needed.

An executive director, Jonathan Sacks, was hired in February 2015. MIDC has also hired an office administrator/legislative director, a director of training, outreach, and support and a research director. MIDC published proposed minimum standards for comment in June 2015 and started its statutorily-mandated data collection efforts with the distribution of the first-ever comprehensive survey to measure the delivery of criminal justice for poor people in Michigan in July 2015.
Additional staff will be hired in late FY 2015 and FY 2016 to continue data collection, compliance modeling, and facilitation between counties, courts, and the MIDC.

Statutory authority designating work project?	No	Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Indigent Defense Commission - 3494

Work Project: Indigent Defense Commission - 3656

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Indigent Defense Commission	01550	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1001	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

The purpose of this work project is to allow the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission to continue developing proposed minimum standards for the local delivery of indigent criminal defense services that meet constitutional requirements for effective assistance of counsel and to begin its statutorily mandated data collection efforts to measure the delivery of criminal justice for indigent defendants in Michigan.

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) was created by PA 93 of 2013.

The Commission is an independent agency, housed within the judicial branch of state government and comprised of 15 members representing interests from the criminal justice system, appointed by the Governor, with recommendations of the legislature, Supreme Court, and State Bar.

The MIDC has a mandate to:
• Collect and compile data for the review of indigent defense services in Michigan
• Create minimum standards, submitted to the Michigan Supreme Court, to ensure all systems providing indigent defense meet constitutional obligations for effective assistance of counsel
• Work with local communities to implement plans to meet the standards and measure the performance of counties in providing public defense services
• Award grants to bring local systems in compliance with the new standards.

The MIDC has now started the process of developing minimum standards, distributing a survey to gather data, and reaching out to the local indigent defense delivery services. Under the current MIDC timetable, a first set of minimum standards could be promulgated by the Michigan Supreme Court as early as February 2016.

Once these standards are in place, the MIDC Act sets out a 180-day time limit for local courts or counties to submit compliance plans and cost analyses and 60 days for the MIDC to accept or reject the compliance plan. Implementation of these minimum standards will provide an extensive and complex task for the MIDC. To properly work with over 150 District and Circuit Courts to design compliance plans, the MIDC will need five regional administrators starting January 1, 2016, one to roughly parallel each of the State Court Administrative Office's regions. To support research, outreach, compliance and basic office functions, the MIDC will need to hire three administrative staffers and an information technology manager.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Indigent Defense Commission - 3656

Work Project: Local Trial Court Video Project - 3502

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Judicial Information Systems	08100	$1,300,000	$1,300,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1001	$1,300,000	$1,300,000

Project Purpose

This project will place Polycom video equipment in up to 200 courtrooms in the six (6) largest counties in the State: Genesee, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne. This equipment will allow courts to conduct remote hearings and receive remote testimony, as well as allow DCH to conduct remote mental health hearings, resulting in savings to MDOC, DCH, and MSP, as well as the local funding unit of the courts.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The State Court Administrative Office's Judicial Information Systems Division will install this video conferencing equipment in up to 200 courts in the six (6)largest counties in the State, Genesee, Kent, Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Wayne.

As of June 2015, equipment has been installed in all of the courtrooms in Kent County, 42% of the courtrooms in Genesee County, 30% in Washtenaw County, 30% in Wayne County, 59% in Oakland County, and 50% in Macomb County.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Local Trial Court Video Project - 3502

Work Project: Reducing Truancy Petitions & School Suspensions Through Restorative Practices - 3643

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$300,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State Court Administrative Office	08000	$300,000	$300,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1001	$300,000	$300,000

Project Purpose

This project will establish a pilot project to gauge the effectiveness of using Restorative Practices to keep kids in school and off the street by reducing truancy and suspensions resulting from school misconduct.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The State Court Administrative Office has identified Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers that would serve as pilot sites. The centers will each be responsible for recruiting additional schools in which Restorative Practice services will be implemented. Simultaneously, the SCAO will select a project evaluator, and with CDRP center, school, and court involvement, identify the evaluation components.

In truancy cases, process participants collectively develop plans that the parents, students, teachers, and prosecutors all adopt, and which may involve the inclusion of additional community services to support the students in school.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Reducing Truancy Petitions & School Suspensions Through Restorative Practices - 3643

Work Project: Statewide Legal Self-Help Website and Affiliated Local Self-Help Centers - 3365

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$1,200,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State court administrative office	08000	$400,000	$400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1001	$400,000	$400,000

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

This project will allow the State Court Administrative Office to provide funding to the Michigan Legal Help (MLH) Program to sustain and expand assistance for self-represented persons in Michigan. MLH includes a statewide interactive website at www.MichiganLegalHelp.org and a number of affiliated local self-help centers.

Summary of implementation plan

With this funding the MLH will update and refine current content, develop new content and forms for the website, launch additional self-help centers, and continue to conduct outreach and education to the website and the self-help centers. Funding will support the following projects:

- Maintaining and expanding relevant, accurate, and up-to-date content, tools and media.
- Completing new toolkits, articles, automated interviews, and interactive forms.
- Opening at least 8 additional local self-help centers.
- Continuing to implement the Spanish language content development plan.
- Continuing to support LiveHelp assistance for the website.
- Undertaking a three year evaluation of the website and the self-help centers.

In January 2014, weekly visit rates were at 9,000 per week; in June 2015, visit rates averaged over 17,700 per week. Ayuda Legal de Michigan, a Spanish language version of Michigan Legal help was launched in September 2014 and now includes 5 videos, 32 toolkits, and 3 interviews in Spanish. More than 4,800 people have been helped through the Live Help chat feature on Michigan Legal Help. Also, 128 articles about many different legal topics have been published. These articles appear in 53 different toolkits in the areas of Family Law, Consumer Law, Protection from Abuse, Housing Law, Expungement, Public Benefits, Individual Rights, and Income Tax.

Allegan, Berrien, Calhoun, Kent, Marquette, Monroe, Muskegon, Oakland, Oscoda, Ottawa, Washtenaw, and Wayne, counties have legal self-help centers.

Automated online interviews are created by MLH and hosted on LawHelp interactive, which provides this service for free to many legal self-help websites across the country. In the first quarter of 2015, users started 28,167 Michigan interviews, and from these interviews, 15,002 sets of forms were completed - an average of 166 sets of forms created per day. Michigan is in the top three states for the number of documents assembled on LawHelp interactive, following behind New York and California and ahead of Texas and Illinois.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Statewide Legal Self-Help Website and Affiliated Local Self-Help Centers - 3365

Work Project: Automated Processing Software and Equipment - 3568

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$755,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Field Operations	03200	$1,000,000	$755,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1100	$1,000,000	$755,000

Project Purpose

To upgrade and enhance Office of Auditor General technologies.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Purchase IT related hardware and software needed for Office of Auditor General audits.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Automated Processing Software and Equipment - 3568

Work Project: LSB Automated Data Processing - 3585

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$400,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Automated Data Processing	05036	$400,000	$400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$400,000	$400,000

Project Purpose

Purchase equipment, software and services in order to support and implement data processing requirements and technology improvements.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Contract with vendors to perform services and obtain materials.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 607

End of Information for: LSB Automated Data Processing - 3585

Work Project: Criminal Justice Policy Commission - 3673

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$50,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Criminal Justice Policy Commission	05005	$50,000	$50,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$50,000	$50,000

Project Purpose

Review state and local sentencing policies and practices, sentencing guidelines, effectiveness of recidivism reduction efforts, and develop recommendations to the legislature for modifications to sentencing guidelines that will protect the public, reduce sentencing disparities, and consider the capacity of local corrections systems.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Contract for services and reimburse for travel and/or other necessary expenses.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Criminal Justice Policy Commission - 3673

Work Project: Legislative Council Services - 3386

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$1,103,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Law Revision Commission	05072	$14,800	$14,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$14,800	$14,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State Drug Treatment Court Committee	05012	$2,900	$2,900	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$2,900	$2,900

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Workers Compensation	05035	$76,000	$76,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$76,000	$76,000

Project Purpose

Pursuant to the directions of the Legislative Council these authorizations will be used for technological improvements to existing facilities, workers compensation, telecommunications and printing services, and for providing products and services in response to legislative requests and statutory and council mandates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Obtain materials and/or contract for services.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Legislative Council Services - 3386

Work Project: Legislative Council Services - 3472

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$882,500	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Legislative Service Bureau	05001	$7,400	$7,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$7,400	$7,400

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Law Revision Commission	05072	$3,000	$3,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$3,000	$3,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State Drug Treatment Court Committee	05012	$4,800	$4,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$4,800	$4,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Workers Compensation	05035	$91,400	$91,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$91,400	$91,400

Project Purpose

Pursuant to the direction of the Legislative Council these authorizations will be used for technological improvements to existing facilities, workers compensation, telecommunications and printing services, and for providing products and services in response to legislative requests and statutory and council mandates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Obtain materials and/or contract for services.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Legislative Council Services - 3472

Work Project: Legislative Council Services - 3584

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$850,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Legislative Corrections Ombudsman	05030	$50,000	$50,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$50,000	$50,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Legislative Council Administrator	05020	$20,000	$20,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$20,000	$20,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Legislative Service Bureau	05001	$400,000	$400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$400,000	$400,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
MI Manual Fund	05024	$11,000	$11,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$11,000	$11,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Law Revision Commission	05072	$10,000	$10,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$10,000	$10,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
National Association Dues	05071	$255,800	$255,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$255,800	$255,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State Drug Treatment Court Committee	05012	$2,500	$2,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.

General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$2,500	$2,500

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Workers Compensation	05035	$100,000	$100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$100,000	$100,000

Project Purpose

Pursuant to the direction of the Legislative Council these authorizations will be used for technological improvements to existing facilities, workers compensation, telecommunications and printing services, and for providing products and services in response to legislative requests and statutory and council mandates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Obtain materials and/or contract for services

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Legislative Council Services - 3584

Work Project: Liquor Control Commission Rewrite Project - 3463

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$4,500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Liquor Control Commission Upgrades	11702	$660,000	$660,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Liquor Purchase Revolving Fund	0330	$660,000	$660,000

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Using current technologies, the Liquor Control License Application Management System will be updated and redesigned to significantly improve business processes, functionality and usability, which will be passed on to the citizens of the State of Michigan by providing quicker turnaround of license processing. In addition, the proposed solution will expand self-service capabilities and will be hosted in a cloud-based environment.

Summary of implementation plan

Licensing and Enforcement Divisions will be upgrading:

1. Process Engine – Enhances productivity and efficiency in complaint resolution by increasing mobile enforcement capabilities; strengthens internal controls and verification to facilitate appropriate recommendations.

2. Business Analytics — Improves identification of business issues, trends, and opportunities via new reporting and dashboard tools to enhance follow-up to the Commission.

3. Content Management — Enables every MLCC employee to view their caseload documents immediately; improves response time and expedites processing of licenses and permits.

4. Collaboration Tools — Facilitates remote collaboration; enhances long-distance departmental communication, collaboration and trouble-shooting processes.

5. Online Customer Processes – Improves online functionality; gives MLCC customers online access to renewal, initial application submission, and special license requests.

The implementer will work closely with the vendor and SME's (subject matter experts) from DTMB and MLCC together to design a system in the vendor's cloud-based environment.

The total project budget of $4.5 million will be spent buying the licenses, planning, design, development, configuration and testing the MLCC applications for each division with a target end date of Sept 30, 2016. This work project is part of a larger modernization initiative within MLCC that will deliver improved customer experience and streamlined processes for enhanced organizational efficiency.

Licenses have been purchased for 175 staff. Remaining processes begin in August 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article XIII,
Section 211

End of Information for: Liquor Control Commission Rewrite Project - 3463

Work Project: Liquor Control Commission Rewrite Project - 3563

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Liquor Control Commission Upgrades	11702	$500,000	$500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Liquor Purchase Revolving Fund	0330	$500,000	$500,000

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Using current technologies, Liquor Control License Application Management System will be updated and redesigned to significantly improve business processes, functionality and usability, the results of which will be passed on to the citizens of the State of Michigan by providing quicker turnaround of license processing. In addition, the proposed solution will expand self-service capabilities and be hosted in a cloud-based environment.

Summary of implementation plan

Licensing and Enforcement Divisions will be upgrading:

1.Process Engine – a dynamic platform for modeling and executing process-based applications for new licenses, permits, special licenses, transfers of ownership, escrows and license renewal; including business rules such as quotas and local governmental unit requirements. Enforcement will have enhanced investigation and violation reporting platforms that tie directly into the database. Using mobile technology for increased flexibility in the field will produce a better reporting system and client interaction. The ability to be more productive with complaints leading to better control and validity to make appropriate recommendations.

2.Business Analytics — enable managers to identify business issues, trends, and opportunities with reports and dashboards to allow the proper follow-up and reporting to the Commission.

3.Content Management — provides a system for storing and securing electronic documents, images, and other licensing files with data recovery backup capability as well as redaction tools for FOIA requests. With this function, every employee can view documents pertaining to their case load immediately to make decisions; this will allow quicker processing time to issue licenses and permits.

4.Collaboration Tools — remove intra- and interdepartmental communication barriers through discussion forums, and message boards. Allows for open communication of questions or issues to be resolved quickly between all parties. This software helps facilitate teams working together over geographic distances by providing tools that aid communication, collaboration and the process of problem solving.

5.Online Customer Processes – Web applications designed to increase the interaction between customers and their application information and status. Redesign the MLCC webpage to be a more efficient, user-friendly application with enhanced online features. Create more online functionality to give access to customers wanting to conduct business with MLCC with regard to renewal, initial application submission, and special license requests.

The implementer will work closely with the vendor and SME's (subject matter experts) from DTMB and MLCC together to design a system in the vendor's cloud-based environment.

The total budget of $4.5 million will be spent buying the licenses, planning, design, developing, configuration and testing the MLCC applications for each division with a target end date of Sept. 30, 2016. This work project is part of a larger modernization initiative within MLCC that will deliver improved customer experience and streamlined processes for enhanced organizational efficiency.

Licenses have been purchased for 175 staff. Remaining processes begin in August 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project?	Yes	Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)
		P.A. 252 of 2014, Article XIII, Section 211

End of Information for: Liquor Control Commission Rewrite Project - 3563

Work Project: Bureau of Fire Services Plan Review and Inspection Project - 3485

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$800,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Bureau of Fire Services	27130	$237,000	$237,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	7001	$237,000	$237,000

Project Purpose

To develop an electronic plan review and permitting system in the Bureau of Fire Services that will significantly improve business processes, functionality, and usability.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The agency intends to complete three tasks by working with DTMB and contracting for IT services through Bureau of Fire Services.

The first task creates a plan review and permitting system for electronic submissions and digital archiving of plan review materials, and cross functionality of plan reviews and permits, which also involves an electronic system that receives applications for storage tanks (expected completion date November 30, 2015).

The second task creates an electronic system for electronic submissions and digital archiving of Field Service reports and plans (expected completion date March 30, 2016).

The third task creates an electronic system for electronic submissions and digital archiving of Firework applications and plans (expected completion date June 30, 2016).

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Bureau of Fire Services Plan Review and Inspection Project - 3485

Work Project: Medical Marihuana Program Application System Enhancement - 3465

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$3,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Medical Marihuana Program	18605	$1,150,000	$1,150,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Medical Marihuana Fund	4020	$1,150,000	$1,150,000

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

This is a project that will replace the L2K (License 2000) electronic licensing system, which is currently being used by the Michigan Medical Marihuana Program. This new system will increase efficiencies related to the processing of the various types of applications issued by the agency, in addition to handling future registration needs.

Summary of implementation plan

Phase I - Project Planning - The deliverables for this phase are as follows:
1. Project Charter / Project plans / schedule
2. Statement of Work – All deliverables in Statement of Work will be monitored and achieved throughout phases.

Phase II - Requirements Verification and Validation - The deliverables for this phase are as follows:
1. Express Systems Engineering Methodology 402 Business Requirements Documents / reporting
2. Update Enterprise Architecture and Technical Requirements Documents
3. Updated Project Plans (Include Department of Technology, Management and Budget 170 Security Assessment)
4. Base Configuration design in development environment.
5. Determine gaps between systems and the new system
6. Determine enhancements (if required)

Phase III – Functional Design of the New System - The deliverables for this phase are as follows:
1. Functional Design document Systems Engineering Methodology 501(Update only State of Michigan environment)
2. Updated project plans / schedule / updated cost Estimate
3. Training plan and training schedule for internal staff.

Phase IV – System Design
1. Design document / Enterprise Architecture assessments
2. Security assessments DIT-170
3. Contractor Base Configuration design in development environment.
4. Contractor to Design enhancements or configurations as identified
5. Updated project plans /schedule

Phase V - Construction of the New System - The deliverables for this phase are as follows:
1. Software Configuration Documentation
2. Test Plan, including test scripts and schedule
3. Contractor to Setup Base Configuration design in development environment.
4. Test / evaluate business process in development environment.
5. Contractor to Code/Configure enhancements if needed
6. Updated Project plans /schedule

Phase VI -Testing of the New System - The deliverables are as follows:
1. Establish an interactive Bug tracking system to follow problems with the new system.
2. Perform and document testing

Phase VII - Placing the New System in Production - The deliverables are as follows:
1. Installation and configuration of the new application to the production environment
2. Provision of all system interfaces/integration required in the production environment
3. Data conversion (mapping) of all necessary data

Currently, PHASES I - V have been completed.

Statutory authority designating work project?	Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)
No	

End of Information for: Medical Marihuana Program Application System Enhancement - 3465

Work Project: Michigan - Indiana Border - 3487

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$200,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Remonumentation Grants	07012	$200,000	$200,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Survey and Remonumentation Fund	4017	$200,000	$200,000

Project Purpose

Administer a survey and remonumentation of the Indiana-Michigan border.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A "boundary survey" will need to be completed for 110 miles of line consisting of 125 posts. To determine the location of that line and associated posts, nearly 200 years of land records will need to be researched and all 110 miles will need to be surveyed/mapped to locate any and all evidence of land records, monumentation, ownership, etc. All of this evidence will need to be evaluated to determine the potential post locations. More specifically, contractors will need to search for specific evidence of a post(s) until the post locations are monumented. Then measurements of the monuments along with state plane coordinates will be established. Lastly, documents will be compiled and filed in each state, and with the commission.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Michigan - Indiana Border - 3487

Work Project: Michigan Workforce Background Check - Enhancement - 3297

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$1,500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Background Check Program	18440	$412,200	$412,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0715	$412,200	$412,200

Project Purpose

Support the Michigan Workforce Background Check program in protecting the safety of elderly persons and other adults receiving services in long-term care facilities and other home health agencies.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Currently, the integration of the L2K system with the Michigan Workforce Background Check online system is 100% complete; the electronic delivery of criminal record responses is 75% complete (expected completion date 05/2016); the Personal Care worker pilot research study is 100% complete; the Nurse Aide Registry Regional Abuse List is 25% complete (expected completion date 05/2016); and general system fixes and troubleshooting is 50% complete (expected completion date 09/2016).

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Michigan Workforce Background Check - Enhancement - 3297

Work Project: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Blight Elimination - 3498

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$25,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Blight Elimination	99002	$478,600	$478,600	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Homeowners Protection Fund- From MSHDA	0342	$478,600	$478,600

Project Purpose

Blight elimination in Michigan as a result of the Attorney General's National Foreclosure Settlement.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Blight elimination activities are being performed by contract. It is expected that the remaining funding appropriated for the blight elimination program will be spent by the end of fiscal year 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 296 of 2012, Section 203

End of Information for: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Blight Elimination - 3498

Work Project: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Foreclosure Program - 3247

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$15,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Foreclosure Counseling and Legal Aid for Homeowners	14008	$3,632,000	$3,632,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Homeowner Protection Fund	4000	$3,632,000	$3,632,000

Project Purpose

To provide support for MSHDA's foreclosure counseling agencies and legal aid providers.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This work project is the result of the Attorney General's National Mortgage Servicer Settlement. It supports foreclosure avoidance and recovery efforts, as well as related legal services and counseling under a plan approved by the Attorney General. Funds are distributed to MSHDA counseling agencies through a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). The agency has completed seven funding rounds for this grant money and there were approximately 44 different agencies approved for funding. The agency issued a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) for the last round (Attorney General Settlement Counseling) in August and will continue to make payments on that round in FY 2016

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 296 of 2012, Section 203

End of Information for: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Foreclosure Program - 3247

Work Project: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Michigan Housing & Community Development Program - 3248

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$3,709,500	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Housing & Community Development	14013	$1,603,700	$1,603,700	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Housing & Community Development Fund	4081	$1,603,700	$1,603,700

Project Purpose

To support projects designed to fuel strategies leveraging public and private resources to meet Michigan's affordable housing needs and to revitalize downtown areas in Michigan.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This work project is the result of the Attorney General's National Mortgage Servicer Settlement. These funds will be used by MSHDA to develop and coordinate public and private resources to meet the affordable housing needs of low income, very low income, and extremely low income households. They will also be used to help revitalize downtown areas in Michigan. Although there have been delays with executing grants due to multiple funding sources involved for projects selected through the first Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), this account reflects expenditure activity consistent with the estimated completion date of the project.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 296 of 2012, Section 203

End of Information for: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Michigan Housing & Community Development Program - 3248

Work Project: National Mortgage Settlement - Blight Elimination - 3496

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$3,700,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Blight Elimination	14009	$3,700,000	$3,700,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Homeowners Protection Fund	4000	$3,700,000	$3,700,000

Project Purpose

Demolition of vacant structures in Michigan to stabilize neighborhood property values, promote public safety, and enhance economic development opportunities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Applications went out to bid in June, 2015; agreements should be in place in September, 2015 with the funds being spent in FY 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 34 of 2014, Section 807

End of Information for: National Mortgage Settlement - Blight Elimination - 3496

Work Project: National Mortgage Settlement - Home Affordable Refinance Program - 3495

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$801,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Home Affordable Refinance Program Grants	14010	$546,000	$546,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Home Owner Protection Fund	4000	$546,000	$546,000

Project Purpose

To support Michigan homeowners in their efforts to refinance their mortgage through the federal Home Affordable Refinance Program

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This work project represents $801,000 in funds appropriated initially as a result of an Attorney General's Mortgage Servicer Settlement. The work project will provide individual grants up to $500 toward the closing costs of a qualifying refinance as established by the federal Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP). Homes must be single family, owner occupied, principal residences. Lenders will instruct homeowners to apply for the MSDHA administered grant funds over the next two years.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 34 of 2014, Section 807

End of Information for: National Mortgage Settlement - Home Affordable Refinance Program - 3495

Work Project: Land Bank Fast Track Authority - 3228

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$3,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Land Bank Fast Track Authority - Bond Finance	99000	$2,949,000	$2,949,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Land Reutilization Fund	0341	$2,949,000	$2,949,000

Project Purpose

These funds will be used to clear titles of properties in order to make parcels of property more available for reuse in the State of Michigan.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority will use these funds to both clear the titles on tax-reverted properties in Detroit and for demolition purposes. The Land Bank, in conjunction with the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, will target and identify those parcels that will most benefit the city's redevelopment and the safety of its citizens when making its property selections.

Contracts will be used for projects identified through the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority for the necessary legal and demolition work.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Land Bank Fast Track Authority - 3228

Work Project: Land Bank Fast Track Authority - Blight Elimination TARP Help for Hardest Hit - 3497

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$30,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Blight Elimination H4HH TARP-MSHDA	99004	$29,400,000	$29,400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	4800	$29,400,000	$29,400,000

Project Purpose

Strategically target residential and multifamily demolition in designated areas within the state of Michigan, by partnering with land banks, non profit and/or for profit organizations.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Blight Elimination Program's primary purpose and goal is to focus efforts on decreasing foreclosures and stabilizing neighborhoods through the demolition and greening of vacant and abandoned single family and multi family structures in designated areas across Michigan. The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority will work with program partners to identify meaningful indicators that will enable them to track and quantify the Blight Elimination Program impact in the designated communities.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Land Bank Fast Track Authority - Blight Elimination TARP Help for Hardest Hit - 3497

Work Project: Land Bank Fast Track Authority- Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 - 3506

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$100,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Neighborhood Stabilization Prog NSP-2	99003	$50,000	$50,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	4908	$50,000	$50,000

Project Purpose

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) funds are used to stabilize neighborhoods whose viability has been and continues to be damaged by the economic effects of properties that have been foreclosed upon and abandoned.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Program income is used to handle the disposition of properties that were purchased during the program under Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) use C "land banking". This includes maintenance and other costs related to sale or other disposition of the properties.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Land Bank Fast Track Authority- Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 - 3506

Work Project: Michigan Strategic Fund, Special Projects - Statutory - 3679

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
MSF, Special Grants	40400	$2,750,000	$500,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0815	$2,750,000	$500,000

Project Purpose

The GED-to-School Program will provide GED testing and certification to eligible individuals free of charge.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Workforce Development Agency (WDA) will administer the Michigan GED-to-school program, which shall cover the cost of providing the GED test free of charge to certain individuals. By January 1, 2016 the WDA will announce the program along with eligibility guidance and approval procedures to allow individuals to take the GED test for free.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 143 of 2015, Section 501

End of Information for: Michigan Strategic Fund, Special Projects - Statutory - 3679

Work Project: Business Attraction and Community Revitalization - 3616

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$127,800,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Business Attraction & Community Revitalization	21000	$21,000,000	$21,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Fund	5100	$21,000,000	$21,000,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
GF/GP Transfer - Business Attraction & Community Revitalization	21001	$3,700,000	$3,700,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Fund - GF/GP Transfer	5970	$3,700,000	$3,700,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Strategic Fund Act (Public Act 270 of 1984) provides for numerous programs aimed at economic diversification and job creation in the state. The direct assistance (incentive) program has 2 parts--one focused on company requests for assistance and the second focused on community revitalization projects. Both of these areas require job creation to be a driving factor within their awards.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Business Development Program replaces the state's previous MEGA program that was a feature of the Michigan Business Tax that was eliminated under business tax restructuring legislation approved and signed into law by Governor Snyder in May 2011.

The Michigan Community Revitalization Program provides grants, loans, or other economic assistance of up to $10 million to projects that will revitalize regional urban areas, act as a catalyst for additional investment in a community, reuse vacant or historic buildings and promote mixed use and sustainable development.

Signed into law by Governor Rick Snyder in December 2011, the Michigan Business Development Program provides grants, loans and other economic assistance to qualified businesses that make investments or create jobs in Michigan, with preference given to businesses that need additional assistance for deal-closing and for second stage gap financing.

The MSF will consider a number of factors in making these awards, including: out-of-state competition, private investment in the project, business diversification opportunities, near-term job creation, wage and benefit levels of the new jobs, and net-positive return to the state. Business retention and retail projects are not eligible for consideration of these incentives.

Statutory authority designating work project?	No	Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Business Attraction and Community Revitalization - 3616

Work Project: Business Incentive Program - 3230

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$100,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Business Attraction & Economic Gardening	21000	$500,000	$500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$500,000	$500,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
GF/GP Transfer to Business Attraction & Economic Gardening	21001	$1,400,000	$1,400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Fund - CU	5970	$1,400,000	$1,400,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Strategic Fund Act (Public Act 270 of 1984) provides for numerous programs aimed at economic diversification and job creation in the state. The direct assistance (incentive) program has 2 parts--one focused on company requests for assistance and the second focused on community revitalization projects. Both of these areas require job creation to be a driving factor within their awards.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Business development and community revitalization projects are currently in the program pipeline and awaiting MSF Board review. The MSF will consider a number of factors in making these awards, including: out-of-state competition, private investment in the project, business diversification opportunities, near-term job creation, wage and benefit levels of the new jobs, and net-positive return to the state.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Business Incentive Program - 3230

Work Project: Business Incentive Program - 3361

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$100,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Business Attraction & Economic Gardening	21000	$100,000	$100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$100,000	$100,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
GF/GP Transfer to Business Attraction & Economic Gardening	21001	$1,600,000	$1,600,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Fund - CU	5970	$1,600,000	$1,600,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Strategic Fund Act (Public Act 270 of 1984) provides for numerous programs aimed at economic diversification and job creation in the state. The direct assistance (incentive) program has 2 parts--one focused on company requests for assistance and the second focused on community revitalization projects. Both of these areas require job creation to be a driving factor within their awards.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Business development and community revitalization projects are currently in the program pipeline and awaiting MSF Board review. The MSF will consider a number of factors in making these awards, including: out-of-state competition, private investment in the project, business diversification opportunities, near-term job creation, wage and benefit levels of the new jobs, and net-positive return to the state.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Business Incentive Program - 3361

Work Project: Community Revitalization Program - 3478

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$120,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Business Attraction & Community Revitalization	21000	$600,000	$600,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Fund	5100	$600,000	$600,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
GF/GP Transfer - Business Attraction & Community Revitalization	21001	$1,700,000	$1,700,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Fund - GF/GP Transfer	5970	$1,700,000	$1,700,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Strategic Fund Act (Public Act 270 of 1984) provides for numerous programs aimed at economic diversification, job creation, and community revitalization in the state. These appropriations are used to implement community revitalization and business attraction projects.

The project provides incentives for eligible investments on eligible property.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Community Revitalization Program provides grants, loans, or other economic assistance that will be used to revitalize regional community areas, act as a catalyst for additional investment in a community, reuse vacant or historic buildings and promote mixed use and sustainable development, in accordance with the law. It is estimated that most of these funds will be used for community revitalization projects since the number of projects in the pipeline has risen dramatically.

Program standards, guidelines, templates, and any other forms are approved by the MSF Board and published on the website. Up to $10 million per project that does not exceed 25% of the project's eligible investment is allowed for eligible projects.

The MSF will consider a number of factors in making these awards, with the final objective being to rejuvenate our communities and create more jobs for a net positive return to the state.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Community Revitalization Program - 3478

Work Project: Community Ventures - 3621

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$9,800,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Community Ventures	13000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0815	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

Community Ventures focuses on promoting public safety and reducing crime by finding employment situations for the structurally unemployed in four key urban areas of the state--Detroit, Saginaw, Pontiac, and Flint. The program works to identify and address the employment barriers affecting each individual program participant enabling them to secure sustainable employment.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The successful program is implemented via three main components:

- Wage reimbursement: Covers employer in-house training and costs related to hiring program participants.

- Wraparound services: Services that assist with job retention and the removal of barriers to employment (e.g. job coaching, transportation, etc.)

- Promotion of career pathways (e.g. literacy support, GED, certification, training, etc.)

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Community Ventures - 3621

Work Project: Entrepreneurship Eco-System - 3627

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$17,500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Entreprenuership Eco-system	20000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

To provide substantial economic benefits and job creation within this state and to create incentives for the diversification of the economy of this state through 21st century investments, grants and loans approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund Board and authorized by law.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Consistent with the provisions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Act, and through resolutions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, the funding in this work project is prioritized for programs as authorized in statute and approved by the Board.

The work project objectives will be accomplished through the use of grants, loans, investments, employees, and contracts.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Entrepreneurship Eco-System - 3627

Work Project: Film Incentive Funding - 3231

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$25,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Film Incentive Program - CU	60001	$920,000	$920,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Film Promotion Program - CU	0610	$920,000	$920,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Film Office shall create a program to provide assistance to eligible production companies to hire Michigan personnel in their productions.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Film Office will provide proper monitoring and oversight of the outstanding film agreements to ensure production companies are abiding by requirements. The funds utilized are within the four percent allowed for administration of the film agreements.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Film Incentive Funding - 3231

Work Project: Film Incentive Program - 3362

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$50,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
MSF - Film Incentive Funding	06001	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0812	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Film Office shall create a program to provide assistance to eligible production companies to hire Michigan personnel in their productions, to build the industry in Michigan, and to create job opportunities for people in the state.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Film Office will provide proper monitoring and oversight of the outstanding film agreements to ensure production companies are abiding by requirements. The funds utilized are within the four percent allowed for administration of the film agreements.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Film Incentive Program - 3362

Work Project: Film Incentive Program - 3479

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$50,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Film Incentive Program	60001	$1,810,000	$1,810,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Film Promotion Fund	0610	$1,810,000	$1,810,000

Project Purpose

The Michigan Film Office shall create a program to provide assistance to eligible production companies to hire Michigan personnel in their productions, to build the industry in Michigan, and to create job opportunities for people in the state within the film, television and digital media industry.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Film Office will provide proper monitoring and oversight of the outstanding film agreements to ensure production companies are abiding by requirements. The funds utilized are within the four percent allowed for administration of the film agreements.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Film Incentive Program - 3479

Work Project: Innovation & Entrepreneurship - 3480

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$28,500,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Innovation and Entrepreneurship	20000	$600,000	$600,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$600,000	$600,000

Project Purpose

To provide substantial economic benefits and job creation within this state and to create incentives for the diversification of the economy of this state through 21st century investments, grants and loans approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund Board and authorized by law.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Consistent with the provisions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Act, and through resolutions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, the funding in this work project is prioritized for programs as authorized in statute and approved by the Board.

The work project objectives will be accomplished through the use of grants, loans, investments, employees, and contracts.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Innovation & Entrepreneurship - 3480

Work Project: Innovation and Entrepreneurship - 3356

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$25,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Innovation and Entrepreneurship	20000	$1,600,000	$1,600,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$1,600,000	$1,600,000

Project Purpose

To provide substantial economic benefits and job creation within this state and to create incentives for the diversification of the economy of this state through 21st century investments, grants and loans approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund Board and authorized by law.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Consistent with the provisions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Act, and through resolutions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board the funding in this work project will be used to pay for a statewide contract with the Small Business Development Center that serves start-up businesses, entrepreneurs, and smaller sized firms as they are starting and growing in Michigan.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Innovation and Entrepreneurship - 3356

Work Project: Jobs for Michigan Investment Program - 3229

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$25,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Innovation and Entrepreneurship	20000	$120,000	$120,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$120,000	$120,000

Project Purpose

To provide substantial economic benefits and job creation within this state and to create incentives for the diversification of the economy of this state through 21st century investments, grants and loans approved by the Michigan Strategic Fund Board and authorized by law.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Consistent with the provisions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Act, and through resolutions of the Michigan Strategic Fund Board, the remaining funding in this work project will be used to pay for a statewide contract with the Small Business Development Center that serves start-up businesses, entrepreneurs, and smaller sized firms as they are starting and growing in Michigan.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Jobs for Michigan Investment Program - 3229

Work Project: King Chavez Parks Future Faculty Repayment System - 3655

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$106,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Postsecondary Education	07400	$65,800	$65,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Defaulted Loan Fees	0332	$65,800	$65,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Select Student Support Services	07500	$40,200	$40,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0812	$40,200	$40,200

Project Purpose

This project will provide for the replacement of the legacy system currently used to track fellowship awards and loan repayments for the Future Faculty Program, a component of the King Chavez Parks Initiative.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A project charter has been established with the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB). The project will rely on DTMB for project management, application development, system architecture, and database administration support. The target completion date for the project is 3/15/2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: King Chavez Parks Future Faculty Repayment System - 3655

Work Project: Michigan Film Office - 3624

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$50,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Film Incentive Program	60001	$7,100,000	$3,237,500	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Film Promotion Fund	0610	$7,100,000	$3,237,500

Project Purpose

The Michigan Film Office will use these funds to properly monitor awards given to production companies for eligible projects. They will also continue to assist companies with professional assistance in activities as allowed in statute.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan Film Office will provide proper monitoring and oversight of the outstanding film agreements to ensure production companies are abiding by requirements. The funds utilized are within the four percent allowed for administration of the film agreements. Additional funding will support educational alliances, talent development and retention efforts, and outreach activities associated with growing Michigan's digital media industry.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Michigan Film Office - 3624

Work Project: Michigan Strategic Fund, Special Projects - Non-Statutory - 3628

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$15,750,000	09/30/2015	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
MSF, Special Grants	40400	$2,742,700	$2,242,700	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0815	$2,742,700	$2,242,700

Project Purpose

This project carries forward funding to support special grants that could not be completed by the close of fiscal year 2015.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Three grant projects will be supported with the available funding. Payments will be made on a reimbursement basis to grant recipients.

Consistent with Section 1044, Article VIII of Public Act 252 of 2014, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority is finalizing, and will monitor, $600,000 in grants, selected competitively, for the Michigan Heritage Restoration Program.

Consistent with Section 1049, Article VIII of Public Act 252 of 2014, $1.5 million will be used to match funds raised for the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Monument Fund.

A Blight Deconstruction Pilot Project in Pontiac will be supported with $150,000. The funding will be used to support costs for training and certification of low income Pontiac residents, hands on work experience, and the deconstruction of blighted homes.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Michigan Strategic Fund, Special Projects - Non-Statutory - 3628

Work Project: Project SIGMA Agency Transition Costs - 3634

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$350,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Administrative Services	10000	$100,000	$100,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0815	$100,000	$100,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Job Creation Services	11000	$200,000	$200,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0815	$200,000	$200,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Workforce administration	07000	$50,000	$50,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	4662	$50,000	$50,000

Project Purpose

This project is to fund expenses associated with the implementation of Project SIGMA for the Department of Talent and Economic Development. This request addresses the need for a project manager and business analyst, and interface development costs associated with the Management of Awards Recipients Systems (MARS).

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A project charter with DTMB has been established that outlines the needs, timelines, and estimated expenditures to finish the components of DTED's implementation of SIGMA supported by this project. With assistance from DTMB, DTED will receive project management, business analysis, and interface development support to complete necessary legacy modifications in advance of SIGMA go-live in 2017.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Project SIGMA Agency Transition Costs - 3634

Work Project: Pure Michigan - 3625

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$29,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Pure Michigan	03000	$1,900,000	$1,900,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
21st Century Jobs Trust Fund	5100	$1,900,000	$1,900,000

Project Purpose

The Pure Michigan promotion program is to promote the State and to create jobs through tourism in Michigan via a marketing program.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The MSF works with a vendor to establish the State brand and identity through various venues---media, events, print, internet, and other innovative means.

There is an annual plan developed to widen the reach of the marketing efforts to new audiences, beyond the previous regional area, to bring new people into Michigan for tourism activities. The latest efforts are to identify the best international markets that have the highest return on investment for the promotional dollars.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Pure Michigan - 3625

Work Project: Skilled Trades Training Program - 3626

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$10,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Skilled Trades Training Program	15000	$800,000	$800,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0815	$800,000	$800,000

Project Purpose

The Skilled Trades Training Program was designed to address the skills mismatch between Michigan businesses and the skill set of current jobseekers.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The program is broken into two components:

Skilled Trades Training Fund operated through the Michigan Works! Agencies in conjunction with the Talent Investment Agency. Awards are approved to companies needing specific skills for new and incumbent workers.

The second part is the Michigan Advanced Technician Training (MAT2) program that is a collaboration between a business, a local community college, and the MSF. The business identifies a specific need, the curriculum is developed by the business and college and the MSF is involved in identifying potential candidates to be hired by the companies for this training. This is based on a German model of technical education.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Skilled Trades Training Program - 3626

Work Project: Michigan Veterans Education Initiative - 3492

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Veterans Service Delivery Initiative	05000	$205,700	$205,700	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1000	$205,700	$205,700

Project Purpose

Michigan Veterans Education Initiative and MiVet Accreditation Training will provide access to accredited service counselors at campuses across the State of Michigan. Accredited service counselors provide a level of expertise and experience of working with veterans that will increase the success rate of student veterans in the State of Michigan.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This project is a multiple stage project with $250,000 assigned to train and maintain accreditation for veteran resource counselors with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. In coordination with the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors and the Michigan Veterans Coalition, statewide training will be conducted quarterly for continuing education credits and maintaining professional accreditations.

The second stage of the project will consist of a budget of $1,750,000 to provide for the implementation of veterans counselors on the campuses of 10-15 universities/colleges/ trade schools statewide. Counselors will be recruited and identified by the Michigan Veterans Coalition, as the subject matter experts on benefits counseling to veterans, helping veterans make the transition from military to college life, and fostering an environment more conducive for success.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency will contract through an existing contract with the Michigan Department of Education for the Michigan College Access Network to provide project management and implementation on campuses throughout the State.

As of September 2015, the Michigan Veterans Education Initiative (VEI) is available on fifteen campuses covered by thirteen VEI program counselors. Funds are being utilized for training service officers to assist veterans as they transition to college life.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 34 of 2014, Section 553

End of Information for: Michigan Veterans Education Initiative - 3492

Work Project: Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy/Job ChalleNGe Program - 3567

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,995,700	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy	01025	$4,970,700	$4,970,700	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	2100	$3,970,700	$3,970,700
Private	5400	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement the Michigan Youth ChalleNge Academy/Job Challenge Program and prepare MYCA graduates to obtain employment in the manufacturing and industrial trades.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Job ChalleNGe program addresses 3 goals: Work readiness, credential attainment, and job placement.
Phase I takes advantage of resources that are proximate to the Battle Creek location of MYCA. Kellogg Community College, its Regional Manufacturing Technology Center, Denso Manufacturing, Duncan Aviation and the Kellogg Company will serve as the settings for refining curriculum, processes, activities and procedures. A priority is to fully develop the residential (Battle Creek model) and the remote Job Challenge program/process, in order to start the first class in January 2016 and develop corporate partner vetting and application process.
Phase I program graduates will be prepared to successfully obtain employment at a viable living wage in a number of occupations, mostly in manufacturing and industrial trades.
Phase II of the program expands services to other disciplines and vocations through partner agencies providing similar programming in other areas of the state. Additionally in Phase II the program will collaborate with Focus: HOPE, a career training agency serving youth in southeast Michigan.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 84 of 2015, Article XIV, Section 2203

End of Information for: Michigan Youth ChalleNGe Academy/Job ChalleNGe Program - 3567

Work Project: Veterans Service Delivery Initiative - 3488

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$3,955,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Veterans Service Delivery Initiative	05000	$1,432,600	$1,226,900	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1000	$1,432,600	$1,226,900

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to increase the success rate of student veterans by providing access to accredited service counselors at educational institutions statewide utilizing Michigan Veterans Education Initiative funding according to P.A. 59 of 2013, Article XIV, Section 702. Specifically, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will implement counselors at multiple educational campuses and provide outreach and transition services during veteran transition from military to college life.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Program manager and staff will finalize action plans and work toward completion of strategic objectives including:

MiVCAT Expansion, which continues to build on the "No Wrong Door" approach to servicing veterans;

conducting expos which provide information on MVAA's 4 pillars: Employment, Education, Health and Quality of Life, and also benefits counseling;

Reboot Training, which assists in the transition back to civilian life; and

the Buddy-to-Buddy program which is a peer-to-peer intervention program for soldiers that have deployed.

Objectives include completion dates through FY18.

MiVCAT implementation for all 10 prosperity regions will be in place by close of FY16 (2 regions were implemented in FY14, 4 additional are being implemented in FY15). Contract request for advertising is also in process at DTMB, and our request for contract change for Web Portal expansion is with DMVA Purchasing. In addition, our contract with REBOOT is being retooled.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Veterans Service Delivery Initiative - 3488

Work Project: Aquatic Invasive Species Management - 3620

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Invasive species prevention and control	01018	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

To implement management practices necessary for rapid response, prevention, control and/or elimination of aquatic invasive species.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The funding contained in P.A. 281 of 2014 will be allocated as follows:
- $300,000 to procure equipment through an RFP that can function as a rapid response mobile barrier to preventing Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan
- $300,000 to prevent, control, and eliminate aquatic invasive species in high risk inland lakes through grants to partners
- $200,000 to eliminate and contain high risk aquatic invasive species in Southeast Michigan through grants to partners
- $200,000 to procure equipment through an RFP and deploy that equipment to Quality of Life agency staff who work in lakes and rivers in order to prevent the transfer of aquatic invasive species

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 281 of 2014, Section 48703a

End of Information for: Aquatic Invasive Species Management - 3620

Work Project: Grand River Waterway Study - 3405

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$100,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Grand River Waterway Study	02464	$100,000	$100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$100,000	$100,000

Project Purpose

To conduct a study on the depth of the Grand River from Lake Michigan to the city of Grand Rapids and the cost of dredging that section of the river to a depth sufficient for recreational boat traffic.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The DNR is actively searching for a municipality to accept the project and serve as grantee by way of a Waterways grant in aid agreement. If there isn't a municipality that wishes to serve as grantee and take on a Waterways grant agreement by September 30, 2015, the DNR will seek other alternatives to accomplish the study. The DNR will seek bids from interested design consultants via a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process and award a contract by December 31, 2015. Once under contract, the consultant will conduct a study of the Grand River from Lake Michigan to the City of Grand Rapids. This study will include the assessment of depths, general river dynamics, dredging needs, and user information. After the compilation and review of data, preliminary cost estimates for dredging of the Grand River to a depth sufficient for recreational boating traffic will be completed.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Grand River Waterway Study - 3405

Work Project: Reconstruction of the Hart Montague Trail - 3557

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,445,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Hart-Montague Trail	02420	$530,000	$530,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$530,000	$530,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Hart-Montague Trail	07040	$470,000	$470,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$470,000	$470,000

Project Purpose

To reconstruct and rebuild 22 miles of the Hart Montague Linear Trail in Oceana County.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will enter into a project agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), as well as the City of Hart and Oceana County, to resurface and widen the Hart Montague Trail. MDOT will serve as lead project administrator. Funding will be provided by MDOT's Transportation Alternatives Program, MI Natural Resources Trust Fund, DNR's Recreation Trails Program, DNR general fund support, and municipal resources.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Reconstruction of the Hart Montague Trail - 3557

Work Project: System Modifications for Project SIGMA - 3657

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$845,300	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State parks	02416	$50,000	$50,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan State Parks Endowment Fund	0613	$50,000	$50,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Wildlife management	02211	$91,200	$91,200	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0208	$68,400	$68,400
Game & Fish Protection Fund	0572	$22,800	$22,800

Project Purpose

To modify certain DNR information technology systems for the new SIGMA chart of accounts.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The DNR will work collaboratively with contracted vendors and DTMB staff to make the needed modifications to certain IT systems for the new SIGMA chart of accounts. Modifications will begin in fall 2015 and continue through September 2016 per SIGMA's current implementation timeline.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: System Modifications for Project SIGMA - 3657

Work Project: EVIP - Competitive Grant Assistance Program - 3455

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$15,100,300	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Competitive Grant Assistance Program	09469	$1,000	$1,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Sales Tax	0048	$1,000	$1,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Competitive Grant Assistance Program	09470	$450,000	$450,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Sales Tax	0048	$450,000	$450,000

Project Purpose

To distribute the funds appropriated for the Competitive Grant Assistance Program and funds remaining under the Economic Vitality Incentive Program under P.A. 59 of 2013.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Funds will be distributed in accordance with the requirements included in P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VIII, Section 951.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VIII, Section 951(2)

End of Information for: EVIP - Competitive Grant Assistance Program - 3455

Work Project: Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, or Townships - 3662

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$8,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Financially Distressed CVTs one-time	07108	$100,000	$100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Sales Tax	0048	$100,000	$100,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Financially Distressed CVTs	09475	$300,000	$300,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Sales Tax	0048	$300,000	$300,000

Project Purpose

To distribute the funds appropriated for the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, or Townships grant program.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Funds will be distributed in accordance with the requirements included in PA 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 956.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 956(3)

End of Information for: Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, or Townships - 3662

Work Project: Automated Data Processing - 3546

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,541,600	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Senate Automated Data Processing	01004	$1,200,000	$1,200,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1110	$1,200,000	$1,200,000

Project Purpose

To purchase equipment, software, and services in order to support and implement data processing requirements

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Budget plans are on file in the Senate Finance Office

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 607

End of Information for: Automated Data Processing - 3546

Work Project: Farnum Building and Other Properties - 3547

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,662,200	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Farnum Building and Other Properties	01090	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1110	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

To purchase equipment and services for building maintenance in order to ensure a safe and productive work environment.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Budget plans are on file with the Senate Finance Office.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 606

End of Information for: Farnum Building and Other Properties - 3547

Work Project: Property Management and Other Properties - 3443

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,547,600	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Farnum Building and Other Properties	01090	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1110	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

To purchase equipment and services for building maintenance in order to ensure a safe and productive work environment.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Budget plans are on file with the Senate Finance Office.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 59 of 2013, Article VIII, Section 606

End of Information for: Property Management and Other Properties - 3443

Work Project: Automated Data Processing and Technology - 3401

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$100,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Senate Fiscal Agency	04000	$52,300	$52,300	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$52,300	$52,300

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to lease new computers for Senate Fiscal Agency staff.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Staff computers with leases that expired in FY 2014 will be replaced with new computers under a new lease agreement.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Automated Data Processing and Technology - 3401

Work Project: Business Application Modernization Project - 3615

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$10,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services and Projects	45500	$6,000,000	$6,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Fees	1003	$6,000,000	$6,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to modernize the technical infrastructure to support the business needs of the Department.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The delay in spending the encumbered and non-encumbered Business Application Modernization (BAM) work project funds is a result of Hewlett Packard's (HP) failure to deliver the remaining contract deliverables. As a result, the department needs these resources to continue ongoing operations for specific program requirements.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 143 of 2015, Section 301

End of Information for: Business Application Modernization Project - 3615

Work Project: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) I - 3618

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$7,705,300	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Help America Vote Act	21500	$7,705,300	$7,705,300	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0303	$7,705,300	$7,705,300

Project Purpose

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was signed into law by the President of the United States on October 29, 2002. HAVA mandates several changes in the way state and local election officials conduct federal elections. Federal funding will allow Michigan to improve election administration and replace outdated voting equipment. It will also help to improve access for voters with disabilities and those who are living outside the country, including military personnel stationed overseas.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

HAVA requires a State Plan outlining how Michigan will meet the technology and election administration requirements specified in the legislation; budget and monitor the funds the state is eligible to receive; adopt voting system guidelines consistent with the new federal requirements; educate voters and poll workers; adopt performance measures; and meet other specified requirements and criteria. Michigan's State Plan has been accepted and certified.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 143 of 2015, Section 302

End of Information for: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) I - 3618

Work Project: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) II - 3354

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$16,146,700	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Help America Vote Act	21500	$14,440,600	$14,440,600	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0301	$13,718,600	$13,718,600
General Fund/General Purpose	1011	$722,000	$722,000

Project Purpose

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was signed into law by the President of the United States on October 29, 2002. HAVA mandates several changes in the way state and local election officials conduct federal elections. Federal funding will allow Michigan to improve election administration and replace outdated voting equipment. It will also help to improve access for voters with disabilities and those who are living outside the country, including military personnel stationed overseas.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

HAVA requires a State Plan outlining how Michigan will meet the technology and election administration requirements specified in the legislation; budget and monitor the funds the state is eligible to receive; adopt voting system guidelines consistent with the new federal requirements; educate voters and poll workers; adopt performance measures; and meet other specified requirements and criteria. Michigan's State Plan has been accepted and certified.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 129 of 2013, Section 401(2)

End of Information for: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) II - 3354

Work Project: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) II - 3501

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$6,012,300	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Help America Vote Act	21500	$6,012,300	$6,012,300	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0301	$5,711,600	$5,711,600
General Fund/General Purpose	1011	$300,700	$300,700

Project Purpose

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was signed into law by the President of the United States on October 20, 2002. HAVA mandates several changes in the way state and local election officials conduct federal elections. Federal funding will allow Michigan to improve election administration and replace outdated voting equipment. It will also help to improve access for voters with disabilities and those who are living outside the country, including military personnel stationed overseas.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

HAVA requires a State Plan outlining how Michigan will meet the technology and election administration requirements specified in the legislation; budget and monitor the funds the state is eligible to receive; adopt voting system guidelines consistent with the new federal requirements; educate voters and poll workers; adopt performance measures; and meet other specified requirements and criteria. Michigan's State Plan has been accepted and certified.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 193 of 2010, Section 601

End of Information for: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) II - 3501

Work Project: Branch Office Customer Flow Management System - 3226

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$1,100,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Branch Operations	19100	$1,309,500	$1,040,900	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Fees	1003	$1,309,500	$1,040,900

Project Purpose

One of the top 10 performance goals for the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) is to reduce wait times in branch offices. Unfortunately, MDOS does not currenly have a good way of measuring branch office wait times. In order to accomplish this, MDOS is seeking a commercial off-the-shelf web-based Customer Flow Management (CFM) system for approximately 50 Branch Offices that will improve customer service, create a better working and waiting environment, reduce real and perceived wait times, and improve workflow. The solution will measure steps in customer flow processes and provide management with the basis for analyzing and further improving them. In addition, the system will include all essential CFM functions such as queuing, prioritizing and segmenting customers, customer and management notifications, customer information, and have a full reporting package. The system should also provide for internet access so that the public can schedule appointments at any of the sites.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

During FY15, the pilot for the 7 super centers and 3 additional branch offices was accepted and plans were made for the second phase of the project. Phase II includes plans to expand to 8 additional branches. The expansion began with the first branch having kiosks installed in July 2015. In FY16, the MDOS plans to continue with the expansion of the program to the remaining 7 branches.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Branch Office Customer Flow Management System - 3226

Work Project: Business Application Modernization Project - 3676

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$10,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Branch Operations	19100	$1,440,000	$1,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1011	$1,440,000	$1,000,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Central operations	19300	$3,000,000	$3,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Transportation admin. collection fund	0105	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Driver Fees	1003	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to modernize the technical infrastructure to support the business needs of the department.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department of State has a legacy system that needs to be replaced as it no longer has adequate support for the current system. Resources are required for ongoing operations as the department determines how to move forward with this project.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Business Application Modernization Project - 3676

Work Project: Cash Acceptance Self Service Terminals - 3227

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$800,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Branch Operations	19100	$1,309,500	$268,600	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Fees	1003	$1,309,500	$268,600

Project Purpose

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) currently has seventy-seven (77) unattended self-service terminal (SST) units that accept credit/debit cards as payment acceptance in office locations throughout Michigan. MDOS seeks to purchase ten SST's that offer cash acceptance as a payment option along with the current credit/debit card option.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

During FY15 MDOS worked with the selected vendor (Kiosk, Inc.) to develop and approve a prototype of the self-service terminal and produce the 20 SSTs. MDOS and DTMB worked with the SST software vendor (Esprida) to upgrade a portion of the SST operational software and in FY16 plans to complete the programming upgrade. In FY16, MDOS plans to implement the 20 new terminals at the selected SOS locations. Additionally, MDOS and DTMB are in the process of upgrading Euro-pay, MasterCard, and Visa (EMV) credit card functionality - hardware and software upgrades - on all SST generations to be in compliance with an EMV-related financial liability shift due by October 1, 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Cash Acceptance Self Service Terminals - 3227

Work Project: Chip Enabled Credit Card Readers - 3504

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$750,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Branch Operations	19100	$40,000	$40,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1011	$40,000	$40,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to replace all existing credit card readers that are being used with new chip enabled credit card readers. Credit card companies are starting to issue credit cards using a new chip card technology. The Department of State processes 2.3 million credit card transactions each year.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

In FY 2015, a purchase order was established for the purchase of signature pads. The department estimates that these signature pads will be deployed and installed by 9/30/2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Chip Enabled Credit Card Readers - 3504

Work Project: Commercial Driver License Improvement Program - 3637

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,889,400	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Central Operations	19300	$1,640,500	$1,640,500	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0311	$1,640,500	$1,640,500

Project Purpose

A federal grant program that provides 100% funding for improving implementation of the State's Commercial Driver License program (CDLP), including expenses for computer hardware and software, publications, testing, personnel, training, and quality control.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Grant funding was received by the United States Department of Transportation to continue with hardware/software maintenance on the 484 Commercial Driver License (CDL) kiosks. Grant funds were also included for the following programming initiatives: programming to integrate Michigan system(s) with Commercial Skills Test Information Management System (CSTIMS); programming to implement new restriction codes for Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) on the Michigan system(s); programming to make modifications to Michigan system(s) due to changes in Commercial Driver License Information System (CDLIS), release 5.3.2.1; and programming to have CDL written test scores update to the Michigan system(s).

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Commercial Driver License Improvement Program - 3637

Work Project: Customer Flow Management System - 3654

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$440,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Branch Operations	19100	$1,440,000	$440,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1011	$1,440,000	$440,000

Project Purpose

One of the top 10 performance goals for the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) is to reduce wait times in branch offices. Adding a Customer Flow Management (CFM) system to 10 additional Branch Offices will improve customer service, create a better working and waiting environment, reduce real and perceived wait times, and improve workflow. The solution measures steps in customer flow processes and provides management with a tool to analyze and further improve customer flow. In addition, the system includes all essential CFM functions such as queuing, prioritizing and segmenting customers, customer and management notifications, customer information, and has a full reporting package. The system provides for internet access so that the public can schedule appointments at any of the sites.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

In FY 2016, MDOS will add a Customer Flow Management (CFM) system to 10 branches. Installation and deployment of the system in each branch will be completed by 9/30/2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Customer Flow Management System - 3654

Work Project: Document Imaging Project - 3364

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$600,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Central Operations	19300	$538,500	$538,500	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Fees	1003	$538,500	$538,500

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement a document imaging solution in Central Operations. The imaging solution will help MDOS move from keeping paper documents in files and microfilm records to electronic records. Paper files and microfilm records are not secure and difficult to securely share with other areas of the department. The existing MDOS microfilming equipment is way past its life expectancy, getting expensive to maintain, and near impossible to find replacement parts like light bulbs.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

During FY15, the Michigan Department of State worked with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget to resolve contractual concerns with a key vendor and essentially restructure both the solution design as well as overall approach to FileNet implementations for MDOS. The Mainframe Letters to FileNet project is now the foundation for an Enterprise-wide Document Management Solution (EDM) within MDOS. Phase Two of EDM is set to begin in FY16. The Statement of Work for Phase Two of EDM is currently being updated, and will include all of the following business areas; Traffic Safety Division, Business Licensing Division/Regulatory Monitoring Division, Driver Activity, Vehicle Update, IRP, Renewal by Mail, Record Look-up and documents related to Legal Opinion requests.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Document Imaging Project - 3364

Work Project: Fraud and Data Analytics - 3366

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$600,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Operations - Regulatory Services	15100	$248,000	$248,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Fees	1003	$248,000	$248,000

Project Purpose

To develop tools for department-wide fraud deterrence through a third-party review of current cases and review and purchase of potential available data analytic tools to help prevent fraud.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

During FY15, the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) selected a vendor who began reviewing existing fraud cases to assist in developing requirements for a fraud analytic tool. Once all of the requirements are identified, MDOS will work with DTMB to purchase the data analytic tools by September 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Fraud and Data Analytics - 3366

Work Project: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) III - 3225

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$350,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Help America Vote Act	21500	$131,700	$131,700	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0302	$131,700	$131,700

Project Purpose

As part of the federal Help America Vote Act (Public Law 107-252), Michigan has received funding from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to provide barrier free access to polling places for individuals with disabilities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

These funds are available to make election polling places more easily accessible to individuals with disabilities, to provide the same opportunity for access and participation to vote to disabled individuals, to train election officials and workers on how to best promote the access and participation of disabled individuals, and to provide individuals with disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Help America Vote Act (HAVA) III - 3225

Work Project: Legacy Systems Assessments - 3224

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$650,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Operations - Department Services	14100	$402,100	$402,100	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Fees	1003	$402,100	$402,100

Project Purpose

Based on the DTMB IT Assessment completed by Gartner, the Qualified Voter File and Branch Revenue systems used by the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) need to be replaced. In addition, MDOS has several other systems that are at end of life including Inventory and the system used by our Driver Assessment and Appeal Division (DAAD). All these systems have current issues and DTMB has indicated the DAAD system is no longer supportable. In order to accomplish changes to the systems, MDOS will incur additional costs for contract staff related to business requirements, project management, and for some projects, hardware and software modifications are included.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

During FY15, the MDOS worked with the DTMB to identify a case management solution and implementation vendor to replace the Informix System. Also, in order to avoid potential penalties and to comply with statewide Microsoft version upgrade(s) requirements, the scope for the project accelerates the replacement and standardization of non-compliant document management tools used by DAAD. The Informix Replacement project also includes integration of Consolidated Print Center services, streamlining of transcription service provider process, adding online payment options for customers and potentially, migration to the Enterprise Document Management System (FileNet). FY16 will be spent implementing this new system.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Legacy Systems Assessments - 3224

Work Project: System Updates for SIGMA - 3636

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Operations - Department Services	14100	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	1011	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to effectively integrate the Revenue Distribution System with the Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Application (SIGMA) to record and distribute over $2 billion from transactions processed in Secretary of State Branch Offices. The integration will also include changes to the International Registration Plan (IRP).

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Due to the complexity of the system and lack of available Information Technology (IT) resources, 8 additional contractors will be needed to successfully complete this work for a cost of $800K, and an additional $200K for changes to IRP.

In order to meet the SIGMA deadlines for interface system modifications, MDOS is currently working with DTMB IT to finalize the SIGMA requirements. Development work is scheduled to begin in October 2015. The SIGMA programming changes are expected to be completed in FY16.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: System Updates for SIGMA - 3636

Work Project: State Capitol Historic Site - 3586

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$150,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
General Operations	05050	$150,000	$150,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	3000	$150,000	$150,000

Project Purpose

Purchase equipment and services for building maintenance to ensure a safe and productive work environment.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Obtain necessary materials, and contract with vendors as needed to perform maintenance services on the State Capitol Building and property.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 252 of 2014, Article VIII, Section 606

End of Information for: State Capitol Historic Site - 3586

Work Project: Disaster Assistance: April - May 2013 Flooding - 3425

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,310,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Grant for Disaster Assistance	28180	$1,996,800	$1,996,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,996,800	$1,996,800

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to provide assistance to municipalities affected by the severe and widespread flooding that occured in April and May 2013 for which a presidential disaster declaration was made.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The funding will be used to provide one-half of the twenty-five percent match requirement for local jurisdictions receiving federal disaster funds under federal disaster DR-4121. State agencies will receive twenty-five percent of the required match. Payments will be made to local jurisdictions and state agencies pursuant to the State of Michigan Public Assistance Plan.

The tentative completion date for all projects is September 30, 2018.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 34 of 2014, Section 653

End of Information for: Disaster Assistance: April - May 2013 Flooding - 3425

Work Project: SCIP and Development of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network - 3426

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$3,350,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
State 9-1-1 Administration	15020	$2,556,000	$2,556,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	1520	$2,556,000	$2,556,000

Project Purpose

Update the state's Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) to address emergency communication needs and the development of a nationwide public safety broadband network.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) project is divided into 2 phases.

1)The SCIP was updated June 2014.
2)Phase I of SLIGP is almost complete, with State Consultation yet to occur (see #4 below) and education and outreach as ongoing.
3)The State's FirstNet consultation readiness packet was sent to FirstNet in March 2015.
4)The date for Michigan FirstNet consultation is set for September 1, 2015.
5)A consultant was selected to assist with Phase II of the SLIGP project and a statewide wide survey for coverage needs is done at this time.
-Providing education and outreach to the public safety community about FirstNet is ongoing.

Phase 2: MSP will work with FirstNet to prepare the "Notice to Governors".

The project will be accomplished by state employees and contracts. The tentative completion date is September 30, 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 34 of 2014, Section 651

End of Information for: SCIP and Development of a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network - 3426

Work Project: Student Safety Hotline - 3408

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$1,129,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Student Safety Hotline	37500	$876,700	$876,700	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Student Safety fund	3750	$876,700	$876,700

Project Purpose

Establish a multi-media student safety hotline to facilitate confidential reporting of information regarding potential self-harm and potential harm or criminal acts directed at school students, school employees, or schools in Michigan.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Michigan State Police took on the responsibility for operation of the multi-media student safety hotline. The MSP has purchased the necessary equipment and hired limited-term department technicians to comply with the provisions of the Student Safety Act, P.A. 183 of 2013.

The hotline went live in September of 2014. The MSP will continue to employ the three limited-term department technicians assigned to this project using funding from this work project.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 102 of 2013, Section 703

End of Information for: Student Safety Hotline - 3408

Work Project: Disaster Assistance - 3540

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,780,400	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Disaster Assistance	28190	$1,780,400	$1,780,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,780,400	$1,780,400

Project Purpose

To support potential costs associated with natural disasters that have occurred in the State of Michigan. Notably, the Portland, MI tornado, and the Traverse County, MI storm.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will reimburse costs associated with preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for disasters. These reimbursements will be paid on behalf of state agencies, local jurisdictions, or individuals as needed to match federal grants or as required under Sections 18 or 19 of the Emergency Management Act (1976 PA 390).

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Disaster Assistance - 3540

Work Project: Electronic Warrant Report System - 3633

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$750,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Electronic Warrant Report System	61300	$621,700	$621,700	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$621,700	$621,700

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a statewide information exchange system that eliminates redundant entry of warrant information by prosecutors, courts, Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) users, Michigan State Police (MSP), and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The E-warrant project will allow for:
• The development of workflow exchanges among criminal justice agencies for all phases of the warrant process: request, authorization, issuance, and execution/cancellation.
• The migration and enhancement of existing exchanges between the records management systems of law enforcement agencies, county prosecutors, the courts, and MSP.
• The development of a web portal that can query the status of warrants.

FY2015
• Convened focus groups of stakeholder agencies.
• Contracted with vendor to develop system architecture.
• Established pilot project in Genesee County to aid in the development of the system's business requirements, identify hardware needs of system users, and ensure system functionality before statewide implementation. Programming for the pilot is expected to be completed by fiscal year end.

FY2016 – FY2019
• System users (criminal justice agencies) will implement necessary program changes to facilitate the exchange of warrant information. Project funds will support these user costs to implement system changes.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Electronic Warrant Report System - 3633

Work Project: Grand Rapids Building Feasibility Study - 3600

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$300,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
At-Post Troopers	32500	$150,000	$150,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Traffic law enforcement and safety fund	3280	$150,000	$150,000

Project Purpose

A study to provide an analysis of the objectives, requirements, and concepts for relocating the Michigan State Police Grand Rapids Laboratory, 6th District Headquarters, and Rockford Post in the Grand Rapids area.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This work project provides partial funding to conduct a feasibility study for the purchase and renovation of an existing facility, a new building, or the lease of a facility that will be of sufficient size and design to optimize workflow and make the most effective use of staff and equipment.

This study will determine the business requirements to acquire a secure state of the art facility with an adjacent garage for specialty vehicles which meets the consolidated state law enforcement requirements of a Forensic Laboratory facility, Post, and District Headquarters for the Michigan State Police (MSP) in West Michigan.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Grand Rapids Building Feasibility Study - 3600

Work Project: LEIN XML Conversion - 3635

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$430,500	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
LEIN Conversion Language	61200	$300,000	$300,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CJIC Service Fees	4199	$300,000	$300,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to convert the programming language supporting the interfaces within the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) from a legacy system to XML, a current standard programming language.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

FY2015:
• Contracted with LEIN vendor (#071B3200068) to review each LEIN interface and determine the business requirements for converting interfaces to XML.

• Developed purchasing documents supporting the conversion of initial interfaces, pending State Administrative Board (SAB) Approval in August 2015.

• Following SAB approval, vendor will make necessary LEIN system upgrades to facilitate conversion to XML.

FY2016 - FY2019
Following completion of system upgrades:
• Begin work on LEIN client access interface conversion.

• Begin work on National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) interface conversion.

• Begin work on National Crime Information Center (NCIC) interface conversion.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: LEIN XML Conversion - 3635

Work Project: Local Public Safety Initiative - 3619

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$4,050,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Local Public Safety Initiative	28600	$3,691,200	$3,691,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$3,691,200	$3,691,200

Project Purpose

To provide funding to K-12 schools and county sheriff departments through local public safety technology, equipment and employee training grants with a focus on school safety.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Governor's Council on Law Enforcement and Reinvention reviewed applications and made award recommendations. The department awarded competitive grants to K-12 schools (80%) and county sheriff departments (20%).

These grants are reimbursement based. The funds were appropriated in AY15 to reimburse grant recipients.

A work project will allow the department to fully expend these dollars on costs related to this initiative such as to approve recipient requests for grant extensions or to redistribute "unused" awards.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Local Public Safety Initiative - 3619

Work Project: Motor Carrier Officer Recruit School - 3539

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,231,900	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Motor Carrier School	36400	$1,137,000	$1,137,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,137,000	$1,137,000

Project Purpose

This work project supports the one-time costs associated with the 20th Motor Carrier Officer Recruit School(MCORS) as defined in the implementation plan.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Together with the FY2016 appropriation, the work project will support the costs of the 20th Motor Carrier Officer Recruit School. The 19-week school is scheduled to begin October 11, 2015 and graduate February 19, 2016.

School-related costs include ongoing costs (payroll, fleet, technology services, etc.) incurred during the school and continuing upon placement in the field. The school also includes one-time costs, including recruiting and selection (events, examinations, etc.), training (instruction, meals, lodging, etc.), and outfitting and equipping (uniforms, weapons, and vehicles) as well as a 17-week Field Training Officer (FTO) program following graduation.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Motor Carrier Officer Recruit School - 3539

Work Project: Security at Events - 3524

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$700,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Security at Events	32160	$176,000	$176,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$176,000	$176,000

Project Purpose

This appropriation ensures funding is available as needed to enable the department to respond to potential and imminent threats to the state's facilities, systems, and property and to provide security forces at non-planned large scale recreational and public events, by supporting the department's costs associated with additional show-of-force, law enforcement, or traffic safety efforts, including costs for overtime, fuel, and equipment.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Implementation of activities funded through the Security at Events work project will be undertaken in compliance with the official orders of the department. Security at Events funds are specifically appropriated to support the department's costs for the additional show-of-force, law enforcement, and traffic safety efforts for large unplanned incidents and events, and security activities for potential and imminent threats to the state's facilities, systems, and properties. The department currently has in place a confidential Official Order concerning the mobilization of department personnel for planned and unplanned incidents and events, including emergencies. Any activities for which Security at Events may be used would be undertaken in accordance with that order, and other departmental orders, as the situation warrants.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Security at Events - 3524

Work Project: Software and Programming Changes for IT Systems - 3278

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$3,810,900	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information technology services and projects	61000	$1,579,700	$1,579,700	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CJIC Service Fees	4199	$1,579,700	$1,579,700

Project Purpose

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Current technology allows us to leverage information sharing to save time, money, and resources. The purpose of this project is to enhance software applications. These enhancements will increase time and reporting efficiencies, allow for integrations between software packages, and provide for data to be shared with other agencies. This project will encompass software and programming changes to various information systems.

Summary of implementation plan

The department is working with the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB) to hire vendors where appropriate, and/or identify State of Michigan IT programmers, to address software and programming needs of various systems and databases, including Dashboard, the electronic Automated Incident Capture System (eAICS), Statewide Network of Agency Photos (SNAP), and the Criminal History Records Internet Subscription Service (CHRISS).

Dashboard

- 3 phases developed and in production
- FY15: A specialist was hired to work with existing agencies on content development and on deployment to additional agencies.
- FY16:
  - Add functionality for New Warrant Mapping & Sex Offender Registry data
  - Transition application support from vendor to DTMB.

eAICS

- Phase 1 of this project is in final testing; expect deployment to begin in August 2015.
- Phase 2 -- Beginning October 2015
  - Identify business requirements
  - Hire consultants/programmers for technical design and programming of new functionality to increase operational effectiveness and data quality.
- Phase 3
  - October 2015 - Begin Joint Application Design sessions to focus on the integration of other software in the agency to reduce duplicative typing and increase information sharing.
  - Later in FY16 – move away from other applications as they are absorbed into eAICS.

SNAP

- Phase I – completed in FY15
- Phase II – completion estimated on 9/15/2015.
- Phase III
  - December 2015 -- MSP will draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new maintenance contract for the SNAP system including servers and software (5 year + 2 option years)
  - February 2016 – MSP will submit its portion of the RFP to DTMB
  - FY17 – new maintenance contract in place

CHRISS

- Twelve segments or sprints have been completed.
- Servers have been deployed and tested.
- A new software for the department has been purchased, deployed, and is being customized to track business requirements and bugs for this project.
- It is anticipated that a full demonstration will be ready for evaluation in October 2015.
- Integration between this application and other existing applications is in process with completion expected in October 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Software and Programming Changes for IT Systems - 3278

Work Project: Software and Programming Changes for IT Systems - 3493

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$7,736,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services and Projects	61000	$439,200	$439,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CJIC Service Fees	4199	$439,200	$439,200

Project Purpose

Current technology allows us to leverage information sharing to save time, money, and resources. The purpose of this project is to enhance software applications. These enhancements will decrease time and increase reporting efficiencies, allow for integrations between software packages, and provide for data to be shared with other agencies. This project will encompass software and programming changes to various information systems.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department is working with the Department of Technology,
Management, and Budget (DTMB) to hire vendors where appropriate, and/or identify State of Michigan IT programmers to address software and programming needs of various systems and databases, including the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

AFIS:
There have been significant advancements in the last several years in latent fingerprint search accuracy. AFIS is the focal point for all criminal and applicant fingerprint submissions to the State for identification processing.

FY15: A RFP consultant was hired to assist in the development of the business requirements which provide the blueprint for the selected contractor to design, develop, and create an enhanced AFIS system.

FY16:
The RFP will be posted and a vendor selected.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Software and Programming Changes for IT Systems - 3493

Work Project: Software and Programming Changes for IT Systems - 3561

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$7,736,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services and Projects	61000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
CJIC Service Fees	4199	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

This project will encompass software and programming changes to various information systems. These enhancements will decrease time and increase reporting efficiencies, allow for integrations between software packages, and provide for data to be shared with other agencies.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department is working with the Department of Technology,
Management, and Budget (DTMB) to hire vendors where appropriate, and/or identify State of Michigan IT programmers to address software and programming needs of various systems and databases, including the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS).

AFIS:
There have been significant advancements in the last several years in latent fingerprint search accuracy. AFIS is the focal point for all criminal and applicant fingerprint submissions to the State for identification processing.

FY15: A RFP consultant was hired to assist in the development of the business requirements which provide the blueprint for the selected contractor to design, develop, and create an enhanced AFIS system.

FY16:
The RFP will be posted and a vendor selected.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Software and Programming Changes for IT Systems - 3561

Work Project: Venture Michigan Tax Voucher Purchase - 3542

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$100,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tax Voucher Purchase Program	07000	$50,000,000	$50,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$38,100,000	$38,100,000
Merit Award Trust Fund	3301	$11,900,000	$11,900,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to purchase Venture Michigan tax vouchers as described in P.A. 86 of 2015.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The state budget director may purchase tax vouchers if the tax vouchers meet all of the following:

(a) The tax voucher was issued under section 23 of the Michigan early stage venture investment act of 2003, 2003 PA 296, MCL 125.2253, by the venture Michigan fund, a Michigan early stage venture investment corporation created under that act.

(b) The tax vouchers are held for the benefit of DBAH Capital, LLC and Merchant Holding, Inc., or their successors.

(c) The tax vouchers that have a face value of $100,000,000.00 are due to be tendered on or before September 30, 2016.

(2) From the funds appropriated in part 1, the state budget director may expend up to $50,000,000.00 to purchase the tax vouchers that are tendered during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. From the funds appropriated in part 1, the state budget director may expend up to $50,000,000.00 to purchase the tax vouchers that are tendered during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016.

Per the enabling legislation, the remaining balance will be remitted during FY 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 86 of 2015, Section 301(3)

End of Information for: Venture Michigan Tax Voucher Purchase - 3542

Work Project: Center for Hope Building Renovation - 3670

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Special Projects	20154	$500,000	$250,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$500,000	$250,000

Project Purpose

Flint Catholic Charities plans to renovate and restore the building in the City of Flint where its Center for Hope program is housed.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Restoration and renovations on the 67,000+ square foot Center for Hope facility in Flint will include: brick masonry/concrete repairs, roof replacement, mechanical, electrical/wiring updates, elevator equipment and installation, thermal and moisture protection, door and window replacement, interior finishes, and updates to exterior walkways. Work on this project will not begin until the conclusion of a fund raising campaign by Flint Catholic Charities in early FY 2016. $500,000 in state funding support was appropriated in the FY 2015 budget; $250,000 in DHS and DTMB. Work projects are being requested in both departments.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Center for Hope Building Renovation - 3670

Work Project: Customer Survey Tool - 3347

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$200,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Administrative Services	12000	$35,000	$35,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$35,000	$35,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to design a process and identify a tool to administer surveys to customers of DTMB. DTMB is looking for a strategic agency approach to surveying customers on a wide variety of issues, which accommodates questions of frequency, coordination, and usability of survey information. Work project funds will be spent on project management expenses and the procurement of a tool.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The implementation plan continues as projected. At the bottom of the plan, FY16 work is identified that will complete the work project. During FY14, activities addressed survey design, survey response analysis processes, reporting and trending, and the identification of a robust survey tool.

DTMB's latest timeline for this project is as follows:
•November 2014 - Created an RFP.
•April 2015 - Worked with vendor to survey all DTMB Customers.
•June 2015 - Created a baseline for all DTMB services and compared results to industry best practices.
•September 2015 - Develop customer partnerships, review customer service baseline.
•November 2015 - Develop action plans with each department to improve customer service scores.
•April 2016 - Send out survey again, compare results and assess action plan success.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Customer Survey Tool - 3347

Work Project: DTMB Legal Services - 3458

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$1,500,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Legal Services	20143	$1,477,600	$1,477,600	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$1,477,600	$1,477,600

Project Purpose

This funding will provide support for major litigation involving the Governor and Attorney General in their official capacity, and for securing outside legal advice, as identified by the Attorney General, on major statewide issues not unique to a single agency.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will continue to pay for litigation-related services contracted by the Attorney General to provide legal assistance including attorney services, consulting services, filing fees, FOIA compliance, discovery, and other legal activities related to litigation involving the Governor and Attorney General in their official capacities.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: DTMB Legal Services - 3458

Work Project: DTMB SIGMA Interface and Process Improvement - 3594

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information technology services and projects	00005	$1,667,700	$937,700	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$1,667,700	$937,700

Project Purpose

To support agency transition costs related to SIGMA, including data conversion, interface development, and other SIGMA-related needs for DTMB.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Working in conjunction with DTMB-IT, an implementation plan has been developed for DTMB non-ORS interfaces. This work project will support the plan and assist in the funding of other items that are determined/discovered to be necessary for DTMB to successfully transition to SIGMA.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: DTMB SIGMA Interface and Process Improvement - 3594

Work Project: Enterprisewide Information Technology Investments - 3376

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$47,000,000	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Enterprisewide information technology investments	00006	$4,400,000	$4,400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$4,400,000	$4,400,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to upgrade various state legacy IT systems.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

As of July 2015, there were 26 total projects for fiscal year 2013, with a total of 16 projects completed by the end of FY15. The dollars that remain in the work project are to fund the completion of the 10 projects that have not been completed.

Each project that receives funding from the IT Investment Fund (ITIF) strictly follows the State Unified Information Technology Environment (SUITE). Working with each Project Management Office, the ITIF governance process provides a level of oversight by performing regularly scheduled independent project assurance reviews with each project manager. The ITIF Oversight Group also provides guidance to troubled projects, and makes recommendations to an Executive Governance Board for critical decisions. The individual project implementation plan summaries are included within the Open Michigan website.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Enterprisewide Information Technology Investments - 3376

Work Project: Enterprisewide Information Technology Investments - 3482

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$47,000,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Enterprisewide information technology investments	00006	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$10,000,000	$10,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to upgrade various state legacy IT systems.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

As of July 2015, there were 27 total projects for fiscal year 2014, with a total of 15 projects completed by the end of FY15. The dollars that remain in the work project are to fund the completion of the 12 projects that have not been completed.

Each project that receives funding from the IT Investment Fund (ITIF) strictly follows the State Unified Information Technology Environment (SUITE). Working with each Project Management Office, the ITIF governance process provides a level of oversight by performing regularly scheduled independent project assurance reviews with each project manager. The ITIF Oversight Group also provides guidance to troubled projects, and makes recommendations to an Executive Governance Board for critical decisions. The individual project implementation plan summaries are included within the Open Michigan website.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Enterprisewide Information Technology Investments - 3482

Work Project: Enterprisewide Information Technology Investments - 3575

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$63,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Enterprisewide information technology investment projects	00006	$5,800,000	$5,800,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$5,800,000	$5,800,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
General government and public safety information technology investment projects	00010	$10,100,000	$10,100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$10,100,000	$10,100,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Health and human services information technology investment projects	00011	$5,400,000	$5,400,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$5,400,000	$5,400,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to upgrade various state legacy IT systems.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

DTMB has a governance board which selects projects to be funded by the IT Investment Fund. The majority of these projects are multi-year.

Each project that receives funding from the IT Investment Fund (ITIF) strictly follows the State Unified Information Technology Environment (SUITE). Working with each Project Management Office, the ITIF governance process provides a level of oversight by performing regularly scheduled independent project assurance reviews with each project manager. The ITIF Oversight Group also provides guidance to troubled projects, and makes recommendations to an Executive Governance Board for critical decisions. The individual project implementation plan summaries are included within the Open Michigan website.

Statutory authority designating work project?	No	**Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)**

End of Information for: Enterprisewide Information Technology Investments - 3575

Work Project: Leadership and Organizational Change Readiness - 3678

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$250,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Special Projects	20154	$500,000	$250,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$500,000	$250,000

Project Purpose

To maximize the State Budget Office's leadership and organizational change readiness capabilities.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The State Budget Office is the central state agency responsible for the state's budget and financial management. The agency provides leadership across state government in change management and value for money efforts. The implementation of a new enterprise resource planning system affords tremendous opportunity to implement best practices to further inform budgeting and financial management. This work project will support activities by state employees and contract to capitalize on leadership development and best practices in these areas that support efficient and effective practices in budget and financial management.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Leadership and Organizational Change Readiness - 3678

Work Project: Litigation Fund - 3592

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Litigation Fund	20151	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

This funding will provide support for major litigation involving the Governor or Attorney General in their official capacity, and for securing outside legal advice, as identified by the Attorney General, on major statewide issues not unique to a single agency.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will pay for litigation-related services to provide legal assistance including attorney services, consulting services, filing fees, FOIA compliance, discovery, and other legal activities related to litigation involving the Governor or Attorney General in their official capacities.

The estimated carry forward amount of this work project anticipates a year-end legislative transfer of $2.0 million into this account.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Litigation Fund - 3592

Work Project: MAIN Redesign - 3207

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$129,700,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information technology services and projects	00005	$828,000	$828,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$508,000	$508,000
MAIN User Charges	2577	$320,000	$320,000

Project Purpose

The state central accounting system (MAIN) was implemented almost eighteen years ago. The Department of Technology, Management and Budget has started planning for a project to replace MAIN. The goal for this project is to procure and implement a new accounting system that provides state of the art technology, reduces maintenance costs, standardizes and streamlines processes and data, and enhances transparency.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The State Budget Office intends to implement this work project in two primary ways:

1. The SIGMA central project team will be supplemented by State Budget Office staff as subject matter experts through Phases 1 and 2 and beyond their respective go-live dates. To maintain adequate staffing for day-to-day operations, State Budget Office resources assigned to the central project team or spending significant amounts of time as subject matter experts, will be backfilled on a limited-term basis.

2. The State Budget Office will also be involved in extensive SIGMA readiness and implementation activities, including design development, testing, and integration of interfaces with other systems and data conversion and validation efforts, which will be fulfilled either with additional State Budget Office staff or contractual support through full and post integration of the ERP.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: MAIN Redesign - 3207

Work Project: MAIN Redesign - 3399

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$129,700,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Budget and financial management	13000	$291,800	$291,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$291,800	$291,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information technology services and projects	00005	$350,000	$350,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
MAIN User Charges	2577	$350,000	$350,000

Project Purpose

The state central accounting system (MAIN) was implemented almost eighteen years ago. The Department of Technology, Management and Budget has started planning for a project to replace MAIN. The goal for this project is to procure and implement a new accounting system that provides state of the art technology, reduces maintenance costs, standardizes and streamlines processes and data, and enhances transparency.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The MAIN replacement project (SIGMA)is a multi-year, cross-agency effort that includes procurement, configuration, customization, testing, and implementation of a new central accounting system. It will also include development and testing of needed interfaces to other state systems and reengineering of business processes.

The project consists of two phases. Phase 1 (Budget Development) is scheduled to go-live in December 2015. Phase 2 (Core Financials) is expected to go live in October 2017, with post-implementation support extending through September 30, 2018.

This funding will support efforts to provide effective project governance and subject matter expertise to the project team; and to prepare for the transition from the existing system to the new one.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: MAIN Redesign - 3399

Work Project: Military Retirement System Prefunding - 3486

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$1,226,100	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Retirement Services	00777	$1,092,200	$1,092,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$1,092,200	$1,092,200

Project Purpose

To begin the prefunding of the Michigan Miltary Retirement System.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Funding will be used to begin prefunding military retirement benefits. Funding will be deposited into the retirement trust fund when the military retirement system is consolidated with the state employee retirement system. Such consolidation is expected to occur via Executive Order in the fall of 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Military Retirement System Prefunding - 3486

Work Project: Military Retirement System Prefunding - 3574

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$750,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Retirement Services	00777	$750,000	$750,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$750,000	$750,000

Project Purpose

To begin the prefunding of the Michigan Military Retirement System.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Funding will be used to begin prefunding military retirement benefits. Funding will be deposited into the retirement trust fund when the military retirement system is consolidated with the state employee retirement system. Such consolidation is expected to occur via Executive Order in the fall of 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Military Retirement System Prefunding - 3574

Work Project: MPSCS Infrastructure Remediation - 3622

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$13,600,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Michigan Public Safety Communications System	00100	$18,500,000	$11,398,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$18,500,000	$11,398,000

Project Purpose

This is an investment project to support Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) lifecycle remediation, which is needed to ensure system operability.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Funds will be spent on the following:

- Tower infrastructure and HVAC needs.
- Antenna systems.
- Radio replacements.
- Relocation of the network control center to a yet-to-be-determined location and the State emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to the Secondary Complex.
- Generator and shelter needs, snow machines, and engineering and site maintenance tools.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: MPSCS Infrastructure Remediation - 3622

Work Project: Office of Retirement Services - Project SIGMA Interfaces - 3571

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information technology services and projects	00005	$2,506,300	$500,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Pension Trust Funds	8574	$2,506,300	$500,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Retirement Services	08501	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Pension Trust Funds	8574	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this work project is to support Office of Retirement Services SIGMA-related interface readiness.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

DTMB-ORS has worked with SIGMA and DTMB IT to develop the following schedule of implementation for the numerous interfaces within ORS:

Milestone Projected Start and Completion:
Requirements 6/22/15 - 8/29/16
Design 7/17/15 - 5/19/16
Development 9/30/15 - 6/28/16
System Test (Internal) 12/4/15 - 7/12/16
System Test (SIGMA) 1/4/16 - 8/1/16
UAT (User Acceptance Testing) 2/12/16 - 8/29/16

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Office of Retirement Services - Project SIGMA Interfaces - 3571

Work Project: Office of Retirement Services Business Process Re-engineering - 3469

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$3,350,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Retirement Services	08501	$300,000	$300,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Pension Trust Funds	8574	$300,000	$300,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to automate processes with system functionality, to make the future processing more efficient for the yearly creation of the 5 Retirement Defined Benefit Systems CAFRS (SERS, MPSERS, JRS, SPRS, MRS) and the Defined Contribution retirement system financial statements at fiscal year end.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Office of Retirement Services and the Office of Financial Management have completed requirements and have a detailed implementation plan for each phase. Phase 2 of the project automates MPSERS DB and DC processes and is scheduled for completion in September 2015. Phase 3 automates the SERS DC processes and is slated for completion in April 2016. Appropriate data cleansing will also be conducted so automations function at maximum efficiency.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Office of Retirement Services Business Process Re-engineering - 3469

Work Project: Office of Retirement Services Customer Education Strategy - 3459

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$700,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Retirement Services	08501	$280,000	$280,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Pension Trust Funds	8574	$280,000	$280,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a long-term customer education strategy that aligns the communication method to each customer segment so that there is increased preparedness for retirement.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The implementation plan includes development of the customer education strategy, the recommendation for branding of ORS, the creation of the new ORS intranet, and the assessment and implementation needed for Employer Social Media.

Additional implementation information is as follows:

Milestones, followed by projected start and completion dates:

1. Determine business and communication goals: Completed

2. Competitively bid requirements for communication strategy and branding initiatives: Completed

3. With selected vendor, develop customer education strategic plan: 6/22/15 - 10/19/15

4. Execute action plans: 10/1/15 - 9/30/16

Employer Social Media Milestones:

1. Review strategic direction for employer communications and interview stakeholders to assess needs: 1/1/16 - 2/28/16

2. Identify intended business outcomes and finalize scope and approach: 3/1/16 - 3/15/16

3. Identify business requirements and research best practices: 3/16/16 - 4/30/16

4. Develop recommendation and execute implementation plan: 5/1/16 - 8/30/16

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Office of Retirement Services Customer Education Strategy - 3459

Work Project: Office of Retirement Services Technology Improvements - 3467

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,200,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services and Projects	00005	$360,000	$360,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Pension Trust Funds	8574	$360,000	$360,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement a Business Rule Engine design, which will allow for faster and cleaner code development, that will increase the flexibility and efficiency of the Office of Retirement System's IT systems to meet retirement regulations and legislative mandates.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This project will serve to improve technology integrated with the Office of Retirement System's (ORS) main line of business applications, such as indexing, forms process, and workflow.

ORS has a current project to implement the business rules engine application for insurance processing. Each area of the line of business application will be prioritized for conversion to the business rules engine model.

Additionally, requirements have been developed for indexing and workflow process improvements.

Milestones, followed by projected completion dates, are as follows:

Functional Area Phase 1: Healthcare Insurance Process:

1. Initiation, Requirements, Functional and System Design: Completed

2. Sprint 1 Construction and Test: 10/20/2015

3. Sprint 2 Construction and Test: 11/13/2015

4. Sprint 3 Construction and Test: 1/28/2016

5. Integration, QA and Regression: 5/11/2016

6. Implementation: 5/20/2016

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Office of Retirement Services Technology Improvements - 3467

Work Project: SIGMA Transition Costs - 3570

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,300,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Budget and Financial Management	13000	$1,132,000	$1,132,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$865,000	$865,000
Special Revenue,Internal Service & Pensn	1071	$267,000	$267,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Information Technology Services and Projects	00005	$2,006,300	$1,068,600	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0110	$1,667,700	$730,000
MAIN User Charges	2577	$338,600	$338,600

Project Purpose

This work project will provide readiness support for the State Budget Office for planning, implementation and transition to SIGMA, the new enterprise resource planning (ERP) that will integrate major State of Michigan budget, financial, and accounting systems.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The State Budget Office intends to implement this work project in two primary ways:

1. The SIGMA central project team will be supplemented by State Budget Office staff as subject matter experts through Phases 1 and 2 and beyond their respective go-live dates. To maintain adequate staffing for day-to-day operations, State Budget Office resources assigned to the central project team or spending significant amounts of time as subject matter experts, will be backfilled on a limited-term basis.

2. The State Budget Office will also be involved in extensive SIGMA readiness and implementation activities, including design development, testing, and integration of interfaces with other systems and data conversion and validation efforts, which will be fulfilled either with additional State Budget Office staff or contractual support through full and post integration of the ERP.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: SIGMA Transition Costs - 3570

Work Project: Accelerated Rail Program (ARRA) - 3663

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$26,711,800	09/30/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (ARRA)	77619	$26,711,800	$26,711,800	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	3129	$26,711,800	$26,711,800

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to provide rail infrastructure improvements in accordance with the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

PROJECT SELECTION: The project was selected by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The federal discretionary grant was awarded from re-distributed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION: The $26.7 million ARRA funds will be used for the rehabilitation of the 135 mile Kalamazoo to Dearborn track segment in order to preserve freight rail service and support passenger train speeds of up to 110 mph along the entire corridor. Specifically, these funds will be used to replace deteriorated ties, realign ties, remove crossings, upgrade signals and rehabilitate other track infrastructure elements.

PROJECT OVERSIGHT: MDOT will be responsible for the oversight of the projects.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 143 of 2015, Section 401

End of Information for: Accelerated Rail Program (ARRA) - 3663

Work Project: Information System Data Migration & Integration - 3529

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$8,534,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Finance, contracts and support services	20100	$1,922,800	$1,922,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
State Trunkline Fund	2116	$1,922,800	$1,922,800

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Transportation planning	40100	$6,611,200	$6,611,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
State Trunkline Fund	2116	$6,611,200	$6,611,200

Project Purpose

This project will support the data migration and integration of department information technology systems into enterprisewide financial platforms.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

MDOT has more than thirty integration points tied to its internal systems within the scope of the SIGMA (MAIN replacement) project. Data migration and conversion related to these systems must be completed in 2016 per the SIGMA project plan. MDOT will leverage shared services, systems and databases where possible to support common business functions, thereby saving maintenance and future modernization costs through its integration into the enterprisewide SIGMA project. The work will be performed by DTMB and contract staff.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Information System Data Migration & Integration - 3529

Work Project: Soo Lock Planning Activities - 3677

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$180,000	12/31/2017	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Service Initiatives	75400	$1,338,501	$180,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Comprehensive Transportation Fund	2120	$1,338,501	$180,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to conduct planning activities to support infrastructure improvement at the Soo Lock.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

PROJECT SELECTION:
This project was initiated in order to review infrastructure needs and risks associated with current operations at the Soo Locks.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:
Planning activities will help evaluate the needs and risks associated with the Soo Locks. It is estimated that this work will continue over a two-year period.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Soo Lock Planning Activities - 3677

Work Project: TIGER: Kalamazoo - Dearborn Amtrak Route Improvements - 3429

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$13,127,500	10/31/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Rail Passenger Operations and Infrastructure	77620	$11,728,900	$11,728,900	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Comprehensive Transportation Fund	2120	$2,345,800	$2,345,800
Federal	3120	$9,383,100	$9,383,100

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to provide rail infrastructure improvements orginally scoped in the 2009 ARRA grant cooperative agreement between the Federal Railroad Administration(FRA)and MDOT for the Service Development Program of the rail corridor between Dearborn and Kalamazoo, Michigan. The scope of work for the grant was revised to increase the budget for signal improvements and decrease the budget for track improvements.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

Project Selection: The project was selected by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT). The federal discretionary grant was awarded under the provisions of the Furthering Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6, March 26, 2013) regarding National Infrastructure Investments (the "Act"). The grant program under the "Act" is referred to as "FY 2013 TIGER Discretionary Grants" or "TIGER Discretionary Grants".

Project Implementation: This project will upgrade ties, turnouts, public and private crossings, and horozontal curves from Battle Creek to Jackson. This project will improve the stability of the rail line and allow increased speeds.

Project Oversight: MDOT will be responsible for the oversight of the project.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: TIGER: Kalamazoo - Dearborn Amtrak Route Improvements - 3429

Work Project: City Income Tax Implementation - 3603

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,600,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
City income tax administration	02425	$2,100,000	$2,100,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$2,100,000	$2,100,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to design and build a tax processing system for City Income Tax Returns.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The first phase of this project began October, 2014 and the system will be available by the beginning of 2016 in order to accommodate the processing of the individual City Income Tax.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 356 of 2014, Section 501

End of Information for: City Income Tax Implementation - 3603

Work Project: Fuel Tracking Information Technology System - 3314

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$250,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tax and Economic Policy	02410	$50,000	$50,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Federal	0015	$50,000	$50,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to upgrade current fuel tracking systems to allow more efficient processing to enhance the state's ability to detect fraud and evasion and allow the entering of claims online.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

These funds will be used to acquire information technology services from the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, as well as an outside vendor. The work on this upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of CY 2015.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 102 of 2013, Section 901

End of Information for: Fuel Tracking Information Technology System - 3314

Work Project: Genesys Intelligent Workload Distribution Project - 3452

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$3,885,800	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Intelligent Workload Distribution	02465	$2,345,800	$2,345,800	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$2,345,800	$2,345,800

Project Purpose

The project will support the acquisition of software components that interface with existing systems in Treasury, to enable the conversion of tax return and tax payer processing issues from manual to an electronic process. This will include the capability to schedule and route work based on skill and availability, advise on training needed, and project resolution time in an effort to improve overall employee productivity, and customer service delivery.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department contracted with an outside vendor for the implementation and training on this project. The new software components are being pushed back several months and should be implemented for individual taxes by December 2015. Components are expected to be implemented for business taxes by December 2016.
State of Michigan Treasury employees are already benefiting from the workflow as the system directs the appropriate personnel to tax activities.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 34 of 2014, Section 805

End of Information for: Genesys Intelligent Workload Distribution Project - 3452

Work Project: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Foreclosure Rescue Scam Victim Restitution - 3199

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2012	$7,500,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Foreclosure Rescue Scam Victim Restitution	09335	$4,879,400	$4,879,400	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Homeowner Protection Fund	9335	$4,879,400	$4,879,400

Project Purpose

Pursuant to PA 296 of 2012, the Department of Treasury is required to provide restitution payments to eligible individuals of foreclosure-related crimes as identified by the Attorney General's Office.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department will make these payments to eligible individuals as identified by the Attorney General's Office.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 296 of 2012, Section 203

End of Information for: National Mortgage Servicer Settlement - Foreclosure Rescue Scam Victim Restitution - 3199

Work Project: Support to At-Risk Local Units of Government and Public School Districts I - 3315

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2013	$5,000,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Supervision of the General Property Tax Law	04201	$3,300,000	$3,300,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$3,300,000	$3,300,000

Project Purpose

To provide technical and administrative support for the Department of Treasury to implement P.A. 436 of 2012 to safeguard and assure the financial accountability of local units of government and school districts.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will continue to secure the services of financial consultants, lawyers, work-out experts, and other professionals to assist in the implementation of P.A. 436 of 2012.

Statutory authority designating work project? Yes

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

P.A. 436 of 2012, Section 35(2)

End of Information for: Support to At-Risk Local Units of Government and Public School Districts I - 3315

Work Project: Driver Responsibility Fees Community Service - 3608

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,050,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Office of Collections	01870	$120,000	$120,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Driver Responsibility Fees	6126	$120,000	$120,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to implement provisions of P.A. 283 of 2014, Section 732b, which ensures the driver responsibility fee - Community Service Fund is in compliance with P.A. 250 of 2014, Section 732a (9b)(i)(A)(B).

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will use this funding to administer the provisions of P.A. 250 of 2014, Section 732a (9b)(i)(A)(B).

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Driver Responsibility Fees Community Service - 3608

Work Project: Enterprise System Integration - 3642

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Departmental & Budget Services	01900	$450,000	$450,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$450,000	$450,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Executive Direction and Operations	01101	$500,000	$500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$500,000	$500,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Local Finance	04501	$50,000	$50,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$50,000	$50,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Student Financial Assistance Programs	03501	$200,000	$200,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$200,000	$200,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tax Compliance	02470	$150,000	$150,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$150,000	$150,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Treas Oper Information Tech Svcs & Projts	01201	$150,000	$150,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$150,000	$150,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to effectively interface more than 30 existing Treasury systems with Statewide Integrated Governmental Management Application (SIGMA), as well as incorporate Collection and Financial Services features into SIGMA.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department and DTMB have developed an aggressive plan and estimated timeline in order to meet SIGMA project deadlines.

These carry forward resources will cover the costs associated with the hiring, and reassignment of resources necessary to complete the technical development needs of Treasury to accomodate interface with SIGMA.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Enterprise System Integration - 3642

Work Project: Essential Service Tax Implementation Project - 3526

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$2,500,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Supervision of the General Property Tax Law	04201	$2,500,000	$2,500,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$2,500,000	$2,500,000

Project Purpose

Under the State Essential Services Assessment Act, PA 87 of 2014 and PA 92 of 2014, and the Alternative State Essential Services Assessment Act, PA 93 of 2014, the Department of Treasury is mandated to collect and administer both assessments. The purpose of this project is to utilize these funds to implement and comply with these new programs as outlined below.

1. Website development
2. Policy and procedures development
3. Program design
4. Inform local governments and businesses of this new requirement
5. Create, distribute and maintain forms and instructions
6. Collect, review, verify, and maintain data
7. Provide associated customer service
8. Audit for compliance
9. Participate in appeals process

In addition to the program responsibilities, there will be a need to build an Information Technology system that will allow for the processing of these returns and payments.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The implementation timeline for this project began in November of 2014. The department is starting to build the system based upon the current functionality specifications. This process will continue through late 2015. The system should be available by the beginning of 2016 in order to accommodate the first process step, the receipt of exemption certificates from local jurisdictions, in early 2016.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Essential Service Tax Implementation Project - 3526

Work Project: Financial Independence Teams - 3644

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,050,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Financial Independence Team	03260	$2,050,000	$2,050,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$2,050,000	$2,050,000

Project Purpose

This funding will be utilized to provide the necessary contractual expertise to assist financially distressed schools.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department of Treasury, working in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), will contract for the provision of technical financial assistance to school districts including identification of methods to recover from financial distress.

Specifically, Treasury will implement the following recently enacted legislation: P.A. 109 through 114 of 2015.

Through enforcement of the aforementioned statutes, Treasury and MDE will be equipped with earlier financial information to:
(1) identify potential fiscal stress in school districts, Intermediate School Districts (ISD) and Public School Academies (PSA),
2) require additional financial reporting by certain districts, ISDs and PSAs,
3) revise existing Deficit Elimination Plans requirements,
4) create an Enhanced Deficit Elimination Plan,
5) revise authority provided to MDE and Treasury to withhold state school aid payments,
6) create an additional trigger under which the Treasurer can determine the existence of probable financial stress for a district with a deficit elimination plan, which then triggers the appointment of a financial review team, and
7) create an additional trigger under which the Treasurer can declare a financial emergency and recommend the appointment of an emergency manager.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Financial Independence Teams - 3644

Work Project: Financial Review Commission Implementation - 3450

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$900,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Office of the Director	01101	$596,200	$596,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$596,200	$596,200

Project Purpose

Under the Michigan financial review commission act, PA 181 of 2014, the Department is mandated to provide commissions with the resources to exercise its powers, duties, and responsibilities under this act and as required by this state to enforce this act and the plan for adjustment; to secure professional services to assist in the implementation of this act; and for any other purposes that a commission determines in its discretion are necessary or implied to implement this act.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department's work will be accomplished through the use of interagency agreements, grants, state employees, and contracts.

The first commission under this act was established in October 2014, coinciding with approval of the City of Detroit's Plan of Adjustment.

To date this commission has analyzed and discussed 166 contracts over $75,000, or contracts with a term of 2 years or more with the City of Detroit and third parties.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Financial Review Commission Implementation - 3450

Work Project: GAL System Legacy Replacement - 3609

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$450,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Office of Collections	01870	$411,100	$411,100	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Garnishment Fees	1025	$411,100	$411,100

Project Purpose

The department will utilize this funding to begin Phase 1 for a feasibility study, requirements gathering and the beginning costs of replacing the Garnishment and Levy (GAL) system.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This funding will be used for beginning Phase 1 of the Garnishment and Levy (GAL) system replacement. The Department of Technology, Management and Budget and the Office of Collections will utilize these funds for a feasibility study and requirements gathering for potential replacement of the GAL system.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: GAL System Legacy Replacement - 3609

Work Project: Hearing Tracking System - 3645

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$750,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tax & Economic Policy	02410	$665,000	$665,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$415,000	$415,000
Delinquent Tax Collection Revenue	0021	$250,000	$250,000

Project Purpose

The department will use this funding to replace the existing legacy Hearings Tracking System (HTS) currently being used by Treasury's Hearings Division.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

To enter into a contract for license to install and use software as a hearings file management and document management replacement for the legacy Hearings Tracking System (HTS) currently being used by Treasury's Hearings Division. The department will obtain platform licenses and contract with an integrator to customize the platform to perform necessary functions.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Hearing Tracking System - 3645

Work Project: Individual Income Tax Direct e-File - 3647

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tax Processing	02420	$370,000	$370,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Delinquent Tax Collection Revenue	0021	$370,000	$370,000

Project Purpose

The purpose is to continue the development of a Michigan Individual Income Tax (IIT) fillable forms Direct e-File solution which will allow taxpayers to e-file their Michigan IIT returns free of cost.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

A recent pilot test has yielded success and the department now plans to move to the production phase in preparation for Michigan taxpayers to have the option of e-filing calendar year 2015 tax returns, or utilizing a traditional paper return.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Individual Income Tax Direct e-File - 3647

Work Project: Individual Income Tax e-Pay - 3444

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$800,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Collections	01870	$738,000	$738,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$738,000	$738,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop functionality in a new program for the individual income taxpayers to allow for the acceptance of payments electronically, by debit card, and credit card.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department of Treasury worked closely with its banking vendor, JPM Chase and completed testing of the e-pay system that began in August, 2014, with an implementation go live date set for a small pilot group in December 2014. The initial product testing was successful and this next phase will link use of credit/debit cards to taxpayer returns through an interface to remove the manual process. The department is now ready to expand the program to all individual income tax customers.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Individual Income Tax e-Pay - 3444

Work Project: Personal Property Tax Reform – System Development - 3646

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,500,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Personal Property Tax Reform One-Time	07107	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$1,500,000	$1,500,000

Project Purpose

This funding will be utilized to design and develop a computer system that will allow Treasury to fulfill the requirements of the Local Community Stabilization Authority Act.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will work with DTMB staff to develop an IT system that will allow for the efficient calculation and processing of Personal Property Tax Reimbursements.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Personal Property Tax Reform – System Development - 3646

Work Project: Road Funding IT changes - 3641

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$867,000	09/30/2016	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Treas Oper Information Tech Svcs & Projects	01201	$867,000	$867,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$867,000	$867,000

Project Purpose

This work project would reserve funding originally included in PA 6 of 2015 for information technology changes to support potential legislative action on a transportation funding package. Any road funding package enacted by the Michigan Legislature is anticipated to include tax revenue changes that will require modifications to Treasury IT systems.

This funding would provide the ability to start the necessary IT work immediately upon passage of the new road funding proposal. An expedited legislative timeline is likely.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The Department will review the final bill(s) and identify the changes needed to Treasury IT systems. An complete implementation plan will be developed after consultation with DTMB.

Expenditures will include IT services provided by DTMB Agency Services as well as contractual services.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Road Funding IT changes - 3641

Work Project: School Bond Loan Legacy IT System Replacement - 3454

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$600,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Common cash and debt management	03201	$257,200	$257,200	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Bond Fees	0045	$257,200	$257,200

Project Purpose

The Michigan School Bond Loan Program (SBLP) is responsible for the qualification of approximately $1.5 billion of K-12 public school bonds annually and for the issuance and servicing of loans, which currently total approximately $1.78 billion. Qualifications of these bonds results in a State guarantee of approximately $13.1 billion of school debt.

Amendments to the School Bond Qualification and Loan Act became effective on March 28, 2013. The purpose of this work project is to continue to implement changes in the School Bond Loan program as envisioned in the legislation which will be incorporated into the new IT system.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will utilize this funding to implement changes in the School Bond Loan program through a new IT system that will include the automation of loan processing and improve loan projection capabilities.

1. Replace current school bond loan servicing system.
2. Improve loan processing with a more stable and customizable system.
3. Develop standard financial reporting format, forms, documents and website.
4. Improve and expand loan estimation and interest rate calculation process

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: School Bond Loan Legacy IT System Replacement - 3454

Work Project: School Bond Loan Legacy IT System Replacement - 3607

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$600,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Common Cash and Debt Management	03201	$342,800	$342,800	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
School Bond Fees	0045	$342,800	$342,800

Project Purpose

The Michigan School Bond Loan Program (SBLP) is responsible for the qualification of approximately $1.5 billion of K-12 public school bonds annually and for the issuance and servicing of loans, which currently total approximately $1.78 billion. Qualifications of these bonds results in a State guarantee of approximately $13.1 billion of school debt.

Amendments to the School Bond Qualification and Loan Act became effective on March 28, 2013. The purpose of this work project is to continue to implement changes in the School Bond Loan program as envisioned in the legislation which will be incorporated into the new IT system.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will utilize this funding to implement changes in the School Bond Loan program through a new IT system that will include the automation of loan processing and improve loan projection capabilities.

1. Replace current school bond loan servicing system.
2. Improve loan processing with a more stable and customizable system.
3. Develop standard financial reporting format, forms, documents and website.
4. Improve and expand loan estimation and interest rate calculation process.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: School Bond Loan Legacy IT System Replacement - 3607

Work Project: Support to At-Risk Local Units of Government and Public School Districts III - 3451

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2014	$7,255,000	09/30/2018	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Supervision of the General Property Tax Law	04201	$2,920,000	$2,920,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$2,920,000	$2,920,000

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Treasury Distressed Communities	07104	$3,590,000	$3,590,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
General Fund/General Purpose	0001	$3,590,000	$3,590,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of the project is to perform the work required under the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, to assist local governments in financial stress.

These funds will be used to assist with the costs associated with litigation and emergency manager activities stemming from PA 4 of 2011 and PA 436 of 2012.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

The department will use this funding to cover costs related to the bankruptcy process, consulting services for local units, emergency manager salaries, and related litigation. The department will pay for private attorney services contracted by the Attorney General to provide legal assistance including consulting, filing fees, FOIA compliance, discovery, and other legal activities.
The on-going financial reviews and the Emergency Manager status in several Public School Districts and numerous cities necessitate that these funds be available into the future.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Support to At-Risk Local Units of Government and Public School Districts III - 3451

Work Project: Tax Compliance ESKORT Integration - 3640

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$2,000,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Tax Compliance	02470	$2,300,000	$2,000,000	Specified Amount

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Delinquent Tax Collection Revenue	0021	$2,300,000	$2,000,000

Project Purpose

The Department will use this funding to integrate all Tax Compliance projects into a single case management and tracking tool. Thereby, expanding the use of the existing ESKORT software system utilized in support of Tax Compliance audit functions.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This would replace 2 obsolete database systems, Paradox and Delphi. It would also implement the use of project management tool features within ESKORT. Finally, it would allow the bureau increased efficiencies by having all projects use a single management tool allowing for better reporting, fewer systems to maintain, and consistent process/procedures for the handling of taxpayers. Potential savings include avoidance of the costs associated with supporting, upgrading, testing, and training for two separate systems.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Tax Compliance ESKORT Integration - 3640

Work Project: Tax Compliance Fraud Prevention - 3651

First AY of Project	Estimated Completion Cost	Estimated Completion Date	Status
2015	$1,600,000	09/30/2019	Approved

20 App Title	20 App Number	Est. 20 App EOY Balance	Est. Total 20 Carry Fwd Amt.	Work Project; Carry Fwd Amt.
Fraud Prevention Services	02440	$923,000	$923,000	Entire Balance

D23 Fund Source (s)	D23 Fund Number	D23 EOY Balance	D23 Carry Fwd Amt.
Delinquent Tax Collection Revenue	0021	$923,000	$923,000

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is tax fraud prevention and detection utilizing income tax refund analysis services. The project will allow the Department to detect potentially suspicious and misused identities and take appropriate corrective action.

Implementation Plan available for Review? Yes

Summary of implementation plan

This funding will allow the Department to continue efforts in fraud prevention. The project expenditures include fraud prevention services, and may include staffing costs for Department of Technology, Management & Budget, and Treasury. Identity confirmation services will be utilized to prevent the fraudulent filing of Michigan tax returns and refunds. The Department of Treasury will hire an outside consultant to perform data analytics to identify potential areas of fraud and provide guidance to improve current Treasury processes. The Department will continue investigating methods to prevent fraudulent filing for tax refunds during the next few years. These funds will be used to provide information technology services from the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, as well as outside vendors.

Statutory authority designating work project? No

Public Act and Boilerplate Section (if YES was selected)

End of Information for: Tax Compliance Fraud Prevention - 3651

From: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:28 PM
To: Harkins, Chris (DTMB);Kimmith, Dean (DTMB);Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Cc: Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Stigall, Jill (DHHS);Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Subject: Work Project Implementation Plans
Attachments: CFH-Project-Summary-rev-6-12-15.pdf; Homeless Programs.pdf; #3680 - Flint Water Safety - Week 10-29-15_Action Plan summary.docx; #3680 - Flint Water Safety.docx

Chris, David, and Dean,

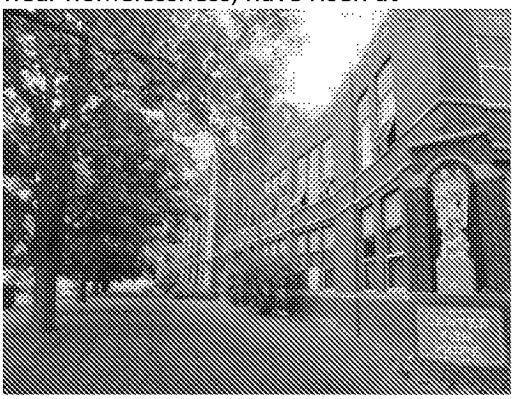
I will be forwarding the 2015 work project implementation plans to you, per request of the House Fiscal Agency. They will come in a series of emails because the number and size of files is too large to attach them to a single email. Thanks for sending them along to fiscal agency staff for us.

Attached to this email are the Human Services work projects requests:
Center for Hope Building Renovations
Flint Water Safety
Homeless Programs

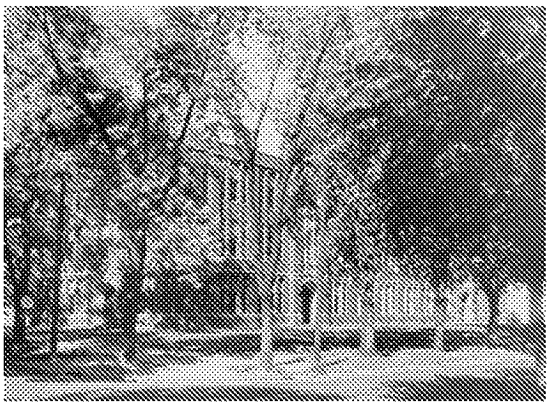
Thanks,
Susan

Project Summary

Nearly everyone in the country is aware of the economic turmoil that the recent recession has brought to Flint and Genesee County. What many may not know is that the situation began here long before it impacted the rest of the country. The rates of unemployment and homelessness, or near homelessness, have risen at alarmingly in the last few years. Here in Flint, two of the area's key agencies tasked with serving the needs of this target population–Catholic Charities of Genesee County and Genesee Health System (formerly Genesee County Community Mental Health)–have come together in an unprecedented collaborative effort, to create the **Center for Hope**, with plans to:



- Deliver a full range of services to meet physical and mental health needs, simply and efficiently
- Improve the delivery of human service needs through seamless agency interaction
- Provide a cost-effective method of delivery
- Capitalize on the strengths and resources of each partner agency
- Provide an opportunity to improve the quality of life for our target population by changing one life, one family at a time



The project involves a planned renovation of the site, centrally located in downtown Flint in the former St. Michael School building, now the Center for Hope, on Fifth Avenue, west of Saginaw Street. The building has already been assessed for future life and the planned renovations, estimated at $9.6 million, will have a lengthy service life. Center for Hope partnering agencies are all currently funded for their individual operational and program costs, and plan to be funded into the foreseeable future.

Significant planning and assessment has already been completed. If funding can be obtained, the Center for Hope is anticipated to be fully operational in 2016.

Every person has value and deserves the opportunity to receive basic needs and essential human services. The interactive coordination between partner agencies will provide a full range of services including meals, food pantry, clothing, personal needs, household needs and furniture, substance use and/or mental health counseling, housing assistance, recreational activities, warming center (during the winter months), along with laundry and shower facilities. Delivery of these services will be coordinated and performed at no cost to the target population, and will be done in a cost effective manner, eliminating duplication of services.

The Center of Hope will offer services to those who qualify solely based on need, without discrimination based on age, gender, religion or ethnicity.

Renovation Funding

The estimated cost for the planned renovation is $9.6 million. Restoration will preserve this landmark, giving it a new role of service in the future of Flint for decades to come.

For additional information about the Center for Hope, call 810-232-9950 x228 or via email at givehope@ccsgc.org or .

Homeless Programs Appropriation 32610
Fiscal Year 2015
Work Project Implementation Plan

July 2015

MDHHS with the City of Detroit, will identify one shelter provider to provide diversion to families who call Detroit's Coordinated Assessment Model (CAM) line to prevent shelter entry, resulting in safe and stable housing through direct services and financial assistance. MDHHS with Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA), in a rural service area will lease several housing units under a master lease program to be used as temporary housing in lieu of utilizing motel lodging for families who call their CAM line. If the household does not have a safe housing option for the night, NMCAA will immediately route to one of their leased housing units instead of to a motel. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will be utilized for both Diversion and Master Lease cases.

Finally, in February 2015, HUD issued guidance for the Equal Access Rule that addresses appropriate placement of transgender individuals in single-sex facilities, how best to address privacy and safety concerns, and the barring of separating families or discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. MDHHS will partner with the current Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) contractor, The Salvation Army Eastern Michigan Division, to execute a Request for Proposal process for emergency shelters currently receiving ESP funds that wish to make repairs or improvements to increase their capacity and/or improve service delivery. Proposals must address identify repairs or improvement and how it increases capacity or improves service delivery, the total cost, and the estimated timeline for completion. A 25% match will be required.

Flint Water Public Health Response: MDHHS Action Plan Summary

Work Project #XXXX – FLINT WATER SAFETY

Updated 10-28-15

TASK	STATUS	ACTION	DATE COMPLETED
Filter Distribution	Residents may continue to obtain filters from GCCARD (both sites 9-4PM) and MDHHS clients can continue to obtain filters at the two MDHHS office locations or the GCCARD sites. As of October 22, DHHS/GCCARD has issued 9728 filters, 95 pitchers.	No action indicated, informational only.	NA
Filter Replacement Distribution	The procedure is in place for replacement cartridge distribution including an abbreviated application for residents to apply for and obtain cartridge replacement. Cartridge replacement will occur at same locations as filter sites. DHHS is also placing an order for 750 replacement filters for the 8-cup Zerowater filters. 9000 Brita replacement filters on hand with an additional 10,000 readily available when needed. Total available= 19,000 MDHHS is currently coordinating with GCARD on publicity for distribution of the replacement filters.	DHHS and GCCARD will begin issuing the replacement filters the week of November 2nd.	**Pending**
Public Education Proper Filter Use	When used improperly, the filters will exceed their capacity limit in a much shorter time frame thereby increasing need for filter replacement much sooner than expected. Develop NEW public education material about proper use of cartridge AND how to obtain filter replacement cartridges, targeted for release week of October 26 during lead awareness week.	MDHHS PIO coordinating with GCHD	**Estimated completion date: 10-30-15**
	Video created with Home Depot demonstrating replacement of the Brita replacement filter.	The video will be posted on the gov/flintwater website.	**Pending**
Lead Testing Protocol:	Draft protocol has been completed, undergoing final review. Protocol calls for testing: Priority groups-	Protocol will be announced in a joint MDHHS/GCHD Press	**Pending**

TASK	STATUS	ACTION	DATE COMPLETED
	• Confirmatory venous testing for children who had venous testing (115 children) • Children in day care, Head Start • children attending 3 schools (Freeman, Eisenhower, Brownell) • Children residing in high risk zip codes (03, 04) • All other students	release.	
Lead Testing: 9/28/15-10/23/15	10-21-15 Funding for case management nurses will be disseminated to GCHD through new project: *Flint Water*, for $425,000 through the Comprehensive Contract Egrams system, to fund the: Follow-up of Children Reported with Elevated Lead Levels: Case Management Services. GCHD has secured approvals for use of these funds and has begun procedures to place staff in appropriate positions to conduct the work.	MDHHS has arranged a contract with the GCHD to provide nurses for the follow-up.	Contract in Egrams as of 10-23-15
Parent education	Parent education material completed. Discuss dissemination of parent material through Flint schools.	Call with Flint school superintendent, GCHD, and MDHHS scheduled 10-26-15 to discuss dissemination process.	
	Schools require 6000+ information packets for distribution to all students. Print order sent to DTMB. Hardcopy will be distributed to GCHD for issuing to the schools, and to Headstart, daycare, and other agencies in Flint with children ages 0-5.	Expect hardcopy delivery by 11-2-15.	Dissemination week of 11-2-15
Provider Education	Provider Education material completed. Communication to providers will occur through GCHD and MDHHS networks (GCMS, GCARD, hospitals, etc).MDHHS will distribute through the Medicaid Health Plans.	Electronic distribution through various listservs is pending. (all parties).	Week of 11-2-15
Community public education and testing event	McLaren Health Plan in conjunction with GCHD hosting a public testing and awareness event on November 5 at the Burton GCHD site. McLaren will have providers on site to perform testing for their members; GCHD onsite to perform testing for all others. Event will also include Medicaid application assistance. GCHD will be at a community event on Nov. 12, from 2 PM to 7 PM, to focus on testing for children 0-5. (Brownell and Holmes Schools)		
Environmental	$275 k contract with ETC requested on Oct. 21st, 2015.	MDHHS finalizing	

TASK	STATUS	ACTION	DATE COMPLETED
Investigation	Will work with GCHD to coordinate with Flint Housing/other authorities to deal with recalcitrant landlords.	contracts	

From: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:20 PM
To: Harkins, Chris (DTMB);Kimmith, Dean (DTMB);Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Cc: Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Stigall, Jill (DHHS);Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Work Project Implementation Plans
Attachments: #3672 - SIGMA - Attachment A - Contingency Fund Request #2.pdf; #3672 - SIGMA - Attachment B.pdf; #3672 - SIGMA - Attachment C.pdf; #3672 - SIGMA - Attachment D.pdf; #3672 - SIGMA - Attachment E.pdf; #3672 - SIGMA.docx; #3629 - State Innovation Grant - Attachment A.pdf; #3629 - State Innovation Grant - Attachment B.pdf; #3629 - State Innovation Grant - Attachment C.pdf; #3629 - State Innovation Grant.docx

Attached are work project implementation plans for the following FY 2015 DCH work projects:
SIGMA Interface Projects
State Innovation Model Grant

That does it. We don't have an implementation plan for MiDocs – GME Consortium yet, but will send it when it's ready.

Susan

From: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2015 7:28 PM
To: Harkins, Chris (DTMB) <HarkinsC1@michigan.gov>; Kimmith, Dean (DTMB) <KimmithD@michigan.gov>; Fosdick, David (DTMB) <FosdickD@michigan.gov>
Cc: Hanley, Farah (DHHS) <hanleyf@michigan.gov>; Stigall, Jill (DHHS) <StigallJ1@michigan.gov>; Masterson, Cindy (DHHS) <MastersonC@michigan.gov>
Subject: Work Project Implementation Plans

Chris, David, and Dean,

I will be forwarding the 2015 work project implementation plans to you, per request of the House Fiscal Agency. They will come in a series of emails because the number and size of files is too large to attach them to a single email. Thanks for sending them along to fiscal agency staff for us.

Attached to this email are the Human Services work projects requests:
Center for Hope Building Renovations
Flint Water Safety
Homeless Programs

Thanks,
Susan

From: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 1:13 PM
To: Klein, Susie (DHHS);Priest, Chris (DHHS);Stiffler, Kathleen A. (DHHS);Hamilton, Kimberly (DHHS);Miles, Richard C. (DHHS);Keisling, Brian (DHHS);DuPuis, Julie (DHHS);Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Fosdick, David (DTMB);Krysiak, Matthew (DHHS);(jon.cotton@mhplan.com);Beverly Allen;Dennis J. Mouras;Dennis Reese;Dennis Smith (dhsmith@uphp.com);Heidi Chan;Kathy Kendall (kathy.kendall@mclaren.org);Mark Saffer (msaffer@midwesthealthplan.com);Mehrdad Shafa;Michael Freed;Michael Genord;Randy Narowitz;Stephen Harris;Carol LeBlanc;Donna West;Karen Bunio;Kellie Rice;maryanne.sesti@phpmm.org;Melissa Holmquist;Michael Parr;Nancy Busch;Ramia Kaji;Ruth Evans;Tiffany Stone;vgadgil@midwesthealthplan.com;Vicki Laney;Cheryl Bupp;rmurdock@mahp.org;Beverly Allen (baallen@cvty.com);Mary Ann Tournoux (mtournou@hap.org);Randy Narowitz (ran@thc-online.com);Donna West
Cc: Titus, Laura (DHHS);Hadar, Sandy (DHHS);Scott, Teri (DHHS);Beth Hewitt;Claudia Ventimiglia;Gloria Reiffer (Gloria.Reiffer@phpmm.org);Julie Jones;Kathleen Carpenter;Kelly Vetoich;Laura Osminski;Lynn Coppel;Nancy Jenkins;Nancy Kowal;Peggy Petersen (ppeterson@uphp.com);Rochelle Jenkins;Sandy Fisher;Sara Terrio (sara.terrio@mhplan.com);Sonseearay Townsend;Valarie Godlesky
Subject: December 3, 2015 MDHHS/Health Plan CEO Meeting

Please see the attached additional documents for tomorrow's meeting.

Thank you,
Trena

Trena Larner
Assistant to Kathy Stiffler, Director
Bureau of Medicaid Care Management & Quality Assurance
Phone Number: 517-241-5586
Fax Number: 517-335-5007
larnert@michigan.gov

From: Klein, Susie (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, December 01, 2015 11:12 AM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS); Priest, Chris (DHHS); Stiffler, Kathleen A. (DHHS); Hamilton, Kimberly (DHHS); Miles, Richard C. (DHHS); Keisling, Brian (DHHS); DuPuis, Julie (DHHS); Hanley, Farah (DHHS); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Krysiak, Matthew (DHHS); (jon.cotton@mhplan.com); Beverly Allen; Dennis J. Mouras; Dennis Reese; Dennis Smith (dhsmith@uphp.com); Heidi Chan; Kathy Kendall (kathy.kendall@mclaren.org); Mark Saffer (msaffer@midwesthealthplan.com); Mehrdad Shafa; Michael Freed; Michael Genord; Randy Narowitz; Stephen Harris; Carol LeBlanc; Donna West; Karen Bunio; Kellie Rice; maryanne.sesti@phpmm.org; Melissa Holmquist; Michael Parr; Nancy Busch; Ramia Kaji; Ruth Evans; Tiffany Stone; vgadgil@midwesthealthplan.com; Vicki Laney; Cheryl Bupp; rmurdock@mahp.org; Beverly Allen (baallen@cvty.com); Mary Ann Tournoux (mtournou@hap.org); Randy Narowitz (ran@thc-online.com); Donna West
Cc: Titus, Laura (DHHS); Hadar, Sandy (DHHS); Scott, Teri (DHHS); Beth Hewitt; Claudia Ventimiglia; Gloria Reiffer (Gloria.Reiffer@phpmm.org); Julie Jones; Kathleen Carpenter; Kelly Vetoich; Laura Osminski; Lynn Coppel; Nancy Jenkins; Nancy Kowal; Peggy Petersen (ppeterson@uphp.com); Rochelle Jenkins; Sandy Fisher; Sara Terrio (sara.terrio@mhplan.com); Sonseearay Townsend; Valarie Godlesky
Subject: December 3, 2015 MDHHS/Health Plan CEO Meeting

Good Morning,

Attached are the documents you will need for the December 3, CEO meeting. The meeting begins at 9:30 am and is being held at the Main Room at MPHI. If you need to call into this meeting, please use the following number: Conference Line: 1-888-363-4734; Access Code: 9304812. Thank you.

<< File: 12-3-15 CEO Agenda.docx >> << File: MIHA FINAL Exec Summary Report_October 2015.pdf >>

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 10:13 AM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS); Priest, Chris (GOV); Stiffler, Kathleen A. (DHHS); Hamilton, Kimberly (DHHS); Miles, Richard C. (DHHS); Keisling, Brian (DHHS); DuPuis, Julie (DHHS); Hanley, Farah (DHHS); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Krysiak, Matthew (DHHS); (jon.cotton@mhplan.com); Beverly Allen; Dennis J. Mouras; Dennis Reese; Dennis Smith (dhsmith@uphp.com); Heidi Chan; Kathy Kendall (kathy.kendall@mclaren.org); Mark Saffer (msaffer@midwesthealthplan.com); Mehrdad Shafa; Michael Freed; Michael Genord; Randy Narowitz; Stephen Harris; Carol LeBlanc; Donna West; Karen Bunio; Kellie Rice; maryanne.sesti@phpmm.org; Melissa Holmquist; Michael Parr; Nancy Busch; Ramia Kaji; Ruth Evans; Tiffany Stone; vgadgil@midwesthealthplan.com; Vicki Laney; Cheryl Bupp; rmurdock@mahp.org
Cc: Titus, Laura (DHHS); Hadar, Sandy (DHHS); Scott, Teri (DHHS); Klein, Susie (DHHS); Beth Hewitt; Claudia Ventimiglia; Gloria Reiffer (Gloria.Reiffer@phpmm.org); Julie Jones; Kathleen Carpenter; Kelly Vetoich; Laura Osminski; Lynn Coppel; Nancy Jenkins; Nancy Kowal; Peggy Petersen (ppeterson@uphp.com); Rochelle Jenkins; Sandy Fisher; Sara Terrio (sara.terrio@mhplan.com); Sonseearay Townsend; Valarie Godlesky
Subject: MDHHS/Health Plan CEO Meeting
When: Thursday, December 03, 2015 9:30 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: MPHI, Main Conference Room; Conference Line: 1-888-363-4734; Access Code: 9304812; Host Code: 6618 (for Kathy)

Address: 2436 Woodlake Circle Drive, Suite 380, Okemos

(Resending appointment to include new attendees.)

Genesee County Health Department

Frequently Asked Questions About Lead in Flint Water

MDHHS Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- Lead is hard to avoid completely. It can be found in old paint, water pipes and brass water faucets, in dirt, at some job sites, and in metal used for some hobbies.
- The amount of lead found in some Flint homes' drinking water could affect kids' health.
  - Even small amounts of lead can harm kids' health because they are little and still growing.
  - Adults are less likely to be harmed by the levels found in the water.
- Filter your drinking water using a NSF-approved filter.
  - Find a NSF-approved filter at http://www.gchd.us/docs/lead_filter_information.pdf.
  - If you use City of Flint water, you can call 211 to find out where you can pick up a free water filter.
- Some filters can remove up to 99% of the lead in water when used properly. To be sure your filter is removing as much lead as it can, carefully follow the instructions that came with it.
  - Change the filter cartridge as often as you should.
  - Run only cold water through the filter.
- Even after changes to the water system, it may take a while before lead levels in your home's water drop. Use the tips below to know when it's best to use filtered water:

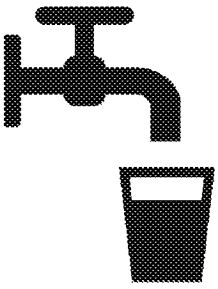
Lead in Water

Although your water may be a different color sometimes, it is not caused by lead. It's important to remember:

- **You can't see, smell, or taste lead in water.**
- **Lead won't change the color of your water.**
- **The only way to know what your home's lead levels are is by having your water tested in a lab.**

Please call the Flint Water Department at 810-787-6537 to request a free or low-cost water test.

In The Kitchen



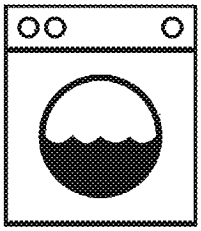
Use filtered tap water for:

- Drinking (including making coffee, drink mixes, juice, baby formula)
- Cooking (even if you boil the water, the lead will stay in the water and food)
- Washing fruits and vegetables

You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Washing your hands
- Washing dishes
- Wiping down countertops

Cleaning



You can use unfiltered tap water for:

- Mopping floors
- Washing clothes

Your washing machine and dryer won't put lead from the water into the air of your home.

In the Bathroom

Use <u>filtered</u> tap water for:

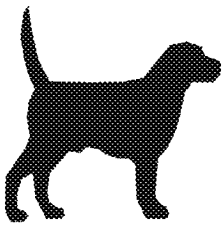
- Brushing kids' teeth

You can use <u>unfiltered</u> tap water for:

- Showers
- Baths (don't let kids drink the water as they play in the tub)
- Brushing your teeth (if you are an adult)

Lead will not cause rashes or other skin problems. However, if chlorine levels or other cleaners are high in the water, it may cause itchy or dry skin (similar to what can happen when you swim in a pool).

Caring for Pets



Use <u>filtered</u> tap water for:

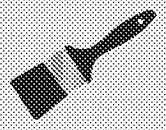
- Pets' water bowls

You can use <u>unfiltered</u> tap water for:

- Baths

If you notice your pet acting differently than normal, please contact your vet.

Other Sources of Lead in Your Home



Lead Paint

- Homes built before 1978 likely have lead paint, both inside and outside.
- Old paint is the most common way that kids are exposed to lead.

Dirt

- If you live in the city, there may be lead in the dirt outside your home.
- Before 1996, gas and the exhaust from cars contained lead. More lead will be found in dirt in busy traffic areas.

Dust

- The dust in your home can contain tiny amounts of both the paint and the dirt that contain lead.

Hobbies & Jobs

- Solder, fishing sinkers, bullets, and stained glass framing materials are some of the items in your home that may contain lead. You could also track home lead dust from your job site.

Have Questions?

For more information about protecting yourself and your family from lead, please visit:

<u>www.michigan.gov/lead</u>

Or you can call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services at:

1-800-648-6942

The staff at this number will help direct you to the best department that can answer your questions about lead in your home.

To request a free or low-cost water test, please call the Flint Water Department at:

1-810-787-6537

To find out if you can get a free water filter, please call 211.

MDHHS

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING

Blood Lead Level (BLL) Quick Reference for Primary Care Providers

Not Yet Tested

Consider screening ALL children between ages 1-6

Need for testing can be based on risk factors

REMINDER: Medicaid requires all children to be tested at ages 1 & 2. Children who were not tested between 1 & 2 must be tested at least once between 3 & 6.

BLL <5

Review lead levels with family

Provide anticipatory guidance

REMINDER: Medicaid requires all children to be tested at ages 1 & 2. Children who were not tested between 1 & 2 must be tested at least once between 3 & 6.

BLL 5-14

Review lead levels with family

Confirm results with venous blood sample

Review venous sample with family

Perform environmental history. Consider other children who may be exposed

Consider iron sufficiency, provide nutritional counseling r/t calcium and iron

Provide anticipatory guidance

Refer to case management

FOLLOW UP: Retest venous sample within 1-3 months to ensure BLL is not rising

REMINDER: Medicaid requires all children to be tested at ages 1 & 2. Children who were not tested between 1 & 2 must be tested at least once between 3 & 6.

BLL 15-44

Review lead levels with family

Confirm results with venous blood sample

Perform environmental history. Consider other children who may be exposed

Consider if a specific evaluation of the child is necessary such as an abdominal x-ray. Gut decontamination may be needed if leaded foreign bodies are visualized in x-ray

Consider iron sufficiency, provide nutritional counseling r/t calcium and iron

Refer to case management

FOLLOW UP: Retest venous sample monthly until levels are <15, repeat every 1-3 months until levels are <5

REMINDER: Medicaid requires all children to be tested at ages 1 & 2. Children who were not tested between 1 & 2 must be tested at least once between 3 & 6.

BLL >44

Review lead levels with family

Confirm results with venous blood sample

Review venous sample with family

Any treatment at this level should be performed in consultation with an expert at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit.

FOLLOW UP: As directed by expert. Monthly venous samples will be required.

REMINDER: Medicaid requires all children to be tested at ages 1 & 2. Children who were not tested between 1 & 2 must be tested at least once between 3 & 6.

Questions? Contact us at (888) 322-4453 or (517) 335-8885

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR | NICK LYON, DIRECTOR

IS YOUR CHILD SAFE FROM LEAD POISONING?

LEARN HOW TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY:

CREATE A LEAD SAFE HOME

What causes lead poisoning?

There are many places in a home that can put babies and children in danger of lead poisoning.

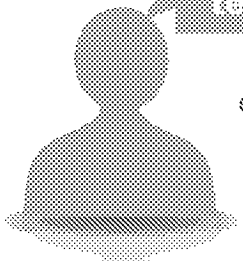
Lead paint is the #1 cause of lead poisoning in Michigan and is often found in homes built before 1978. The older the home, the more likely that painted surfaces like windows, cupboards, doors and porches will contain lead paint.

Lead poisoning occurs most often when children come in contact with lead in the air, in dust particles and in lead paint. Lead can also be found in soil, drinking water if supplied by lead pipes, certain home remedies and is used in some hobbies and occupations.

Exposure to lead particles is a serious health threat. Carefully consider where your child spends time (childcare, relatives, your home) when thinking about lead poisoning hazards.

How can I tell if my child has lead poisoning?

Talk to your doctor about testing your child's blood for lead poisoning.



When should my child be tested for lead poisoning?

Children should be tested at one and two years of age or if you think your child has been exposed to a lead hazard.

To learn more about lead poisoning prevention and blood lead testing, call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Project:

(517) 335-8885

(888) 322-4453

Take this quiz to see if your child may have lead poisoning:

Symptoms of lead poisoning can be silent—and hard to recognize. Preventing lead poisoning before it happens is the best way to keep your family safe. Take this quiz to see if your child may be at risk.

Does your child currently live in a home built before 1950 or have they lived in a home built before 1950 in the recent past? Do they spend time at or often visit a home built before 1950?

Yes No Don't know

Does your child currently live in a home built before 1978 that was recently remodeled? Have they lived in or often visited a home built before 1978 that was recently remodeled?

Yes No Don't know

Does your child have a brother, sister or playmate with lead poisoning?

Yes No Don't know

Does your child live with an adult whose job or hobby involves lead?

Yes No Don't know

Does you or your child's caregiver use home remedies that may contain lead?

Yes No Don't know

If you answered NO to all of these questions, your child is probably not at risk for lead poisoning.

If you answered YES or DON'T KNOW to any of these questions, talk to your doctor about testing your child for lead poisoning.

MAKE EVERY DAY LEAD SAFE

Safe Cleaning. Use these steps to help keep your home clean and reduce your child's risk of exposure. Use these tips to clean your windows, doors, floors, porches, stairs and child pay areas.

Put on gloves. If you do not have rubber gloves, wash your hands well after cleaning.

Use the right cleaners and disposable supplies. Use soapy cleaners or products made to remove lead dust.

Remove paint chips first. Window areas and porches often have peeling paint and lead dust. Pick up visible chips and dispose of them in a plastic bag.

Always wet-mop floors and window sills. Do not broom lead dust. Dispose of cloths after wiping each area. If using a mop, replace water frequently.

Don't use a vacuum unless it is a HEPA vacuum. It will spread lead dust into the air you breathe. Some health departments have HEPA vacuums available to borrow

Rinse after cleaning. Use clean water and a new mop head or fresh paper towels to wipe away suds.

Always empty wash water down a toilet.

Repeat these steps often when dirt and dust appear on floors, porches, window wells, window sills, stairs and children's play areas.

For Homes with Lead Pipes

If you use a water filter, be sure it meets NSF/ANSI 53 standards for lead reduction.

✓**Flush your pipes before drinking**, and only use cold water for cooking and mixing formula. Flush pipes by running the water for approximately 5 minutes.

✓**Test.** Consider contacting your local water authority to have your water tested.

Daily Lead Safe Practices

- Wash hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often
- Always take off shoes before going into the house.
- Watch your child's diet. Foods high in calcium and iron help keep lead from being absorbed by a child's body.
- Avoid using power sanders, open-flame torches, heat guns, dry scrapers and dry sandpaper o painted surfaces.
- Fix peeling or chipping paint.
- Use a certified Repair and Remodeling Professional when making updates to your home
- Practice safe cleaning methods.

Thinking about remodeling your home? Need advice about identifying and removing lead paint? Call the Lead and Healthy Homes Section: 866-691-LEAD.

www.michigan.gov/lead

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Childhood LEAD POISONING prevention program

October 30, 2015

Dear Provider:

As you may be aware from recent news reports, elevated levels of lead have been found in lead pipes within the City of Flint's water system.

To help protect the children of Flint from the current lead in water exposure, the Genesee County Health Department and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are contacting you to assist you in providing guidance to support your families.

Children can be exposed to lead from drinking water in that runs through lead pipes, old lead paint, soil, pottery, cosmetics and toys and some home remedies. Adult jobs and hobbies, like auto repair, stained glass and jewelry making, and ammunitions handling can also put children at risk if they touch clothing or play in areas where lead is found.

As a primary care provider, you play a critical role in helping to ensure that children and families exposed to lead receive the care and reassurances they need to manage the potential health impacts of lead poisoning.

Identification. Children suffering from lead poisoning often fail to present outward symptoms. However, early clinical symptoms can include anemia, anorexia, abdominal pain and constipation. Lead is a neuro-toxin, and exposure can result in violent and aggressive behaviors, lead to learning disorders, may cause Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and has been known to reduce IQ by as many as 5-8 points with levels as low as 10 ug/dL. Lead is metabolized through the gastrointestinal system similar to iron and calcium, with uptake rates depending on the size and weight of the child. The blood half-life of lead is short (approximately 1 month) but the bone half-life can extend into decades.

Due to multiple risk factors facing many residents in the City of Flint (including aging housing conditions and water quality), we recommend that all children under age 6 living in the City of Flint or living in homes that use Flint water, attending school or childcare in Flint, or who spend time with a caregiver in the City of Flint, receive a blood lead test. Blood lead testing should be done through a child's primary care doctor to ensure adequate short-term and long-term follow-up. ***Families should be encouraged to have their children tested immediately either at their doctor's office or the Genesee County Health Department***.

Management of Blood Lead Levels. The following guidance is provided for management of childhood blood lead levels:

- **BLL < 5 ug/dL**
  - A lead level of less than 5 mcg/dL is not typically cause for concern.
  - Provide education and anticipatory guidance to ensure that lead levels do not rise.
  - Consider retesting in 12 months based on risk factors or concerns.

- **BLL >5 ug/dL**
  - **Children with capillary results of 5 ug/dL and higher must have a confirmatory venous blood draw.**
  - Families should receive anticipatory guidance, nutrition counseling, instruction on safe cleaning techniques and appropriate follow-up care from their primary care provider.
  - In-home services including case management and environmental investigations are available for all children with lead levels greater than 5 ug/dL. Refer patients to the Genesee County Health Department for this service.
  - Children with confirmed venous testing results greater than 5ug/dL within the past 18 months must be retested based on Medicaid policy and AAP guidelines. (See attached "Provider Quick Reference). If a child has not been retested within these timeframes, retesting is recommended as soon as possible.
- **BLL > 44 ug/dL.**
  - **Children with capillary results of 5 ug/dL and higher must have a confirmatory venous blood draw.**
  - Lead levels over 44 ug/dL may require hospitalization. Consult with an expert at the Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit for additional guidance.
  - Families should receive anticipatory guidance, nutrition counseling, instruction on safe cleaning techniques and appropriate follow-up care from their primary care provider.
  - In-home services including case management and environmental investigations are available for all children with lead levels greater than 5 ug/dL. Refer patients to the Genesee County Health Department for this service.
  - Children with confirmed venous testing results greater than 5ug/dL within the past 18 months must be retested based on Medicaid policy and AAP guidelines. (See attached "Provider Quick Reference). If a child has not been retested within these timeframes, retesting is recommended as soon as possible.

  Reminder: All children covered by Medicaid must be tested at age 1 and 2.

Follow-up Care. As providers, there are steps you can take to help support your families:

1. Continue to inform and educate families regarding lead risks and preventative steps that they can take to minimize their risks.
2. Encourage your families to use filtered water for drinking, mixing formula and washing dishes. Families can contact 2-1-1 for information on free NSF Certified water filters.
3. Healthy nutrition is critical for lead-exposed children. Make sure your patients are consuming balanced diets high in iron, calcium and Vitamin C. If you have concerns about their nutrition, consider recommending a multivitamin with iron. WIC and SNAP provide assistance to parents and children who need fresh and healthy foods. Contact the Genesee County WIC office at (810) 237-4537 to learn more. In addition, SNAP offers a Double Bucks program that can provide healthy foods for less.
4. Breastfeeding is highly protective and encouraged. However, if the mother's blood lead level rises above 40ug/dL or her level is greater than 20 ug/dL and the baby has a level above 5 ug/dL breastfeeding is not recommended.

5. Because lead is a neuro-toxin, children with lead poisoning need longitudinal follow-up and may require developmental and behavioral health intervention services. Continue monitoring your patients' development at every visit.
6. Consider additional wrap-around and support services that will benefit your patients such as early childhood home visiting programs, early head start and head start. Call 2-1-1 for more information.

Local Resources. Several local resources are available to you and your patients:

- Blood Testing. Patients are encouraged to contact their primary care provider for testing. The Genesee County Health Department also administers lead tests. Patients in need of transportation should contact 2-1-1 for assistance.
- Water Testing. Water testing is free through the City of Flint Water Testing Plant. Patients can call 810-787-6537 to learn more.
- WIC and SNAP provide assistance to parents and children who need fresh and healthy foods. Contact the Genesee County WIC office at (810) 237-4537 to learn more.
- Child Development. If you have concerns about a child's growth, development or learning contact 2-1-1 for a Home Visiting Program in your area.

Websites and contact information.

- Genesee County Health Department Lead Program
  (810) 257-3833
  www.gchd.us

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
  Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
  (888) 322-4453
  www.michigan.gov/lead

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
  Lead Poisoning Prevention Video for Primary Care Providers
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AnkjCW_yGaU&feature=youtu.be

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
  www.epa.gov/lead

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site
  www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead

These recommendations will stay in effect until the Genesee County Health Department lifts the restrictions on water usage.

Sincerely,

Eden V. Wells, MD, MPH, FACPM
Chief Medical Executive
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Gary K. Johnson, MD, MPH
Medical Director
Genesee County Health Department

12/3/2015 1:00 PM FINAL

A G E N D A

FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE
December 8, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Lake Superior Room
1st Floor, Michigan Library
and Historical Center

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
December 15, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Lake Superior Room
1st Floor, Michigan Library
and Historical Center

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This agenda is for general informational purposes only.
At its discretion the Finance and Claims Committee may revise this agenda and may take up other issues at the meeting.

SECTION I - AGENCY SUBMITTED - NEW CONTRACTS

1. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1)	Stanley Convergent Security Solutions Saline, MI	$ 350,000.00 Total FY16 100% General Funds A two-month agreement requiring funding to upgrade the existing proprietary video security system that is currently installed at the facility

2. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

1)	Dickinson Wright PLLC Lansing, MI	$ 500,000.00 (1 Year) FY16 100% General Funds Special Assistant Attorney General in the Detroit Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy

SECTION II – AGENCY SUBMITTED – CONTRACT CHANGES

3. DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

1)	VHS Detroit Receiving Hospital Nashville, TN	$ 80,000.00 Amendment $ 1,641,103.00 New Total FY16 78% Federal Fund 22% General Fund Additional funds for a three-month extension to the contract for Personal Adjustment Services for Clients of the Bureau of Services to Blind Persons

4. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

1) Left blank intentionally

SECTION III – AGENCY SUBMITTED – NEW GRANTS

5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

1)	36th District Court Detroit, MI	$ 750,000.00 Total FY16 100% Federal Fund A multi-year grant to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system response to violence against women and to support and enhance services to victims

5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES continued

2)	CARE of Southeastern Michigan Fraser, MI	$ 615,000.00 Total **FY16** 100% Federal Fund A multi-year grant to provide individual substance abuse treatment services and group educational workshops for Macomb county Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
3)	Michigan 2-1-1 Lansing, MI	$ 1,338, 057.00 Total **FY16** 100% Federal Fund A multi-year grant to provide services to assist clients in obtaining food assistance benefits by conducting pre-screening for eligibility and providing information relating to Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility and enrollment through phone based referrals
4)	Orchards Children's Services Southfield, MI	$ 300,000.00 Total **FY16** 100% Federal Fund A multi-year grant to secure a Resource Family Recruiter (RFR) who will work collaboratively with public and private agencies and community-at-large to recruit foster and adoptive parents for Wayne and Oakland counties
5)	Spectrum Health Hospitals Detroit, MI	$ 298,884.00 Total **FY16** 100% Federal Fund A multi-year grant with Medical Resource System (MRS) providing expert medical consultation for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and law enforcement child abuse/neglect investigations

5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES continued

6)	Michigan Recreation and Okemos, MI	$ 480,000.00 Total FY16 100% Federal Funds One-year grant agreement will provide funding to reduce chronic disease inequities amongst high burdened capacity to create healthy environments and increase physical activities
7)	Western Michigan University School of Medicine Okemos, MI	$ 218,111.00 Total FY16 14% Federal Funds 36% Restricted Funds 50% General Funds One-year agreement will provide funding for maintaining and assisting in the statewide implementation of the emergency medical services information system (EMSIS)

6. DEPARTMENT OF TALENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1)	Various Statewide Workforce Development Boards (Listings on file)	$ 948,546.00 Total FY16 100% Federal Fund Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding that will enable Grantees to provide employment-related supportive services to operate the Partnership.Accountability. Training.Hope (PATH) Program to Family Independence Program participants
2)	Various Michigan Works! Agencies (Listing attached)	$ 750,000 Total FY16 100% Federal Funds Wagner Peyser. Funds used to staff and operate an outreach programs in order to locate and contact Migrant Seasonal Farmworker population

6. DEPARTMENT OF TALENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT continued

3)	Statewide Michigan Works! Agencies (List on file)	$ 1,500,000.00 Total FY16 100% General Funds Reemployment Services. Funds allocated to the statewide Michigan Works Agencies to work-based training opportunities to claimants

SECTION IV – AGENCY SUBMITTED – GRANT CHANGES

7. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1)	Altarum Ann Arbor	$ 1,041,012.00 Amendment $ 3,811,284.00 New Total FY16 90% Federal Fund 10% General Fund An increase to a one-year grant agreement to provide funding for Michigan's Center for Effective IT Adoption (M-CEITA)
2)	Altarum Ann Arbor, MI	$ 1,474,523.00 Amendment $ 6,485,317.00 New Total FY16 90% Federal Fund 10% General Fund An increase to a one-year grant agreement to provide funding for Michigan's Data Hub project(s) and the HIE network when creating interoperable system interfaces
3)	Planned Parenthood of Mid And South Michigan Ann Arbor, MI	$ 1,200,313.00 Amendment $ 10,058,265.00 New Total FY16 35% Federal Funds 49% Fees, 8% Local, 8% Restricted Funds An increase to a one-year grant agreement to provide family planning services

SECTION V – DTMB SUBMITTED – NEW CONTRACTS

8. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

1)	Banc of America Public Capital Corp. Chicago, IL	$ 21,587,800.46 (16 Years) FY15-31 100% Revolving Funds Financing for lease with option to purchase for energy conservation measures at the Jackson Correctional Facilities

9. DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

1)	Cellco/DBA Verizon Southfield, MI	NOT TO EXCEED $ 60,000,000.00 (3 Years) F15-18 100% Various Funds *Varies by agency* 071B5500078 Wireless Data Services

10. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

1)	Central Lake Armor Express, Inc. Central Lake, MI	$ 606,600.00 (3 Years) FY15-18 100% Various Funds *Varies by agency* 007115B0006130 Ballistic Body Armor
2)	Safariland LCC Jacksonville, FL	$ 1,881,900.00 (3 Years) FY15-18 100% Various Funds *Varies by agency* 007115B0006130 Ballistic Body Armor

SECTION VI – DTMB SUBMITTED – CONTRACT CHANGES

11. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

1)	Corizon Brentwood, TN	$ 6,050,000.00 Amendment $654,124,193.00 New Total FY16 100% General Funds 071B9200147 To add funds and extend the contract two-months for prisoner health care services

12. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1)	Molina Healthcare of Michigan Troy, MI	$ 17,472,445.00 Amendment $142,472,445.00 New Total FY16-17 34% General Funds 66% Federal Funds 071B5500017 To add funds and exercise a two-year option for Integrated Care/MI Health Link
2)	Public Policy Associates Lansing, MI	$ 536,172.00 Amendment $ 1,047,247.99 New Total FY16-17 100% Federal Funds 071B4300068 To add funds and exercise a two-year option for professional data collection analysis and disproportionate minority contract (DMC), compliance monitoring of the juvenile delinquent population, and technical assistance services for grant writing and coaching

13. DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

1)	American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators	$ 500,000.00 Amendment $ 3,911,866.36 New Total FY17 1% General Funds 99% Restricted Funds *See bid tab* 071B0200187 to add funds and use an option year for network services to administer driver license and motor vehicle title programs for the Department of State
2)	BP Canada Marketing Corporation Calgary, Canada	$ 34,000,000.00 Amendment $177,672,717.00 New Total FY16 100% Revolving Funds 071B0200335 Add funds for Natural Gas Supply Management
3)	Honeywell International Inc. Wixom, MI	$ 198,934.00 Amendment $ 1,372,279.00 New Total FY16-17 100% Restricted Funds *List on file* 071B4300058 To add funds to provide for a vendor security technician to support DTMB Office of Infrastructure Protection on upgrades and maintenance on a daily basis
4)	Merit Network Ann Arbor, MI	$ 314,770.00 Amendment $ 1,450,657.70 New Total FY16 100% General Funds 071B5500025 To add funds for cyber range expansion and support services for the contract which prepares security professionals for detecting, preventing, and thwarting cyber security attacks in a real world environment

14. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1) Miovision Technologies
Seattle, WA

$ 246,000.00 Amendment
$ 492,000.00 New Total
FY16-18 100% Restricted Funds
State Planning and Research (SPR)
071B3200151 Add funds and exercise two option years for Traffic Data Collection System

15. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

1) GC Services Limited Partnership
Houston, TX

$ 67,102,224.99 Amendment
$216,964,622.38 New Total
FY100% Restricted Funds
Delinquent Tax Collection
071B0200101 To add funds and exercise a one-year, eleven-month option for collection services

SECTION VII – CLAIMS – PERSONAL PROPERTY LOSS

16. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Prisoner Claims

1) Michael Anner #667018 $190.25
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-119) requests $190.25 reimbursement for various missing items including headphones. The Committee recommends approval of $26.00 for this claim.

2) David Aldridge #142476 $145.50
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-699) requests $145.50 reimbursement for television damaged in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $14.55 for this claim.

3) Benjamin Arreguin #226102 $553.14
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-678) requests $553.14 reimbursement for items stolen from his footlocker. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

16. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS continued

4) Bruce Butler #892097 $169.75
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-2525) requests $169.75 reimbursement missing television. The Committee recommends approval of $169.75 for this claim.

5) Randy W. Caruthers #404654 $155.82
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1416) requests $155.82 reimbursement for a television stolen by another inmate. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

6) Shamarie Coley #859931 $116.55
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1837) requests $116.55 reimbursement for MP3 damaged during cell search. The Committee recommends approval of $93.24 for this claim.

7) Augustus Cooper #402050 $130.00
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1300) requests $130.00 reimbursement for missing television. The Committee recommends approval of $149.75 for this claim.

8) Fred Grix #213534 $155.77
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1047) requests $155.77 reimbursement for television lost in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $155.65 for this claim.

9) Ronald Hartman #644800 $42.77
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1723) requests $42.77 reimbursement for missing hobby craft order. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

10) Terrance B. Hill #716497 $17.59
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-665) requests $17.59 reimbursement for a missing fan. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

11) Robert Hinds #410196 $999.99
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1189) requests $999.99 reimbursement for eyeglasses lost in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $999.99 for this claim.

16. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS continued

12) Delbert Holliday #463338 $90.00
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-816) requests $90.00 reimbursement for damages to his television while in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $28.50 for this claim.

13) James W. Jackson #875348 $395.99
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1294) requests $395.99 reimbursement for items lost during transfer. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

14) Dustin Johnson #367756 $39.75
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-178) requests $39.75 reimbursement for watch lost by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $31.80 for this claim.

15) Allan Kott #262069 $15.47
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-544) requests $15.47 reimbursement for missing headphones. The Committee recommends approval of $15.47 for this claim.

16) Roderick Logan #191731 $166.30
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-2515) requests $166.30 reimbursement for television damaged in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $136.32 for this claim.

17) Donald Mahaday #157704 $161.12
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1035) requests $161.12 reimbursement for a television damaged by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $161.12 for this claim.

18) Mitchell Manley #215946 $13.46
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1289) requests $13.46 reimbursement for clipboard that was accidently thrown out by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $13.46 for this claim.

19) Creighton McCullough #593748 $116.55
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1219) requests $116.55 reimbursement for MP3 lost by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $123.54 for this claim.

16. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS continued

20) Cordelroe McMutuary #628704 $54.98
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-450) requests $54.98 reimbursement for shoes lost by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $54.98 for this claim.

21) Dustin Melik #868241 $179.95
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1425) requests $179.95 reimbursement for television damaged in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $169.75 for this claim.

22) Rederick Melton #876609 $168.72
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1104) requests $168.72 reimbursement for his television and headphones that were lost in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $171.38 for this claim.

23) James Miller #495983 $12.46
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1182) requests $12.46 reimbursement for beard trimmers not allowed at facility where he was transferred. The Committee recommends approval of $12.46 for this claim.

24) Robert Morgan #596132 $40.00
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-488) requests $40.00 reimbursement for missing personal property. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

25) Randy Musgrove #168361 $16.64
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1344) requests $16.64 reimbursement for watch lost during cell search. The Committee recommends approval of $16.64 for this claim.

26) Byron Royster #624935 $153.65
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1161) requests $153.65 reimbursement for his television damaged in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $155.77 for this claim.

27) Lawrence Shelly #140476 $40.00
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1346) requests $40.00 reimbursement for damaged eyeglasses. The Committee recommends approval of $40.00 for this claim.

16. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS continued

28) Derrick Snow #276412 $158.74
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-977) requests $158.74 reimbursement for lost television. The Committee recommends approval of $158.74 for this claim.

29) Samuel Thomas #220047 $208.65
The claimant (13-SAB/DOC-399) requests $208.65 reimbursement for personal items allegedly lost in transit. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

30) Calvin Williams #223672 $56.98
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1389) requests $56.98 reimbursement for gym shoes purchased but never received. The Committee recommends approval of $56.98 for this claim.

31) Marcus Williams #718271 $287.50
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-271) requests $287.50 reimbursement for his television and MP3 player lost during transfer. The Committee recommends approval of $119.80 for this claim.

32) Duane Wolfgang #149366 $154.76
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1025) requests $154.76 reimbursement for a television damaged in transit. The Committee recommends approval of $17.90 for this claim.

33) Mitchell Young #881775 $155.82
The claimant (15-SAB/DOC-1052) requests $155.82 reimbursement for television lost by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $155.65 for this claim.

17. DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Civilian Claims

1) John B. Sellek $487.59
The claimant (15-SAB-100) requests $487.59 reimbursement for vehicle damage caused by a faulty Allegan Ramp entrance gate. The Committee recommends approval of $487.59 for this claim.

18. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Civilian Claims

1) Jennifer Grant $34.00
The claimant (15-SAB-120) requests $34.00 reimbursement for replacement cost of her debit card lost by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $34.00 for this claim.

2) Todd Losure $500.00
The claimant (15-SAB-111) requests $500.00 reimbursement for his eyeglasses that were alleged to be damaged by a resident. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

3) Leticia Moss $35.80
The claimant (15-SAB-118) requests $35.80 reimbursement for shipping a package twice. The Committee recommends approval of $35.80 for this claim.

4) Aaron Pulliam $49.99
The claimant (15-SAB-119) requests $49.99 reimbursement for replacement cost Wahl beard trimmer lost by staff. The Committee recommends approval of $49.99 for this claim.

Employee Claims

5) Barbara Bullen $259.00
The claimant (15-SAB-113) requests $259.00 reimbursement for her eyeglasses that were damaged by a patient. The Committee recommends approval of $259.00 for this claim.

6) Ashley S. Chester $208.95
The claimant (15-SAB-115) requests $208.95 reimbursement for replacement cost of her windshield shattered by object thrown from a lawnmower. The Committee recommends approval of $164.70 for this claim.

7) Devony L. Myers $107.97
The claimant (15-SAB-116) requests $107.97 reimbursement for her eyeglasses that were damaged by a patient. The Committee recommends approval of $107.97 for this claim.

19. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Civilian Claims

1) Ronald Miller $100.00
The claimant (15-SAB-106) requests $100.00 reimbursement for vehicle damage caused by falling acorns at a State park. The Committee recommends denial for this claim.

2) Sheri J. Schreiber $100.00
The claimant (15-SAB-095) requests $100.00 reimbursement for damages caused by a tree located on State land falling onto her camper. The Committee recommends approval of $100.00 for this claim.

20. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Civilian Claims

1) ShaWanna Cook $277.69
The claimant (15-SAB-060) requests $277.69 reimbursement for rim damage caused by a pothole. The Committee recommends denial of this claim.

SECTION VIII - CLAIMS - PERSONAL INJURY LOSS

SECTION IX - SPECIAL ITEMS

21. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1) Reporting an emergency purchase per Administrative Guide Procedure 0520.38 and 0620.02 - P.O. 391N6600661 for $275,000.00 with Environmental Testing and Consulting, Inc. for Elevated Blood Lead (EBL) investigation for sources of lead in Flint, Michigan homes of children less than 6 and pregnant females.

22. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1) Request for approval for disposition of lost, unclaimed, or Abandoned Personal Property of no intrinsic or commercial value - Pinckney Recreational Area

23. DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

1) Request approval of the FY15 2nd Quarterly Report for the Department of Technology, Management and Budget per Resolution 2015-1, Regarding DTMB Procurement's Submissions to the Finance and Claims Committee.

The Director of the Department of Technology, Management and Budget recommends approval by the State Administrative Board of the items contained in Sections I, II, III, IV, V, and VI of this agenda. Approval by the State Administrative Board of these award recommendations does not require or constitute the award of same. Award of contracts shall be made at the discretion of the DTMB Director or designee.

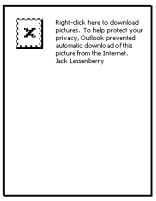
From: Fosdick, David (DTMB)
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:25 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB);Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Subject: Lapse Estimate

Department moved lapse estimate from $40.0 million to $39.0 million to account for cost of water filters in Flint.

RSS Feed: DomeMagazine.com
Posted on: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:52 PM
Author: rgoins
Subject: Foul Water

Full article link: http://domemagazine.com/lessenberry/jl100215

- Columns



Jack Lessenberry

Foul Water

October 2, 2015

FLINT, MI – So far, the citizens of Flint haven't marched on city hall or the governor's office with pitchforks and blazing torches. But if they did, a lot of people might not blame them.

Flint has plenty of troubles, to be sure; devastating job and population losses, plummeting property values, and a succession of emergency managers over the last four years.

But the latest outrage is all about water.

Discolored city water, bad-smelling water, water with first too much bacteria and then too much disinfectant.

And water which now seems to be causing lead poisoning in some of the city's children. One woman, whose husband works as a policy planner for Flint city government, said her spouse was "in tears as a new father himself when an irate resident came in with her premature, lead-poisoned baby."

Flint's water saga goes back to last year, when Flint officials announced that their cash-strapped city could no longer afford to buy water from Detroit.

They announced they would join a new consortium, the Karegnondi Water Authority, which would supply purified water from Lake Huron. But Karegnondi's operation won't be up and running until sometime next year.

So Flint announced that in the meantime, they would supply residents with treated water pulled out of the

Flint River.

But that turned into a disaster from almost day one. From the start, there were consistent reports that the Flint River water was discolored and foul-tasting.

When tests showed that the water was dangerously contaminated with bacteria, including the infamous E Coli, the city pumped chlorine into the water. But that backfired too.

In January, residents were told their water didn't meet federal safety standards, this time because of the chlorine.

While it may have killed the bacteria, it left the water with high levels of trihalomethane (TTHM) which is thought to increase the chances of developing cancer.

Average levels didn't fall to acceptable levels until late this summer – and then Flint had a terrifying new problem: Lead poisoning.

Last week, a new study by physicians at the Hurley Medical Center showed that the tap water in Flint has now resulted in significantly elevated levels in the blood of Flint's children. The scientists said the lead isn't actually in the water, but that the river water itself was more corrosive than the lake water Flint had been buying from Detroit.

A team from Virginia Tech tested samples earlier this month from 300 homes, and found "seriously" high levels of lead. The Hurley Medical Center study found the percentage of kids with seriously elevated lead levels had almost doubled.

That got the politicians' attention, Mayor Dayne Walling advised residents to only use cold water, let it run for five minutes, and buy a filter for lead removal.

He also asked Gov. Rick Snyder to come up with $30 million to fix the system and replace lead pipes.

City officials say about half the customers in Flint may be facing a problem, mainly because the transmission lines connecting them to city water mains are made with lead.

That wasn't good enough for the editorial board of the Flint Journal, the city's newspaper. When the news of lead poisoning surfaced, it ran an editorial saying "It's time to abandon the Flint River," as a drinking water source.

"We call on the governor to make this right for Flint citizens by brokering a return to Detroit water that won't bankrupt the city of Flint," it said, adding: "Flint is in a crisis that was created in no small part by Snyder's hand-picked emergency manager, and it is Snyder's job to fix this mess."

Yet the governor has shown no signs of doing any such thing. Part of the problem may be that in a sense, Flint is "Detroit's Detroit." Flint has many of the same problems as the Motor City – but hasn't captured the national imagination the way Detroit has. Young European artists and intellectuals aren't flocking to the city. Flint doesn't get cover stories in national magazines, or trendy books written about it.

The closest it's come to national notice has been in native son Michael Moore's iconic 1989 movie, Roger and

Me.

Pat Clawson, a longtime Flint area resident and former investigative reporter, thinks his city's plight should be a national scandal. "They are poisoning the people with this water –poisoning them, and that's what the doctors call it among themselves," he told me.

He puts the lion's share of the blame on Mayor Walling, who he says "was involved in planning and promoting the switch to Flint River water from the start."

But he thinks there is plenty of blame to go around. "I believe there is criminal culpability on the part of public officials for causing and concealing this crisis."

He urged both the federal and state governments to convene grand juries to investigate. Whether that will happen is anyone's guess. But meanwhile, the agony continues for the 99,000 folks who still live in the once-prosperous city of Flint.

Jack Lessenberry teaches at Wayne State University, serves as Michigan Radio's senior political analyst and writes regularly for several publications. He also serves as *The Toledo Blade*'s writing coach and ombudsman and is host of the weekly television show *Deadline Now* on WGTE-TV in Toledo.

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Posted on: Thursday, November 12, 2015 7:42 PM
Author: rgoins
Subject: Bungled Politics

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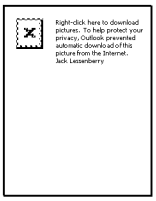
- Columns



Jack Lessenberry

Bungled Politics

November 13, 2015

LANSING — Late in August, one more deal to fix Michigan's crumbling roads fell apart when Gov. Rick Snyder rejected the state house's insistence on slashing $600 million a year from the already strapped general fund budget.

That would be highly irresponsible, he said. Anyone with a spread sheet and a calculator could see that such a cut would devastate human services spending, including Medicaid.

Higher education funding would also be bound to take a huge hit, further threatening Michigan's competitiveness.

So, the governor, a man who has always said he is in favor of "relentless positive action" to make Michigan competitive, said no.

But then he reversed himself, and said yes.

Suddenly, Snyder was not only willing to sign off on cutting the general fund by $600 million a year – he was willing to sign an agreement that seemed even worse than the ones he'd rejected.

The package of bills the legislature narrowly passed Nov. 3 indeed recklessly slashes the general fund – without specifying where the huge cuts are supposed to come from.

They hike car registration fees by an average of 20 percent.

But that's not the worst news: Incredibly, they fail for years to raise any meaningful money to fix Michigan's roads!

No serious money to fix the crumbling streets and bridges will begin to trickle in for three years. The bills won't generate anything like the $1.2 billion a year promised until at least 2021.

By that time, however, that will be far too little, far too late. A spokesman for MDOT, the Michigan Department of Transportation, showed me a comprehensive independent analysis done last year indicating the true cost of bringing the state's roads and bridges back to an acceptable standard had risen to nearly $2.2 billion a year.

That is certain to be much higher by 2021.

Those who really understand the road package passed by the legislature have been close to unanimous in denouncing it.

Nolan Finley, the Detroit News editorial page editor, is normally a stout defender of the governor, and sometimes of his fellow Republicans in the legislature.

Not this time. "They played this as poorly as possible," he wrote in a column. "Motorists will be paying the high taxes well before they see potholes disappearing. It's bad enough lawmakers got the policy wrong on this road deal. But they bungled the politics, too," he said.

The reason why the legislators structured the bill this way is simple, if contemptible, and directly related to Michigan's government-destroying lifetime term limits.

By the time the really hard decisions have to be made, nearly all the lawmakers making them will be gone from the legislature, banned for life from returning, under Michigan's draconian term limits.

They won't have to deal with the consequences of their actions. Instead, many of them will undoubtedly have gone to work as lobbyists for special interest groups in the state capitol.

Snyder will also be gone from office. Asked why he changed his mind and agreed to sign these bills, he said he was convinced a booming economy will cause the state's general fund to grow so much that the $600 million in cuts won't be felt at all.

Most economists think that is highly unlikely.

Rick Snyder is not financially naïve. He is a former venture capitalist and a computer company president with an MBA from the University of Michigan. What happened to change his mind?

Quite possibly, something that had nothing to do with roads: Flint.

The Snyder administration was badly embarrassed in recent weeks when it turned out that despite smug administration denials, the water in impoverished Flint was badly tainted with lead, which can cause brain

damage in babies and young children.

A Snyder-appointed emergency manager had ordered the city to shift from water supplied by Detroit to Flint River water, in order to save money. The river water turned out to be discolored, foul-smelling and had to be treated for contamination by bacteria.

But Snyder appointees at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality insisted this summer there was no reason to worry about lead and claimed they had tested the water.

DEQ spokesman Brian Wurfel, the husband of Snyder's press secretary, said anyone concerned about lead should "relax."

The DEQ tests turned out to be bogus. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expressed concern about lead in a confidential memo. Curt Guyette, an investigative reporter for the ACLU, saw that memo, and helped get a grant to have a researcher from Virginia Tech test the water, which indeed proved to be lead-contaminated.

Corrosive Flint River water was causing lead to leach out of old pipes. An embarrassed governor suddenly found the money to reconnect Flint to Detroit's much safer water supply.

After that, "there was never any real doubt the governor would sign whatever road plan came across his desk," Inside Michigan Politics editor and publisher Susan Demas said.

"He's a politician who really needed a win," she added.

That — or something he could claim as a win, after the Flint scandal and years of defeat on road repair schemes.

But whether the road bill is any kind of a "win" for Michigan's citizens is an entirely different, and dismaying, question.

Jack Lessenberry teaches at Wayne State University, serves as Michigan Radio's senior political analyst and writes regularly for several publications. He also serves as *The Toledo Blade*'s writing coach and ombudsman and is host of the weekly television show *Deadline Now* on WGTE-TV in Toledo.

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Volume #53, Report #146 -- Tuesday, July 29, 2014

GOP Worry Intensifying On Kowall

What was once expected to be a relatively easy run to re-election for Republican Sen. Mike Kowall is now proving more difficult as Republican sources say his tea party challenger, Matt Maddock, is gaining ground in the 15th Senate District GOP primary.

Several sources say it comes down to a handful of votes Mr. Kowall, of White Lake Township, has cast on key issues like Medicaid expansion as well as not realizing fast enough how credible a threat Mr. Maddock, of Milford, posed.

The biggest point that sources say Mr. Maddock is dinging Mr. Kowall on is his vote in support of Medicaid expansion. Mr. Maddock has himself referenced this, saying in a previous interview with Gongwer News Service that he is going to "put principles over party. I'm never going to increase the size of government," he said (See Gongwer Michigan Report, June 20, 2014).

Sen. Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township) is facing more of a challenge than some sources believe he expected.

The consensus among Republican observers for now is that Mr. Kowall will survive, but not without expending much more effort than anticipated.

Adding to the evidence of Republican establishment worry, late money has poured into his campaign coffers. For starters, just Tuesday, Mr. Kowall tapped his leadership PAC for $20,000 to aid his campaign.

Just 10 days ago, Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) contributed $10,000 through his leadership PAC to Mr. Kowall.

Mr. Kowall also has received late contributions (donations received starting July 21) to the tune of $44,250, with money coming by $1,000 or more, generally, from such sources as developer Ron Boji, McLaren CEO Phillip Incarnati, DTE Energy PAC, MITA (Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association) PAC, Telecommunications Association of Michigan PAC, and the Police Officers Association of Michigan Legislative Fund. The leadership PAC controlled by Rep. Gail Haines (R-Lake Angelus) contributed $1,000 to Mr. Kowall's race, and the Moving Michigan Forward Fund added a whopping $20,000.

By contrast, Mr. Maddock has so far only reported one late contribution of $500 from an individual that owns a restaurant. Mr. Maddock primarily self-financed his campaign by an estimated $27,556.

For the entire election cycle, Mr. Kowall has raised $280,925 but spent $211,042. Mr. Kowall spent a significant portion of that during the last six months, $101,631. He had some $80,635 on hand as of July 20, but nearly $106,200 in debts and obligations.

In terms of campaign finance, Mr. Maddock reported raising some $62,298 and spending $54,490 with $25,000 in debts and obligations. He has $7,807 in cash heading into the primary.

The race has become so heated that Rep. Eileen Kowall (R-White Lake Township), Mr. Kowall's wife, took to Facebook recently to blast Mr. Maddock's campaign.

"We get permission from individuals and business owners to put our political signs on their property. They are people we have an established relationship with. Somehow, my husband's jerk of an opponent thinks his signs belong there too. I just drove past our dentist's office on M-59 and our signs were gone and guess who's (sic) sign was there?" she said.

"When people call and ask him to take his signs down, the response from him or one of his lackey's is rudeness and belligerence and outright refusal. The conduct coming from his camp is unbefitting any junior high school kid - never mind a candidate running for public office," she said.

SCHMIDT V. MACMASTER: And another candidate filing tens of thousands in late contributions the week before the primary election is Rep. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), who has been engaged in a nasty battle with Rep. Greg MacMaster (R-Kewadin) for the 37th Senate District seat, where incumbent Sen. Howard Walker (R-Traverse City) decided not to seek re-election.

Mr. Schmidt has blown Mr. MacMaster out of the water in terms of fundraising and spending on this campaign, according to the most recent campaign finance reports (See Gongwer Michigan Report, July 25, 2014), yet many pollsters say Mr. MacMaster has the lead. Mr. Schmidt also has more endorsements than Mr. MacMaster.

As of Tuesday, Mr. Schmidt had filed about $20,300 worth of late contributions while Mr. MacMaster has filed none. The largest of those late contributions came from the Meijer PAC, who chipped in $5,000 to Mr. Schmidt's campaign for Senate, while DTE Energy Co. PAC added $3,000, Michigan Milk Producers $1,000 and the MI State Police Troopers PAC $1,200.

During the reporting period between January 1 and July 20, 2014, the Realtors PAC has contributed the most money at $10,000 ($12,050 cumulative), while the Auto Dealers of MI PAC, CMS Energy PAC, MI Chamber PAC, MI Jobs Fund, Saginaw PAC and Business Leaders for Michigan PAC had each contributed $5,000 each (cumulative varies). And various DeVos family members contributed a total of $18,000.

Mr. Schmidt also got support from the Gail Haines Leadership Fund and the Stamas Leadership Fund, $1,000 each. He also threw in nearly $50,000 of his own money.

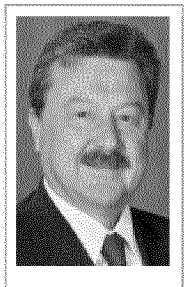
Mr. MacMaster, who reported raising about $43,420 during the reporting period ($60,452 cumulative), also got $1,000 from the Gail Haines Leadership Fund and he shifted a cumulative $4,352 from his state representative campaign committee to his Senate committee, as well as added about $9,525 cumulative of his own personal money into the race.

Mr. MacMaster has $8,985 in debts and obligations and $11,435 cash on hand heading into next week's primary.

Vaupel Stands By MEA Recommendation In 47th House Primary

Handy Township Supervisor Hank Vaupel said on Tuesday he was the only Republican in the 47th House District Republican primary to interview with the Michigan Education Association, and he said the two didn't agree on much, but he told the group he would always communicate with them and ended up with its endorsement.

"If it hurts my credibility that I would be willing to actually talk to teachers about education, I am sorry I stand by the endorsement," Mr. Vaupel said.



Wendy Day and Hank Vaupel, two Republican candidates in the 47th House District.

Mr. Vaupel's main opponent in the primary is tea party organizer Wendy Day of Howell. While Mr. Vaupel does have the MEA recommendation, he also has a joint endorsement with Ms. Day from the conservative education group, the Great Lakes Education Project.

"It seems like GLEP is making a lot of interesting decisions right now," Ms. Day said. She also said she pursued the endorsement because of the group's support of school choice, and that the group endorsed her although she opposed the Common Core State Standards, which the group backs but has not made a litmus test for its endorsement.

Mr. Vaupel said he believes in standards, but wants to ensure local control and that each school can decide on its own curriculum with parental involvement. He said he has concerns about Common Core coming from the federal government.

Howell Mayor Phil Campbell III said he does not support Common Core, but knows it is not a federal takeover of education. However, Mr. Campbell said, from his experience as a teacher, text books and tests will start to be based on Common Core, and the standards will then take over the curriculum.

Mr. Vaupel also was hit by a robo-call 9 a.m. Sunday morning, he said. The call called him liberal and was sent by a group not registered in the state, he said.

"We are trying to run a good, clean, honest campaign," Mr. Vaupel said. He added he does not know who might have been behind the call.

Money-wise, Mr. Vaupel has the edge, spending $52,235 this year. Ms. Day has spent $22,249. Mr. Vaupel also has $21,727 on hand to $307 for Ms. Day.

Mr. Campbell also has slightly outspent Ms. Day, with $22,746 in spending of his own. He has $3,979 on hand. However, Americans for Prosperity-Michigan has leveled the playing field by sending out mail praising Ms. Day.

Business groups have largely stayed out of the race although the Michigan Bankers Association has endorsed Ms. Day. Mr. Vaupel scored a big endorsement in winning the backing of the Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPAC. Mr. Vaupel also has the backing of Sen. Joe Hune (R-Whitmore Lake) and the term limited incumbent, Rep. Cindy Denby (R-Handy Township).

Mr. Campbell said his experience as mayor really gives him an advantage over the other candidates.

"I think I have the broadest experience of all the candidates," he said.

On roads, Mr. Campbell said he approved of the House plan. He said the Senate plan had too many large tax increases. He also said Public Act 51 should be looked at, as the funding formula for the state's infrastructure could have some structural issues.

Ms. Day said it is a complex issue. One idea, she said, is to look at performance contracts. She said they would work like warranties but with no escape clause.

Mr. Vaupel said the money from the sales tax on gasoline that goes into the General Fund needs to be followed more closely to see how much of it goes to roads. He said that would be a start.

On the tea party, Ms. Day said it's simply just a set of ideas, and across the state local segments of the party are different.

She said she does believe a balance could be made between establishment Republicans and the tea party, but it would require a healthy compromise.

"But what usually happens when you are talking about politics is whoever is on the more liberal edge, the compromise is coming to them," she said. "I don't think that is the kind of compromise we are looking for."

Mr. Campbell said the tea party has challenged the Republican Party's assumptions about government.

"I would say the tea party movement has been very helpful in raising political awareness among state residents," he said.

Two other Republicans are also running in the primary, Theodore Ring and Harold Melton, both of Howell.

Schauer Outlines Plan He Says Will Create 'Thousands' Of Jobs

Outlining a proposal that would focus on education, building the middle class in Michigan, boosting alternative energy and building the state's infrastructure, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer said he would build "tens of thousands of jobs" in the state if elected.

Surrounded by supporters at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 333 training facility near Capital Region International Airport in Lansing, Mr. Schauer repeated his oft-stated criticism of Governor Rick Snyder that the incumbent's policies are not working for middle-class individuals and families.

And while he said the pace of job growth is slowing in Michigan and that the state is one of the few that has not regained all the jobs lost during the Great Recession, Mr. Schauer was not willing to pin down a more specific number of jobs that would be created under his administration.

Former U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer

Mr. Schauer did not dispute that some 250,000 private sector jobs have been created during the time Mr. Snyder has been in office, but said many of those were created through the revived auto industry.

Mr. Schauer did say that the number of jobs created in his administration would be in the "high tens of thousands."

A spokesperson for Mr. Snyder's campaign called Mr. Schauer's proposals "empty rhetoric."

Mr. Schauer, along with his lieutenant governor running mate Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, outlined his 10-point proposal. Many of the points have been outlined before, such as investing more in education, restoring tax credits for child care and ending the income tax on retirement income, rebuilding the state's infrastructure and providing greater protections for women in the workplace.

Mr. Schauer, however, also called for boosting the state's renewable energy standard from the current 10 percent by 2015 to 30 percent generation from renewable sources by 2035.

He also called for greater environmental protections and for making government more transparent, including establishing a required code of ethics for individual office holders.

Mr. Schauer was cautious in outlining where revenues would come for many of his proposals.

He repeated his comments that he did not want to make changes to the Corporate Income Tax rate, but said he would call for the end to loopholes that cost the state money. Mr. Schauer also repeated his call to audit all state agencies and to end contracts, such as the Aramark contract for prison food services.

In terms of education, for example, he would not say specifically how much would be added to the budget, especially for higher education. Mr. Schauer did say he would restore the funds that he charges Mr. Snyder cut from education - which Mr. Snyder disputes - and he said the state would establish what it costs to actually educate children.

And while he blasted Mr. Snyder and the Republican-controlled Legislature for not enacting a plan to increase funding - pointing out that many local governments, including his home township, have tax proposals on the August 5 ballot for road funding - Mr. Schauer also said he did not want to increases taxes like the gas tax. Doing so would again hit middle-class families.

But he did criticize lawmakers for not increasing taxes on heavy trucks - the state's diesel fuel tax is lower than the gasoline tax - and said he would push for the state to get more highway funding out of the federal government.

With the plan in place, Mr. Schauer said the state could not undo "all the damage Rick Snyder has done overnight," but it would be a beginning.

But Emily Benavides, spokesperson for Mr. Snyder's campaign, said the public knows what Mr. Snyder's record is with 250,000 private sector jobs and the lowest unemployment rate in six years.

When Mr. Schauer was in the Legislature and Congress, she said, unemployment in Michigan hit double digits (during the Great Recession, the state's unemployment rate averaged 13.5 percent according to figures from the Senate Fiscal Agency).

"Michiganders cannot afford Mark Schauer's empty rhetoric," Ms. Benavides said.

The 15 Toughest House Races To Call

With the August 5 primary election one week away, there are several compelling contests and interesting candidates many that are too close to call.

Below is an analysis by Gongwer News Service of some of closest races, in order by district number.

27th: This five-person contest comes down to former Judge Rudy Serra of Ferndale and insurance agent/Democratic activist Robert Wittenberg of Oak Park. In a district with a large, politically active gay population, the openly gay Mr. Serra may have an edge with those voters, but all signs point to this race being too close to call. Most major Democratic organizations have sat this race out although the Michigan Nurses Association is backing Mr. Wittenberg.

36th: It's attorney Pete Lucido's money against Shelby Township Clerk Stan Grot's experience in the basic tactics of a political campaign. For some time, the thinking out of Macomb County on this race was that Mr. Grot was running a more effective campaign even with less money. Then Mr. Lucido filed campaign finance reports showing he was on his way to putting nearly $300,000 of his own money into the race, rare air for a House candidate.

And yet what has Mr. Lucido spent his money on? As of last week, he had yet to run any cable television and seemed to be focusing on mail and hosting pasta dinners. Can Mr. Grot hang on? Macomb Republicans think so, but doubt has crept in.

43rd: Two barn-burners as a result of Democrats and Republicans having competitive primaries. On the Democratic side, there is a sense that if former Waterford Township Supervisor/ex-Clarkston City Manager Dennis Ritter wins the primary that he could be the type of candidate with crossover appeal to win a seat that tilts a bit GOP. The other Democrat, Waterford school board member Robin McGregor, is a more conventional Democrat who has won most of the major labor endorsements. Democrats say this will come down to whoever works the doors the hardest.

On the Republican side, the establishment (the Detroit Regional Chamber and term limited Rep. Gail Haines of Lake Angelus) are backing Independence Township Trustee Andrea Schroeder. But tea party forces are lining up behind Jim Tedder of Clarkston, who is benefitting from mail Americans for Prosperity-Michigan is issuing praising his positions on conservative issues.

45th: A month ago, Rochester Hills City Councilmember Michael Webber looked unstoppable in his bid for the Republican nomination to succeed term limited Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills). He had all the endorsements and name recognition.

But campaign finance reports submitted last week revealed what some Republicans had suspected, that Mr. Webber was not taking the race seriously enough while Mark Avery of Rochester Hills was working it hard. Mr. Avery actually has outspent Mr. Webber, whose fundraising haul did not square with someone in a well-to-do area having virtually every key endorsement, and reports out of that area say he has sent more mail as well. And Americans for Prosperity-Michigan is sending out mail praising his position on conservative issues.

47th: Prior to Handy Township Supervisor Hank Vaupel getting the recommendation of the Michigan Education Association, which usually aligns with Democrats, Mr. Vaupel was looking like a narrow favorite over one of the founders of the tea party movement in Michigan, former Howell school board member Wendy Day.

But Mr. Vaupel, who also incongruously has the endorsement of the pro-school choice Great Lakes Education Project (which also endorsed Ms. Day), now is on the defensive, trying to prove he's not a liberal Trojan horse. He still has the all-important backing of Sen. Joe Hune (R-Whitmore Lake) and Rep. Cindy Denby (R-Handy Township), but the door is wide open for Ms. Day.

58th: This seven-way Republican primary is difficult to read. Auto dealership president Eric Leutheuser of Hillsdale has risen to favorite status thanks to his endorsement from the Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPAC and superior fundraising effort. Hillsdale County Commissioner Brad Benzing of Hillsdale, an appliance store owner, has the National Rifle Association endorsement and experience as an elected official, but an underfunded campaign.

Tea party backing has mostly gone to Jeff Jacques of Jonesville who also is benefitting from AFP issuing mailings praising him. Tim Haberl of Quincy also has received some endorsements.

60th: Jon Hoadley of Kalamazoo has an overwhelming edge in money and endorsements as he seeks the Democratic nomination, but he has run into the formidable well of good will, name identification and experience Kalamazoo County Commissioner David Buskirk of Kalamazoo has built during a 20-year run on the county board.

61st: Republicans say this contest between a pair of Kalamazoo County commissioners, Brandt Iden of Oshtemo and Phil Stinchcomb of Portage, is a pick 'em. Mr. Iden has a big advantage in money and virtually the entire Republican establishment has rallied to his side. Meanwhile, the tea party and AFP like Mr. Stinchcomb. Both men downplay the contest as a clear Establishment vs. Tea Party contest, but based on who is supporting each man and the issues/governing approach each man emphasizes, that is exactly what this race is. Tea party leaders say Mr. Stinchcomb may have less money, but has a strong door-to-door effort.

65th: It feels like anyone could emerge from this race. Right to Life of Michigan endorsed Leoni Township Trustee Robert Sutherby, but he has spent less than $7,000 on the race. Columbia Township Treasurer John Calhoun has the Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPAC endorsement. Brett Roberts of Eaton Township has spent the most money. Grass Lake Township Supervisor James Stormont has a profile. Dale Moretz of Blackman Township looks like a long-shot.

Only Dan Fulara of Brooklyn can be dismissed since has filed a waiver indicating he will spend less than $1,000 on the race. This is one of the quieter open seat races. Neither Americans for Prosperity-Michigan nor the Great Lakes Education Project is involved.

A Democrat held this seat from 2007-10, but so far Democrats have not talked up their chances much here. Retired corrections officer Bonnie Johnson of Leoni Township, who got clobbered in 2012 by Rep. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake), who is running for the Senate this year, has scooped up union support. Teacher and Democratic activist Ed Peterson of Grass Lake also is in the mix.

73rd: Here's another Republican primary where no one has a strong sense of who will win. Grand Rapids Township Treasurer Chris Afendoulis, a longtime business executive, is the establishment favorite (though he eschews labels), winning the backing of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and a dual endorsement with retired auto dealership owner John Decker of Belmont from the Great Lakes Education Project. Mr. Decker won the support of the Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPAC.

But it is Frank Pfaff Jr. of Comstock Park, a jewelry business specialist, who has surprised Republicans with an intense door-to-door effort. AFP is sending out mail praising him. However, Robert "RJ" Regan of East Grand Rapids also is mounting a strong grassroots effort.

80th: Most of the buzz out of this Allegan County seat is that tea party organizer Cindy Gamrat of Plainwell is running a strong campaign, but that nurse Mary Whiteford of Casco Township is still in the hunt. Ms. Whiteford has more money to spend (if she wishes) and has strong backing from business groups. But while AFP is sending out mail touting Ms. Gamrat, GLEP did not intervene in this race. That has made Ms. Whiteford's task more difficult.

90th: The establishment backing is overwhelmingly with Daniela Garcia of Holland, but Geoff Haveman has tea party support and the benefit of sharing the same surname as the term-limited incumbent and distant cousin, Rep. Joe Haveman (R-Holland), even if Joe Haveman is endorsing Ms. Garcia. AFP is sending out mail touting Mr. Haveman.

98th: Gary Glenn of Midland, the anti-gay activist turned tea party favorite, is seen as a slight favorite here after an impressive fundraising and grassroots campaign effort against establishment favorite Karl leuter of Sanford. AFP is touting Mr. Glenn, but GLEP is throwing everything it can at Mr. Glenn and trying to turn his support for the so-called FAIR tax, where the sales tax would be increased and the income and property taxes eliminated, against him.

104th: A crowded and quiet battle on the Republican side for the chance to succeed Rep. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City), who cannot seek re-election because of term limits.

Jamie Callahan of Traverse City knows the turf from his days as a legislative aide to previous House members from this seat. He also has the Michigan Chamber of Commerce endorsement.

AFP is sending out mail touting Robert Hentschel of Traverse City. Kingsley school board member Ken Hinton has a base as do Karen Renny of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County Commissioner Larry Inman of Williamsburg. Isaiah Wunsch of Traverse City has the support of the Michigan Farm Bureau. Beau Vore of Kingsley has some tea party support.

No one candidate has a major cash advantage. It will likely come down to the door-to-door work.

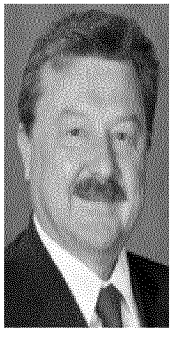
107th: Lee Chatfield of Levering is threatening to become the first Republican to oust an incumbent in a primary for a Michigan legislative seat on the basis of issues in almost 30 years. He has Rep. Frank Foster (R-Petoskey) on the run as a result of Mr. Foster's support for Medicaid expansion, Common Core and expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to people based on sexual orientation. Still, Mr. Foster has a lot of money and is getting considerable help from the Republican establishment.

Trott Seems Shoo-In Against Nonexistent Bentivolio Campaign

U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio promised a strong re-election campaign when he hired on a new campaign manager in May, but so far that new effort has not materialized.

Mr. Bentivolio (R-Milford) also appears not to be seeing a repeat of the 2012 support of tea party financiers who helped him get into office over establishment attempts at a write-in campaign.

David Trott, Mr. Bentivolio's primary opponent, meanwhile, has launched a strong campaign funded not only with his own money, but with contributions from those establishment Republicans.



Dave Trott (bottom) is challenging U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio in the 11th U.S. House District Republican primary

Mr. Bentivolio has not been as reclusive in recent months as he was in his initial campaign, having given interviews to the Detroit Free Press and appearing on some radio and television talk shows.

His campaign did not respond to requests for an interview by Gongwer News Service.

He also has been scheduling town hall meetings, with events planned yet this month on veterans issues and border security.

He received some criticism, though, particularly from opponents, for a recent trip to Central America - a congressional fact-finding trip on the border issue - when many thought he should have been in the district campaigning.

Mr. Bentivolio told the Free Press he is planning to overcome Mr. Trott's funding by simply doing his job and letting voters see the results.

Polls so far have shown that Mr. Trott's money and establishment support is trumping Mr. Bentivolio's voting and work record. Virtually no one in Republican circles thinks Mr. Bentivolio can win, the only question is Mr. Trott's margin.

Mr. Trott told Gongwer he planned to improve on what he saw as Mr. Bentivolio's lack of constituent relations. "I'll vote the way I say I'm going to vote," he said. "I'll show up in the district to meet with people."

Mr. Trott said his support so far in the campaign has been a combination of expectations of him and experience with Mr. Bentivolio.

"I like to believe people believe can do a good job for them in Washington," he said. "I also believe it's a reflection on Kerry Bentivolio. Most of the elected local leaders have never met him or anyone from his office. When they do hear from him, it's only so he can plug in his mobile office."

Mr. Bentivolio has tried to use his mobile office as a way to reach constituents but has also seen some push back from local officials in trying to park the converted camper trailer in local government parking lots.

Mr. Trott also took a swipe at Mr. Bentivolio's legal wrangling with his former campaign manager.

"Kerry has more lawsuits and (Federal Elections Commission) investigations going on than any other member of Congress," he said. "Any money they contribute to him probably is going to paying his legal bills."

If elected, Mr. Trott said he would work to shift much of the federal government's programs to the states. "The whole Department of Education comes to mind," he said of programs that need to be moved. "Public support and assistance needs to be moved to the state or local levels ... where more of the tax dollars will go to helping people."

He said he also plans to stay out of the partisan bickering in Capitol Hill. "Most members of Congress are only interested in throwing bombs to get re-elected," he said. "I'll just stay focused on helping my constituents."

Mr. Trott acknowledged that his role as a foreclosure attorney would be a campaign issue. Democrats have signaled they would like to turn the 11th into a targeted race. But Mr. Trott said his work is necessary. "No one wants to foreclose," he said. "But our economy's based on people paying for what they receive."

"I don't believe it'll be a problem in the election," he said.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: The race on the other side of the aisle began to heat up this week with Nancy Skinner taking shots at both of her opponents for not having actually voted for President Barack Obama.

It is unclear whether the attacks will propel Ms. Skinner from her current third place behind Anil Kumar and Bobby McKenzie.

It is also unclear whether any efforts on the part of any of the Democrats will make a difference come November. The district had initially been listed as at risk for Republicans, but with Mr. Bentivolio now a long-shot and with Mr. Trott's funding, Democrats will be hard-pressed to shift voters in the Republican-leaning district.

Money is also what puts the Democratic race likely between Mr. Kumar and Mr. McKenzie.

Mr. McKenzie was recruited by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to seek the seat and so has garnered much of the union support in the race, while Mr. Kumar has pursued a largely self-funded campaign.

Mr. Kumar entered the final weeks of the campaign with $99,472 in cash from $253,225 total raised. But the report also showed $720,000 he has loaned himself so far this cycle.

Mr. Kumar also has purchased air time in the district. His pre-primary report showed $23,225 on television time and $20,540 on radio time.

Mr. McKenzie had $68,447 in cash from the $375,432 he has raised through the election cycle. Most of his funding, $316, 535, came from individuals.

Ms. Skinner did not file a pre-primary report, but her prior report showed she had raised only $7,690.

Ms. Skinner claimed the role of having done the most policy work so far, having worked with a community redevelopment effort and on cap and trade efforts in Chicago.

She said her time as a radio and television personality has also drawn people to her campaign.

"Rank and file union members are coming to my campaign in droves," she said. "They know me, they trust me."

Mr. McKenzie, for his part, concentrated on his own experience in homeland security and his union leadership support.

"I'm a problem solver," he said. "I spent my entire adult life solving very complex problems."

He said his string of endorsements show he is a viable candidate.

"We've got the most realistic opportunity for holding seat in some time," he said. "There's a shot to win this seat if we all work together."

He also questioned whether Mr. Trott's money was enough to win the seat. "Eric Cantor had a lot of money, too," he said.

Mr. Kumar did not respond to requests for an interview for the story, nor did Bill Roberts of Livonia, who has also filed for the seat and is an adherent of Lyndon LaRouche.

Courser Slurs McNeilly's Sexual Orientation

Todd Courser, a tea party activist who is working to win the Republican nomination in the 82nd House District with staunch establishment opposition, sent a fundraising email on Tuesday calling strategist and Great Lakes Education Project board member Greg McNeilly a "gay marriage activist" because he married his long-time partner during the brief time it was legal in the state.

And Mr. Courser charged a video of Mr. McNeilly marrying his long-time partner - which he included in the mailing -- was "too graphic" for viewing.

GLEP has endorsed Jan Peabody of Lapeer in the race. They have also sent out mailers against Mr. Courser in the district.

"Who really is GLEP? From the outside they stand for just enough conservatism to make you think that they are, but in reality they are FOR Obama's federal takeover of education through Common Core and mask the fact they support ending traditional marriage," Mr. Courser wrote. "The Chief Strategist of GLEP, the group behind the smear mail against me and in support of Peabody, is Greg McNeilly. Who is Mr. McNeilly? A gay marriage activist who 'married' his male partner this past year the one day it was 'legal' to do so in Michigan."

Mr. Courser's email then linked to a video of Mr. McNeilly and his partner being married. He wrote the video gets graphic after 50 seconds and suggests the reader of the email not even watch the video because it is too "graphic." At 50 seconds, Mr. McNeilly and his partner kiss.

"I am not yet in a position to comment on the legal action that may be spurred by his defamation," GLEP Executive Director Gary Naeyaert said in response to the email. "But I may be able to soon."

"This is a guy who has run out of campaign money and has nothing left to do except try to earn media attention," he added.

Mr. Courser also announced on Tuesday he has filed a campaign violation complaint against GLEP, after they filed a complaint against him earlier this month.

Mr. Courser's complaint states GLEP did not provide a paid for by disclaimer in an email blasting Mr. Courser's candidacy.

"Not only is it ridiculous for GLEP to accuse me of a violation for simply including a hyperlink to another candidate's website, GLEP violated campaign finance rules while accusing me of violating campaign finance rules. If that isn't ironic I don't know what is," Mr. Courser said in a statement.

Mr. Naeyaert called the complaint "frivolous" and said emails are not required to contain the disclaimer.

Sims Has The Best Chance In A Packed Race For Troubled 34th House District

Having just received an endorsement from term-limited incumbent Rep. Woodrow Stanley (D-Flint) on Monday, Genesee County Commissioner Omar Sims is emerging as the likely 34th House District favorite in a crowded race of local officials, educators and community activists.

Mr. Sims has also been endorsed by the Flint Chamber of Commerce, United Auto Workers and several Genesee County officials.

Other candidates vying for the seat include public school teacher Jeff Bean, community activists Donna Calvin and Quincy Murphy, Flint City Councilmembers Eric Mays and Sheldon Neely and EMT Nathan Morrish.

34th District Democratic candidate Omar Sims

Mr. Sims said his work as a city council member and a county commissioner has prepared him well for the Legislature. He said he's neutral regarding Common Core standards and called for complete reconstruction of state roads, saying it would create jobs.

But arguably, the candidates in this district have more local issues on their minds - such as the controversial appointment of Flint's emergency manager, the increased water rates he implemented and the violent crime that continues to plague the city.

"It needs to be reexamined," Mr. Sims said of the emergency manager law. "Local officials have to be equipped with the tools and the resources to run their city. What good is an emergency manager if the city never had the resources it needed?"

The only candidate in the race who supports the emergency manager in Flint is Flint Board of Education member David Davenport, who said emergency managers are necessary because "local officials are elected who don't have financial knowledge."

Mr. Davenport said if elected, he would try to set up a fund, using his salary, for people in Flint who can't pay their water bills.

Mr. Bean said he wanted to revamp the emergency manager law and said it was outrageous that Flint residents are paying an average of $130 a month for water. Having been a teacher for more than 30 years, he said education is a priority. He opposes Common Core and has been endorsed by the Michigan Education Association.

Mr. Murphy said if elected, he'd focus on improving neighborhoods and creating crime prevention activity through recreational and after-school programs. He said he opposes Common Core, the emergency manager law and suggests using the gas tax to fund road repair.

Mr. Morrish called the emergency manager in Flint "a slap in the face," having been a member of the city's Civil Service Commission, which was cut to save money. Like Mr. Murphy, he cites crime as the biggest issue facing the district.

"We're still at the top of the most violent cities lists, and things don't seem to be changing. Our current system is still cutting police," Mr. Morrish said. "It's all going to be about funding and

personally I want a few more police on the streets, and I'm the only candidate okay with the State Police being in our city to help."

Neither Mr. Neely nor Mr. Mays returned requests for comment. Mr. Neely has been endorsed by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Mr. Mays is currently awaiting sentencing on a driving while impaired charge, dating back from an arrest in November 2013. It's not his first brush with the law - Mr. Mays pleaded guilty to felony assault in 1987 and spent a year on probation.

Both Mr. Mays and Mr. Davenport have filed paperwork indicating they don't plan to raise more than $1,000 for their respective campaigns.

Mitchell: Moolenaar Moved Senate Money To Congressional Campaign

Paul Mitchell, one of the Republican candidates in the 4th U.S. House District, accused opponent Sen. John Moolenaar of having used money from his Senate campaign fund in the congressional race.

Mr. Mitchell, in a Federal Elections Commission complaint announced Tuesday, alleged Mr. Moolenaar (R-Midland) moved some $98,000 from his state Senate campaign fund to Value for Michigan, an independent political action committee run by Moolenaar campaign consultant John Yob.

The complaint alleges the funds were used in lieu of paying Mr. Yob for some of his work on the congressional campaign.

"John Moolenaar needs to come clean and admit to voters if he is attempting to hide this payment, circumvent federal election law, and misusing money in his state Senate account," Jeff Timmer, Mr. Mitchell's campaign manager, said in a statement. "This shady scheme would clearly be illegal. Value for Michigan must return the money, and for Moolenaar to pay Yob directly from his congressional campaign, while the FEC conducts its investigation into Moolenaar's actions."

Mr. Yob said there was no tie between Value for Michigan and Mr. Moolenaar's congressional effort.

"It takes someone like Paul Mitchell who is spending the money that he made off the Obama stimulus on dishonest attack ads to argue that a political consultant should be paid more money," Mr. Yob said. "I am proud to be helping a good man like John Moolenaar who has a record as a proven and trusted conservative but doesn't have Mitchell's stimulus money to spend on big fees to political consultants."

Gongwer Updates Analysis Of Legislative Races On 2014 Michigan Elections App

With one week to go until the primary election, Gongwer News Service has revised its analysis of dozens of competitive races for U.S. House, Michigan Senate and Michigan House on its groundbreaking 2014 Michigan Elections app for smartphones and tablets.

Available for Apple and Android, the app provides users with portable, continuously updated information on more than 500 candidates and Gongwer's unique, independent outlook of who is up and who is down in 162 races for the Legislature and U.S. House.

Download your version today from iTunes for Apple and Google Play for Android and get prepared for August 5 when the app will feature live updating election results.

Campaign Notes: Richard Bernstein To Announce Bid For Supreme Court

Attorney Richard Bernstein, well-known through his connection with his father Sam Bernstein's Detroit-area law firm, is expected to announce on Wednesday that he will seek the Democratic nomination for Supreme Court.

Mr. Bernstein has not indicated anything formally that he will make the announcement, but it has been reported by outlets such as MLive and the Detroit Free Press. Democrats have long said he would run for the court this year.

Efforts to reach Mr. Bernstein through his law firm were unsuccessful.

Mr. Bernstein is expected to make announcements in Lansing, Flint and Detroit, and on Mr. Bernstein's Facebook page Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said he was looking forward to Mr. Bernstein being in the city.

Mr. Bernstein is a former member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors. Blind since birth, he is well-known for his lawsuits to protect disabled individuals. He has also been the host of a Detroit-area radio show on the law.

LAND SAYS NOTHING NEW ON FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: Republican U.S. Senate candidate Terri Land submitted to a rare interview Tuesday with an appearance on WJR-AM's Frank Beckmann show, but after the conservative host lobbed several softballs, nothing new emerged on the circumstances surrounding Ms. Land failing to disclose the existence of a joint checking account with her husband she is using to pour $2.9 million into her campaign.

Mr. Beckmann asked Ms. Land if she was concerned about a possible Federal Election Commission investigation.

"As you know Frank, husbands and wives share their income. My husband and I also do that," she said. "That is just politics as usual here in Michigan."

Ms. Land reiterated what her campaign spokesperson has said, that it was an "inadvertent omission" on her financial disclosure form. "We've moved on from that," she said.

CONSERVATION VOTERS TOUT SCHMIDT LEAD: The League of Conservation Voters on Tuesday released new polling results of 519 residents of the 37th Senate District showing 44.5 percent support Rep. Wayne Schmidt's (R-Traverse City) bid for the seat compared to 34.9 percent for Rep. Greg MacMaster (R-Kewadin). The poll has a margin of error of 4.25 percent.

"With only one week to go until Election Day, we are going all in for conservation candidates in Northern Michigan and our work is paying off," Jack Schmitt, deputy director for Michigan LCV, said in a statement announcing the poll results. "Michigan citizens deserve to be represented by people who value our state's natural resources, and it is encouraging to see a leader like Wayne Schmidt take the lead and run with it."

The group issued a poll last week showing Mr. Schmidt gaining on Mr. MacMaster's lead, and said Tuesday that the League's affiliated political action committee has launched a $45,000 radio ad campaign to reach citizens in both the 37th Senate District and the 107th House District, where incumbent Rep. Frank Foster (R-Petoskey) faces a primary from Levering resident Lee Chatfield.

The group has pledged its support to Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Foster.

HOMEBUILDERS ENDORSE SNYDER: Friends of Housing, the political arm of the Home Builders Association of Michigan, have endorsed Governor Rick Snyder for re-election this November. Officials with the association said Mr. Snyder understood the importance of the homebuilding industry to the state and that housing values have improved dramatically during Mr. Snyder's tenure.

BISHOP AD: Mike Bishop Tuesday launched a new television advertisement in his run for the 8th U.S. House District this week.

The ad highlights his work in the Legislature, and, as expected, notes that he is endorsed by U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Brighton), whom he hopes to succeed in Congress.

Campaign officials said the ad would be posted online later in the week.

"Bishop fought Jennifer Granholm's liberal agenda and will fight to repeal Obamacare," the ad says.

The ad also hits opponent Rep. Tom McMillin (R-Rochester Hills) for some of his votes.

"Tom McMillin voted to increase taxes on retirees by $900 million," the ad says. "A friend of the ACLU, McMillin voted against drug testing for welfare recipients and against criminal background checks for nursing home workers."

MCMILLIN ENDORSEMENT: Mr. McMillin on Tuesday announced he had been endorsed by crooner Pat Boone and the 60 Plus Association.

"I'm still singing at concerts, but today I'm singing the praises of Tom McMillin. Seniors can depend on Tom McMillin," Mr. Boone, a California resident, said in a statement.

Reports From Auditor General Ringler

Follow-up audit to the Bureau of Investments, Department of Treasury.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, August 5

Public Service Commission, Hearing Room 1, 4300 West Saginaw Street, Lansing, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 12

Board of Residential Builders and Maintenance and Alteration Contractors, Conference Room 1, Second Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 9 a.m. (Agenda)

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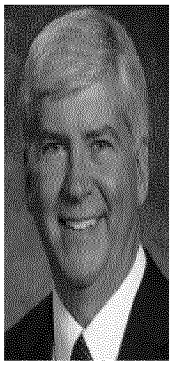
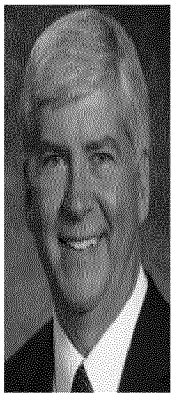
Schauer: Snyder 'Lied To People,' Snyder: Schauer 'Distorting Facts'

The governor's race began to take on the characteristics of a bare-knuckle fight on Friday when Democrat Mark Schauer charged that Governor Rick Snyder's administration showed "rank corruption," and that Mr. Snyder himself had "lied to the people" over the details of a contract to provide food service to Michigan's prisons.

Mr. Snyder's spokesperson blasted back that Mr. Schauer was "distorting" facts and making things up from bits and pieces of statements.

The focus of the exchange was the revelation late Thursday that the state had "suspended" a $98,000 fine levelled against prison food services company Aramark Corporation earlier in the year.





Governor Rick Snyder (top) and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer

In a teleconference with reporters, Mr. Schauer charged the revelation showed a "pattern of rank corruption in the governor's office that can no longer be ignored or tolerated by the people of Michigan."

Mr. Schauer charged that Dennis Muchmore, Mr. Snyder's chief of staff, "cleared the way" for Aramark to get "special treatment." Mr. Schauer accused the firm of being grossly incompetent and putting the lives of state employees, Department of Corrections officers, "at risk."

And twice during the call Mr. Schauer said Mr. Snyder "lied" by leaving the public with the impression that Aramark had been fined $98,000 for contract violations.

Sara Wurfel, Mr. Snyder's spokesperson, charged that Mr. Schauer was essentially making things up out of pieces and distorting the issue.

The Executive Office was determined to correct problems that had arisen with the Aramark contract, she said, and the fact the administration fined Aramark $200,000 showed it had taken "decisive action" on the contract.

The controversial contract - as the state was dropping food service conducted by state workers in the hopes of saving money - came into fresh controversy early after it went into effect.

On March 11, the Department of Corrections announced the $98,000 fine for "overfamiliarity" between Aramark employees, who replaced state employees in correctional food service last December, as well as unauthorized meal substitutions.

But emails obtained by the liberal group Progress Michigan, released Thursday, showed that two days later, Snyder Chief of Staff Dennis Muchmore and Corrections Director Dan Heyns exchanged emails on the Aramark controversy. The Department of Corrections, which processed Progress Michigan's FOIA request, redacted one of Mr. Muchmore's emails. In response to the redacted email, Mr. Heyns said he would take several actions, including delaying or canceling the fines.

Thursday night, Corrections spokesperson Russ Marlan confirmed the department had in fact canceled the $98,000 fine.

That was the first time the state publicly announced that decision.

Mr. Schauer said Mr. Snyder should immediately cancel the Aramark contract and release Mr. Muchmore's email. Mr. Schauer said he did not know what Mr. Snyder may have ordered Mr. Muchmore to direct Mr. Heyns to do.

He also said Mr. Snyder should apologize to the public for not being straight on the fate of the $98,000 fine, and also reveal whether Aramark or any of its executives contribute to the now closed Nerd Fund. The fund's contributors were closed to the public.

While saying Mr. Snyder lied, Mr. Schauer was careful not to say Mr. Snyder overtly told a falsehood, but lied by leaving an impression with the public that Aramark had been fined.

Asked if he thought Mr. Snyder had directed Mr. Muchmore to make arrangements on the fine, Mr. Schauer said he did not know what Mr. Snyder or his aide Rich Baird ordered Mr. Muchmore to do.

But Ms. Wurfel charged Mr. Muchmore was not discussing the fine with the department, but was dealing with other issues that had come up with the contract.

The Executive Office, she said, made "absolutely no attempt to hide anything at all." Because the contract did deal with the safety of Corrections workers and the public, the administration took the issue seriously and was determined to establish what was happening with the contract.

"This administration works on facts," she said. "There were problems with the contract and everything was designed to fix those problems."

Tom Shields, with Marketing Resource Group, said although the issue is something Mr. Snyder likely doesn't want to deal with right now, it really doesn't directly involve his office. However, he said, if Mr. Schauer uses it, it could affect the election.

"(Mr. Schauer) will have to make more out of it than it really is, but that's what campaigns are really all about," Mr. Shields said. "If it has any effect, it would have be used by Schauer in some way shape or form."

However, T.J. Bucholz of Vanguard Public Affairs, a Democrat, said a pattern has begun to form within Mr. Snyder's administration that is not good for his re-election interests.

"This administration has let several policy style state government brush fires burn unchecked," Mr. Bucholz said. "They've done nothing to either fully address to situations to put them to bed or they have blatantly broken procedure or certainly best practice."

Mr. Bucholz said the administration has ignored various problems and it could hurt Mr. Snyder's re-election chances.

"At this stage in the game you want the waters in state departments across the board to be still, you don't want any kind of problem," he said.

House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) issued a statement on Friday saying the governor and his administration need to be held accountable for not holding Aramark accountable.

"Cancelling Aramark's $98,000 fine clearly sent the signal that they didn't need to worry about their contract violations because the situation only got worse after that, putting Department of Correction employees and communities hosting those prisons in danger," Mr. Greimel said. "Emails show that Director Heyns was in contact with people from the governor's office who, at the very least, knew that Aramark was going to get a pass on serious contract violations."

Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), who sits on the House Appropriations Committee, said he and other members were assured corrective action was being taken against Aramark.

"This revelation, five months after the cancellation of the fine, not only makes me feel misled, but suggests this administration has very little respect for the legislative branch," he said in a statement. "The fact that the fines were canceled even after Director Heyns expressed concern about losing control of one of the prisons due to unrest over Aramark's conduct is troubling. The disregard for the safety of corrections officers and for public safety is astonishing. Aramark's performance only worsened over the following months.

"I think it's time Governor Snyder cancel this contract and become fully transparent about his administration's dealings with this company," Mr. Singh said.

Redacted Aramark Email Was About Getting Drinks

The email that the Department of Corrections redacted when releasing an email conversation between Director Dan Heyns and Dennis Muchmore, chief of staff to Governor Rick Snyder, about Corrections food service provider Aramark had to do with drinks. Specifically, it was a question from Mr. Muchmore to Mr. Heyns if he wanted to get together for a drink.

When the liberal group Progress Michigan released the emails it obtained Thursday of the conversation, the department had redacted one from Mr. Muchmore. And that redaction drew a demand from Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer that the redacted material be released.

In the emails, Mr. Muchmore and Mr. Heyns were discussing the initial wave of reports of problems with Aramark administering the contract for food services in prisons since replacing state employees in December.

What Mr. Muchmore wrote was, "Do we need to get drink?"

Mr. Heyns' response was "I can always use one of those but not necessary. I know where you want to go. I will tone down my attack dogs, delay or cancel any fines and give Aramark time to solve the problems."

The omission of Mr. Muchmore's email had prompted demands from Progress Michigan and then today Mr. Schauer for the state to release that email. The Department of Corrections did so, and spokesperson Russ Marlan said he is trying to determine from the department's staff why it redacted the email. The Freedom of Information Act provides a limited set of reasons public bodies can exempt records from public disclosure.

Mr. Schauer also blasted Mr. Heyns telling Mr. Muchmore he would delay or cancel the $98,000 fine levied on Aramark just two days after disclosing the fines on March 11 for overfamiliarity between Aramark employees and inmates as well as unauthorized food substitutions. He called the move "rank corruption" and accused Mr. Snyder of lying to the people.

Mr. Marlan clarified his comment from Thursday that Mr. Heyns canceled the fine, saying it technically was suspended. He said the department did not announce the $98,000 fine, per se, but answered questions from Gongwer News Service and other media about whether a fine was coming.

"We didn't put out any press release or announcement when we imposed the fine, we didn't put out any press release or announcement when he made the decision to suspend," he said.

Fines are not about punishment, but about bringing a contractor into compliance on a contract, Mr. Marlan said. As soon as Aramark received the letter from the department informing it of the fine, its vice president called Mr. Heyns.

"Their vice president and Director Heyns had a very frank and honest conversation where the Aramark vice president pledged his commitment and high level support to resolve the problems we were experiencing at the time. The director felt he understood the situation, was sincere and had a solid plan to fix the issues," he said. "There wasn't any sort of deception. His goal was to get the problems resolved."

For months, several stories in the news media, including in Gongwer, referenced the $98,000 fine. At no point did anyone contact Gongwer, nor apparently any other outlet, to correct the record. There was at least one point where Gongwer asked the department if Aramark's compliance had improved since the fine.

Asked why the department did not correct the record as the stories about the fine continued, Mr. Marlan said the situation was fluid and the fine was in fact imposed even if suspended. Mr. Marlan said the department handled the rising number of stop-orders of Aramark workers the same as those numbers mounted beyond what initial stories said.

"The fines are a way to get a contractor to resolve the problem," he said. "When you impose them or suspend them, that's at the discretion of the director. There's no deception. There's no manipulation."

Sara Wurfel, Mr. Snyder's spokesperson, blasted Mr. Schauer for distorting facts and figures on the controversial contract. The administration took decisive action to correct the problems with the contract, she said, when it fined Aramark $200,000 and then hired Ed Buss to oversee the operations of the contract.

Ms. Wurfel also said Mr. Muchmore was not discussing the $98,000 fine in the emails exchanged with Mr. Heyns, but instead was discussing "all the other issues that kept popping up" in regards to the contract.

Some of those issues included performance matters on the state's side, such as some monitoring problems, that needed resolution.

But she also acknowledged that the Executive Office did not know that the $98,000 fine had been suspended until some months "after the fact."

The Executive Office, she said, made "absolutely no attempt to hide anything at all." Because the contract did deal with the safety of Corrections workers and the public, the administration took the issue seriously and was determined to establish what was happening with the contract.

Creagh Bans Drilling Under Hartwick Pines State Park

There will be no oil and gas exploration under Hartwick Pines State Park under an order issued by Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh.

Portions of the park had been on the list for non-development leases in the auction coming next month, meaning the winners could have extracted oil and gas from under the park, but not put any drilling equipment on the surface of the park.

But Mr. Creagh announced at Thursday's Natural Resources Commission that he was interpreting the documents granting the land to the state as requiring preservation of the subsurface resources

as well as those above ground. That, he said, would prevent any extraction of the oil and gas under the park.

Mr. Creagh said he would be issuing an order declaring the park protected from any oil or gas extraction.

Environmental groups that had objected to the potential leases applauded the decision Friday.

"The Michigan DNR's decision to do right by Hartwick Pines State Park, and protect the largest stand of old-growth pine forest left in the Lower Peninsula, is a win for all Michiganders and the great outdoors," Jack Schmitt, deputy director of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, said in a statement. "There are some places in Michigan that should be off-limits to oil and gas activity, and Hartwick Pines State Park is one of those places."

"We appreciate Director Creagh's respect for the Hartwick family's wishes, and thank him for making the right decision to protect this one-of-a-kind park," Chris Kolb, Michigan Environmental Council president, said in a statement. "Personally, I'm thrilled that the experience of standing beneath the park's towering white pines will remain unchanged for visitors to enjoy."

Republican Former Governor Milliken Endorses Peters

U.S. Rep. Gary Peters landed an endorsement from Republican former Governor William Milliken on Friday in his bid for a U.S. Senate seat against Republican candidate Terri Lynn Land.

Mr. Milliken, in his statement, said the stakes for the state and nation in this race are very high, as the successor to U.S. Sen. Carl Levin (D-Detroit) must be able to work effectively across the political aisle on critical issues such as national defense, as well as someone who can overcome partisan politics to "find common ground and deliver" for Michigan.

"I have decided that the candidate who is best prepared to be that voice of moderation is Congressman Gary Peters," Mr. Milliken wrote. "In his public career as a state legislator and as a Congressman he has shown an ability and willingness to rise above partisan bickering and search for a nonpartisan solution to the very real problems we face."

Mr. Milliken is no stranger to pledging his support for non-Republican candidates, though he this week endorsed Governor Rick Snyder for re-election. Among his other endorsements of non-Republicans, Mr. Milliken previously endorsed former Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2006 and then-U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts over President George W. Bush in the 2004 election.

Mr. Peters (D-Bloomfield Hills) said it was "deeply humbling" to have the support of Mr. Milliken, someone he has always admired and respected for his "leadership, integrity, and commitment to service to better our state."

"Governor Milliken has always put solutions before politics, and that's the approach that will guide me in the U.S. Senate," Mr. Peters said in a statement announcing the endorsement. "As Michigan's next U.S. Senator, I will continue to be an independent voice that Michigan middle class families and small businesses can count on."

General Fund, School Aid Revenues Up, SFA Says

Revenue from the state's General Fund and School Aid Fund earmarked taxes totaled $1.7 billion in August 2014, up 3.4 percent from the prior year's level and about $35.2 million above the level expected in the Senate Fiscal Agency's estimate for the month based on the May consensus revenue estimates, the agency said.

Revenue from the State Education Tax, which is affected by the timing of counties' remitting payments to the state, accounted for almost all of the greater-than-expected revenue. Those collections in August were 3.9 percent below the year-ago level but $34.4 million above the expected level for the month, the report said.

Although collections earmarked to the General Fund were $22.4 million below the expected level for August, School Aid Fund tax collections were $54 million above forecasted levels, the SFA said in its monthly revenue report. Through August, year-to-date General Fund collections are $76 million below and School Aid Fund collections $2 million below consensus revenue estimates.

Net income tax revenue totaled $634.8 million in August, up 3.1 percent from the previous year. Withholding payments were 3.9 percent above year-ago levels as well. The agency noted that while withholding payments for August were slightly above forecast, the increase was offset by greater-than-expected individual income tax refunds and lower-than-expected quarterly and annual payments.

Corporate Income Tax collections totaled $16.1 million, about $12.6 million above forecast, and revenue from the repealed Single Business Tax totaled a negative $12.5 million (a net loss of revenue to the state due to refunds exceeding collections). And revenue from the repealed Michigan Business Tax totaled a negative $57.9 million in August as well.

Year-to-date, CIT collections are $34.2 million above expectations. But combined, SBT, CIT, and MBT revenue totaled a negative $54.2 million in August 2014, and on a year-to-date basis is $23.3 million below the expected level.

Sales tax receipts totaled $629.2 million in August, 4.5 percent above the year-ago level and $26.6 million above forecasts. Through August, sales tax collections are up only 1.5 percent from 2013, but are $35.8 million above expectations. And sales tax collections from new vehicles are up only 0.6 percent from 2013.

Whitmer Makes Pitch For Female Senate Candidates

In a year when most interests are looking at whether the House will flip control to Democrats, Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer has a new idea to introduce supporters, via e-mail, to some Democratic women running for the Senate.

Ms. Whitmer (D-East Lansing) has long said it was a priority of hers to increase the number of women in the Senate when she left office, and the party seems to be working toward that: there are 12 female Democratic candidates, including incumbent Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Warren), who is seeking re-election to her 18th Senate District seat.

Ms. Whitmer, in an e-mail to supporters on Friday, noted that while there may be four women in the Senate currently, "only two of us have consistently voted on behalf of Michigan women" (the other two women are Republicans Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker of Lawton and Sen. Judy Emmons of Sheridan). She said the result has meant "continued opposition to equal pay for equal work; relentless attacks on women's reproductive rights and health care; the appalling rape insurance law; (and) silencing and censoring female legislators."

While there may be 12 Democratic female candidates, only a handful are true contenders for seats: Rep. Dian Slavens of Canton in the 7th Senate District, Rep. Stacy Erwin Oakes of Saginaw in the 32nd District, and obviously Ms. Warren (who should cruise to victory in her heavily Democratic-leaning seat).

Former Clawson School Board member Cyndi Peltonen, running in the 13th Senate District, is a toss-up. She showed enough grit to oust party favorite Ryan Fishman in a heated primary, but she has a

different kind of battle on her hands with former Rep. Marty Knollenberg as the Republican candidate in that district. Both are starting off with essentially the same amount of cash on hand, though after Mr. Knollenberg spent big on securing his spot over four other Republican candidates.

Also iffy are Michigan National Organization of Women President Bobbie Walton, seeking to oust incumbent Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc) in the 14th District, and Michigan Education Association member Dawn Levey, who is going against incumbent Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) in the 24th District.

And elected Oceana County Road Commissioner Cathy Forbes, vying for the 34th Senate District seat against incumbent Sen. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart), excites the Democratic Party but becomes questionable in terms of fundraising, considering Mr. Hansen has reported six-figure revenues. Still, the district has a Democratic base that could be tapped.

Ms. Whitmer, in her e-mail, started the introductions with one of the party's perhaps strongest competitors, Ms. Slavens. Highlighted was her six years in the House and two decades as a respiratory therapist in Southeast Michigan.

"Simply put, Dian Slavens will be a senator that will fight for you and the issues you care about. She is facing one of the most conservative and out-of-touch senators in Michigan, and she has been working hard and doing everything she can to unseat him," the e-mail says, referring to incumbent Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township).

Moody's: Flint Unlikely To Need Bankruptcy

While Flint is much like Detroit in its socioeconomics, the smaller city is not in such dire financial straits that it will need to file bankruptcy, at least as long as its proposed retiree health benefit changes are approved, Moody's Investor Service said in a report released late Thursday.

Moody's attributed much of the difference between the two cities to emergency management, though it said Flint had also done much to help itself.

"Flint's EM has substantially improved financial operations with dramatic changes, including restructuring pension benefits, outsourcing services, eliminating 20 percent of the city's workforce and reducing total employee compensation equivalent to 20 percent of wages," the report said.

The report also praised the health benefit changes, but noted those currently face a court challenge.

In addition to the emergency manager, the report said it helped that the state acted more quickly on a manager for Flint - which Moody's does not rate - than it did for Detroit, which the service has rated Caa with a negative outlook.

But the report said the state would also have to do more to help Detroit than it would for Flint in the same condition.

"Detroit has a population seven times larger than Flint, with four times the geographic area and a tax base that is almost 15 times larger. Detroit's size makes it more difficult for outside assistance to be meaningful," the report said.

Flint also has a substantially smaller debt load, at half of its operating revenues compared to 2.17 times its operating revenues for Detroit. The national average, the report said, is 87 percent of revenue.

Flint had also done more to help itself, the report said, noting the 6-mill public safety tax in 2012. The Detroit City Council rejected a 9-mill public safety proposal in 2012.

First Bill Snyder Vetoed Back In House

A bill similar to the first piece of legislation Governor Rick Snyder vetoed has a hearing in the House Regulatory Reform Committee next week, and in some cases would prohibit a state agency from adopting rules more strict than federal guidelines.

HB 5731, introduced by Rep. Joe Haveman (R-Holland) would apply to cases where the federal government has mandated the state to promulgate rules and to cases where there is no federal mandate, an analysis said. But the bill would not apply, generally, to rules an agency finds necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety or welfare, and require the concurrence of the governor in the finding of an emergency.

The bill dictates if a proposed rule is more stringent than the applicable federal standard, the regulatory impact statement must include specific facts that "establish the clear and convincing need to adopt the more stringent rule."

In December of 2011, Mr. Snyder vetoed a similar bill because it was too broad and did not provide flexibility to various departments (See Gongwer Michigan Report, December 2, 2011).

The bill Mr. Snyder vetoed would have required state rules to be no more restrictive than federal rules unless specified in statute or done through an emergency rule.

HB 5731 will have a hearing in the Regulatory Reform Committee on Tuesday. Chair Rep. Hugh Crawford (R-Novi) could not be reached about his plans for the bill, but it was on the committee's agenda this week and later removed.

Flags Lowered To Honor Firefighter

Governor Rick Snyder has ordered flags in the state to be flown at half-staff on Monday to honor Russell Wiita, assistant fire chief at Coldsprings-Excelsior Fire and Rescue, who died September 8.

Mr. Wiita died of an apparent heart attack after responding to an emergency call Monday.

"Courageous first responders like William risk their lives daily to protect our communities and state," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "On behalf of all Michiganders, I thank William for his years of dedicated service and extend sincere condolences to his family, friends and community."

Capital Notebook

CLEAN WATER ACTION RATES LEGISLATORS: Clean Water Action released its legislative score cards on Friday and gave 26 legislators a perfect score and gave 62 a score of zero.

The scorecard is based on the group's priorities, which include energy, health, wildlife, water and policy. Those with perfect scores included House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) and Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor). Those who scored zero include House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) and Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge).

"It is ridiculous that in the Great Lakes State our legislators have pursued an anti-environment agenda that has eliminated or weakened critical safeguards that have protected our state and its residents for decades," said Nic Clark, state director of Clean Water Action, in a statement. "These scorecards are meant to be a gut-check for our Legislature and should force them to make a decision, do they value corporate profits or the people of Michigan and their environment?"

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, September 15

Health Endowment Fund Board, Helen Gerace Auditorium, Northwood University, 4000 Whiting Drive, Midland, 9 a.m. (Agenda; Listening session follows at 1 p.m. in the Griswold Communication Center)

Tuesday, September 16

Plumbing Board, Conference Room 3, First Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

Wednesday, September 17

Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development, ConCon Room, Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 9 a.m. (Agenda)

Manufactured Housing Commission, Conference Room 3, First Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

Thursday, September 18

Board of Psychology, Conference Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 9:30 a.m. (Agenda; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following (Agenda))

Friday, September 19

Commission on Services to the Aging, Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center, 7501 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, 9 a.m. (Agenda)

Canceled: ~~Barrier Free Design Board, Conference Room 3, First Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 9:30 a.m.~~

Board of Audiology, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. (Agenda; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following (Agenda))

Historic Preservation Review Board, Board Room, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, 735 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, Dempsey Room, First Floor, Grand Tower Building, 235 South Grand Avenue, Lansing, 2 p.m. (Agenda)

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 9:59 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 9:05 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For January 13, 2015

News

Destroying Michigan's career tech system to save it (Bridge Magazine, 1/13/2015)

Sources: Flint's outgoing EM to head Detroit Public Schools (Bridge Magazine, 1/13/2015)

Flint's emergency manager expected to lead Detroit Schools (Detroit Free Press, 1/13/2015)

Michiganders have more options for insurance in 2015 (Detroit Free Press, 1/13/2015)

Snyder signs bill that could erase criminal record (Detroit Free Press, 1/12/2015)

Snyder signs road bills tied to May vote (Detroit Free Press, 1/12/2015)

Speaker of House Kevin Cotter on Michigan legislative agenda (Detroit Free Press, 1/12/2015)

Pot, pensions, porn: Lansing-area lawmakers set goals (Lansing State Journal, 1/13/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs road funding bills as committees form for ballot fight (MLive, 1/13/2015)

Poll: Marijuana legalization, taxation supported by 50 percent of Michigan voters (MLive, 1/13/2015)

Snyder says latest Agema post 'absolutely inappropriate,' renews call for civility (MLive, 1/13/2015)

Flint emergency manager to lead DPS (The Detroit News, 1/13/2015)

Groups form for, against sales tax increase for roads (The Detroit News, 1/12/2015)

Michigan justices to weigh right-to-work law (The Detroit News, 1/13/2015)

Editorials

Thoughts on issues with our Michigan roads (Alpena News, 1/10/2015)

Turning to families to improve children's future (Bridge Magazine, 1/13/2015)

Our View: Poor vaccination rates putting our children at risk (Holland Sentinel, 1/11/2015)

Bridging the gap between the Two Detroits (The Detroit News, 1/13/2015)

Editor's Note: MEA still fighting right to work (The Detroit News, 1/13/2015)

Blogs

The 'Fine Tooth Comb' Re-Emerges (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 1/12/2015)

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From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 10:01 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 8:56 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For September 25, 2015

News

Doctors warn Flint of high lead levels in tap water (Associated Press, 9/25/2015)

Michigan prison reform gaining momentum in fall session (Bridge Magazine, 9/24/2015)

A readiness test: What if oil spewed into Great Lakes? (Detroit Free Press, 9/24/2015)

Lawmakers ponder bigger punishment for big tuition hikes (Detroit Free Press, 9/25/2015)

Lawmakers split on inspections for prison kitchens (Detroit Free Press, 9/24/2015)

Some state workers get break from reports (Lansing State Journal, 9/25/2015)

Michigan sales tax on Internet purchases to begin Oct. 1 (Macomb Daily, 9/25/2015)

Eastern Michigan, Oakland officials defend big tuition hikes as lawmakers debate state funding (MLive, 9/24/2015)

Medical Marijuana Act may be unfixable, says attorney (MLive, 9/25/2015)

Michigan panel debates changes to presidential election system, Electoral College votes (MLive, 9/25/2015)

Bill calls for crude shipment ban (Petoskey News-Review, 9/24/2015)

U.S. Rep. Moolenaar backs Rubio for president (The Detroit News, 9/24/2015)

Editorials

Prosecutor: Public safety should be top priority in prison reform (Bridge Magazine, 9/24/2015)

We should welcome Schuette's response to Iran deal (Detroit Free Press, 9/24/2015)

The "guns-under-any-circumstances" crowd is making a strategic mistake (Michigan Radio, 9/24/2015)

Mackinac oil won't mix with water - the lifeblood of craft-brew business (MLive, 9/24/2015)

Editor's Note: Part-time Legislature gets boost (The Detroit News, 9/25/2015)

Prognosis is poor for 600,000 Michiganians to keep health coverage (Toledo Blade, 9/25/2015)

Blogs

5,382 People Have Served In The Legislature, Most No More Than 2 Terms (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/24/2015)

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From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:32 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: NEWS UPDATE--House Approves Flint Water Fix

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:45 PM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--House Approves Flint Water Fix

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 08:43 PM

House Approves Flint Water Fix

The House unanimously voted this evening to approve $9. 35 million of state funds to return Flint to the Detroit water system and pay for additional state staff in the city's schools to gauge exposure to lead, handle evaluation and protocols on drinking water and to assist with plumbing engineers.

Governor Rick Snyder last week called for state funds to return the city to drawing water from the Detroit system and ending a disastrous move to pull water from the Flint River, as well as funds to pay for additional state staffers from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs working in the city.

The supplemental (HB 4102) allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

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Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in Wednesday's Michigan report.

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Volume #54, Report #204 -- Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Tentative Deals Reached On State Employees Contracts

The state has reached tentative agreements with its bargaining units on new contracts for state employees.

Two unions - the Michigan Corrections Organization and the Michigan State Employees Association - confirmed Wednesday the major aspects of the tentative deals between the state and their unions: a one-year contract for wages and health care starting October 1, 2016, that provides a 1 percent base wage increase, and 1.5 percent lump sum payment for employees in October 2016.

Sources told Gongwer News Service the same provisions apply to tentative agreements between the state and other unions representing state employees.

The Service Employees International Union 517M also announced a tentative agreement but did not publicly offer details.

Officials with the United Auto Workers Local 6000, the state's largest employee union, did not return calls for comment.

"While this agreement isn't perfect, it maintains key pieces of our contract that members said were very important to them, such as their health care costs," MCO President Tom Tylutki said in a statement. "Our negotiations centered on the issues members told us were important. Health care is their number one concern."

The agreements are merely tentative and still require ratification from union members as well as approval from the Civil Service Commission.

But presuming union members ratify them, it will set one key piece of the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year budget.

Other portions of the contracts would last the traditional three years. However, the Office of State Employer pushed for a one-year deal on the wages and health care components out of concern about what will happen with the federal excise tax on premium health care plans, MCO said in a bulletin to its members.

That is the so-called Cadillac tax in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Under that law, starting with the 2018 tax year, if the aggregate cost of the health care coverage an employer provides exceeds a statutory dollar limit, then the excess is subject to a 40 percent excise tax.

The idea behind the tax was to reduce health care spending. But it is providing a rare point of agreement between Democratic supporters of the law and Republicans who have long called for the Affordable Care Act's repeal. Unions and Democrats have said the tax should be repealed, as have Republicans and business groups, but it is unclear what will happen.

A spokesperson for the Office of the State Employer declined to comment.

Meekhof Slams Schuette On Presumptive Parole; Snyder Also Jumps In

Attorney General Bill Schuette faced heat from Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof Wednesday regarding legislation pending in the Senate on presumptive parole, and Governor Rick Snyder also defended the legislation.

In the past week, Mr. Schuette has launched a campaign-style assault on the legislation, referring to it as "early" release, "catch and release" and "autopilot parole." Supporters of the bill have said he is just totally wrong in his characterization of the bills.

"He's been out there on a limb on this, throwing out a direct line and saying stuff like it's anti-cop, which was over the top, and he and I had that discussion yesterday," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) said of Mr. Schuette. "He's certainly within his right to comment on public policy. (But) he doesn't make public policy, he just follows what we do."

Still, Mr. Schuette's fusillade against the legislation may be having an impact. Mr. Meekhof said his caucus is voicing considerable concern about it.

Mr. Schuette has been relentless on the issue. Last week, on WKAR's "Off the Record," he said HB 4138 was "elitist" because those who live in nicer areas would have fewer worries about criminals being released back into society (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 9, 2015). And his Twitter account gives updates seemingly every hour or two about "autopilot parole" and examples of parolees re-offending once released.

"Public safety is the first responsibility of government. Autopilot release of violent offenders is bad for our neighborhoods, cities and small towns," he said Tuesday in a joint statement with Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton, his Democratic opponent in 2010 for attorney general. "We cannot build a better, stronger, safer Michigan if our public safety is threatened."

Mr. Schuette and Mr. Meekhof are also potential rivals for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 2018 when Mr. Snyder cannot seek re-election.

Asked if he told Mr. Schuette to keep his nose out of the matter, Mr. Meekhof responded, "I said it was probably not a wise idea to talk the way he talked about the caucus on the other side. He said he'd take that under advisement."

Mr. Meekhof said he was unsure whether Mr. Schuette had apologized to the House members who drafted and supported HB 4138, which passed the House earlier this month 67-39 and currently sits in the Senate Government Operations Committee chaired by Mr. Meekhof.

"But he probably ought to think about how he treats everybody in general, and if he really wants to get public policy done, the best effort would be to work with people," Mr. Meekhof said.

Schuette spokesperson Andrea Bitely declined to comment on Mr. Meekhof's comments.

In addition to comments by Mr. Meekhof, Governor Rick Snyder expressed support of the measure in prepared remarks. This came a day after House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) also felt compelled to defend the legislation against Mr. Schuette's criticism.

"Michigan needs a smarter criminal justice system that doesn't simply punish people who commit crimes, but frees up resources that can instead be used on effective efforts to reduce criminal activity and make our communities safer," Mr. Snyder said. "House Bill 4138 creates consistency in parole decisions for low-risk offenders by ensuring that they are all subject to the same standards when being considered for parole."

Mr. Snyder also noted the long-term impact of the change could be housing about 3,600 fewer low-risk felons in state prisons a decade from now, freeing up some $80 million "that can be reinvested in preventing crime rather than continuing to keep low-risk offenders behind bars after they have served their minimum sentence."

HB 4138 currently awaits action in the Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Mr. Meekhof, who said he had a "healthy discussion" with his caucus on the matter on Wednesday.

"We're looking at this presumptive parole along with some other corrections reform. Senator Proos has some great ideas that we're probably going to combine with it and come up with a better package," he said.

But Mr. Meekhof also admitted that there was "a lot of concern" among his caucus members, especially since the issue has always started in the House, even last term.

"They needed a lot of information to even understand the terms that were being talked about because we really haven't studied this at all in our caucus," he said.

Given the expectation that Sen. John Proos (R-St. Joseph) would lead on another package of corrections reform, Mr. Meekhof said it would be "a little while" before there would be any action on the issue in the Senate, though specifics beyond that were not discussed.

On Roads, Meekhof, Greimel Trade Barbs As Meeting Canceled

Wednesday was meant to be a cooling off day following Tuesday's impasse on talks to generate $1.2 billion in new funds for roads, but instead the disputes continued.

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) said he was surprised at remarks by House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) on road funding talks and how a proposal that the Legislative Quadrant may have on the table is insufficient.

The problem continues to be whether and how to provide income tax relief as a sweetener to an expected gasoline tax increase (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 13, 2015).

"He sat in the same room, saw the same spreadsheets I did and understood that the way we're doing it by the redirection of revenue going a little bit at a time and tax rollback only when there is over-the-top revenue," Mr. Meekhof said midday Wednesday. "He saw that it worked, so I'm not quite sure where he's coming up with his assertion that it's cutting anything."

The quadrant meeting scheduled for noon was canceled. Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said it was too soon on the heels of Tuesday's meeting, after which Mr. Snyder declared the talks at an impasse. But Ms. Wurfel said Mr. Snyder would continue talking to leaders on the issue.

Mr. Meekhof said the rollback has been on the table the whole time, "and now at the 11th hour (Mr. Greimel) wants it removed," Mr. Meekhof said. "I'm not going to remove it."

The income tax rollback passed by the Senate helped to garner some Republican votes for the meat of the legislation that seeks, in part, a gas tax hike. The Senate plan is complicated, only allowing a reduction in the tax if revenues grow and putting no bottom on how far the income tax rate could fall.

"The only dispute is, is it the rate of inflation or a little bit more than the rate of inflation?" Mr. Meekhof said of the rollback likely to be included in a final deal on road funding. "But it's the same mechanics."

Asked if he felt as though Mr. Greimel's concerns were "coming out of nowhere," Mr. Meekhof said the first he had heard of such a concern came Tuesday. But he said the Senate stands ready and willing to work on a plan.

"We sent over a plan with an income tax rollback, specifically protecting the things we think are important, and dedicating money towards roads. I think that was a good plan," he said.

Mr. Meekhof said Mr. Greimel ought to "find a way to compromise with Speaker Cotter and get it done."

But Mr. Meekhof wouldn't go so far as to say that if a roads solution doesn't get done soon that it would be solely Mr. Greimel's fault. Pointing fingers, he said, doesn't solve the problem.

"We're trying to solve the problem, and throwing mud around isn't going to make it better or give us a better opportunity to do it," he said.

Greimel spokesperson Katie Carey said Mr. Greimel was disappointed when the governor canceled the quadrant meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday.

On Mr. Meekhof's comments, Ms. Carey said: "We respectfully disagree with the Senate majority leader. We were always concerned with the hit to the General Fund."

Ms. Carey noted public schools, safety and other Democratic priorities are funded through the General Fund.

She also said an income tax cut is going to help the wealthier residents of the state.

"It is not going to help low-income Michiganders," she said.

She also said the Democrats are trying to find a roads solution that focuses mostly on roads.

"We want something that is more concrete that will be a long-term financially sustainable solution to fix the roads," she said.

Cotter spokesperson Gideon D'Assandro said Mr. Cotter and Mr. Snyder met Wednesday and discussed goals on the issue moving forward. Mr. Cotter remains hopeful talks will resume, Mr. D'Assandro said.

House Approves Nearly $10M For Flint Water

The House unanimously voted Wednesday evening to approve $9.35 million to return Flint to the Detroit water system and pay for additional state staff in the city's schools to gauge exposure to lead, handle evaluation and protocols on drinking water and to assist with plumbing engineers.

HB 4102 passed the House 105-0.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said in a statement he attended House session Wednesday and told them the importance of passing the legislation.

"The people of Flint have the same right to clean, safe drinking water as residents in every district," he said. "I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognizing this and moving swiftly to secure resources. This is an important step necessary to fix the current crisis, and once this is complete, it's important that our next priority is getting to the bottom of how this happened. We need to make sure this never happens again."

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for additional state staffers from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs working in the city.

The supplemental appropriations allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Of the $9.35 million allocated, $7.15 million is from the General Fund.

Rep. Al Pscholka, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said he was pleased to see a unanimous vote for the bill.

"There is a time in this Legislature that we have to have statesmanship and stateswomanship and this was one of those times. This is a public health emergency in Flint," he said.

Mr. Pscholka said some members speculated whether the funds should come from the Budget Stabilization Fund, but said that was not necessary.

"We are in a fiscal position in order to handle something like this," he said.

Insufficient corrosion controls for water drawn from the river, which is inherently more corrosive than water drawn from Lake Huron, where the Detroit system draws its water, caused lead from the city's old service lines to leach into the water, leading to lead levels in the water exceeding the federal standard to trigger remediation and to elevated lead levels in the blood of some Flint children.

The $6 million will go toward a contract between the city and the Detroit system to pay for water service until next summer when a new regional pipeline to Lake Huron is expected to be completed. The Mott Foundation is putting up $4 million and the city of Flint the remaining $2 million.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: The House unanimously passed HB 4843 Wednesday, which would protect minors seeking medical treatment, or helping a minor seek medical treatment, for an overdose or other drug-related illness or injury from possession charges.

Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville) introduced the bill in response to the loss of Mason Mizwicki, a Watervliet teenager whose mother, Lori Mizwicki, has been an advocate for greater awareness of the prescription drug problem.

"Even taking up the legislation has helped to start much-needed conversations about the problem," he said in a statement. "It's not isolated to one town or one portion of the state. This can happen to any teen, anywhere. We have to keep a spotlight on the issue."

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Third Grade Reading Bill Delayed In House With Votes Short

The House spent nearly 7 hours Wednesday attempting to gather enough votes to pass a bill designed to get third grade students reading proficiently, but eventually called it quits with a positive outlook on the bill's chances Thursday.

"Very definitely," said Rep. Amanda Price (R-Park Township), sponsor of HB 4822 when asked if she thought the bill would pass Thursday.

"We're working really hard and a lot of our members had questions today, so we are in the process of answering a lot of those tomorrow," she told reporters after the long session.

Indeed, Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant), had earlier told reporters the questions coming from members were overwhelming and needed more time to be properly answered.

Both Democratic and Republican House members were in and out of the chamber on Wednesday, clearly attempting to come to some kind of agreement on the bill.

At about 7:30 p.m. the Democrats went into caucus, when they returned to session the House voted on the Flint water fix and then adjourned shortly after.

Ms. Price said it is hard to say what kind of changes might be made to the bill before final passage.

She said members didn't understand how much interaction there would be with the child once they have been identified as having a reading deficiency.

Ms. Price also said some members were concerned because students who were making progress in reading should be promoted from third grade.

"But if you are in third grade and you're still reading at first grade level and you've made progress since the beginning of first grade, is that enough progress?" She said. "You still need to, when you get into fourth grade, be able to read to learn. And if you're not there yet, it's going to be more difficult."

Katie Carey, spokesperson for House Democrats, agreed that there are a lot of questions and concerns from members. She said she is hopeful the chamber can come up with the votes to pass the bill Thursday.

Ms. Carey said Democratic members are looking for some changes in the retention piece of the bill and parental involvement.

"In the end we all have the same goal for this legislation. It's just a matter of how do you get there and what those look like," she said.

The bill, as reported form committee, would retain some third-graders who are reading more than a grade level behind, but it also provides for many intervention services before the third grade assessment and outlines "good cause" exemptions.

Similar legislation was controversial last term and was never able to be voted on by the full House.

Kosowski Proposes Sports Gambling For Road Funding

Rep. Robert Kosowski on Wednesday told the House Regulatory Reform Committee one way to get more funding for the state's roads and bridges is to legalize sports gambling and simulcasting horse races at casinos in the state.

HB 4469 and HB 4470 would allow casinos to accept wagers on sporting events, remove the current prohibition on televising simulcast horse races at casinos and allow for wagers on the races as well.

Mr. Kosowski (D-Westland) said he would be open to expanding the bill to horse racing tracks in the state.

To actually become law, the bills have several obstacles to overcome. First, a two-thirds majority is needed from both chambers and would need voter approval during the general election. Additionally, a federal court found that New Jersey's efforts to legalize sports betting violated federal law.

But Mr. Kosowski said the court is going to re-hear the case and there is a chance the original decision would be overturned.

"There are bookies everywhere. We all know this. Why not regulate it?" Mr. Kosowski said.

Originally, Mr. Kosowski intended to use the legislation to get more road funding. But he said as he has done more research, he would like some of the revenue generated to go to the race tracks in the state, and some funds to go to gambling addiction treatment and prevention.

Rep. Ray Franz (R-Onekama), chair of the committee, asked Mr. Kosowski what kind of support he had for the bill, noting that he didn't have any co-sponsors. Mr. Kosowski said he doesn't ask for co-sponsors and he believes the support is there.

Joe Asher, CEO of William Hill U.S., a bookmaking company, told the committee regulating the business is best.

Mr. Asher said suspicious activity can be reported and investigated in real time. And, he said, since it is the company's money being used there is incentive to call and report such activity.

"Oversight and protection do not occur in Michigan, however, because the illegal operators ...exist, and are not regulated," he said.

Mr. Asher said if casinos outsource the bookmaking there is little risk to them because companies such as his often front the cost.

He also said there may be losing days or weeks in the business, but there are very few losing months.

George Kutlenios, president of the Michigan Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association, told the committee in June 2014 that Michigan thoroughbred horses returned to the Hazel Park raceway and saw 10,000 fans. He said attendance on regular days has consistently averaged 6,000 people.

Mr. Kutlenios said he appreciates the bill but would like to see a provision creating a relationship between any venue wishing to simulcast thoroughbred racing and a licensed state track to "ensure sustainability and quality of Michigan thoroughbred racing, and the resulting support to the state's agricultural industry can continue."

MMA AND BOXING REGULATIONS: The committee did report SB 152 and SB 154 regulating professional boxing, professional or amateur mixed martial arts or similar "unarmed combat."

The responsibilities of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission are outlined in SB 152, and that commission, alongside the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, would have jurisdiction over all boxing or MMA contests. The legislation also revises and establishes new regulations concerning the conduct of the events, as well as revises fee amounts for licenses to have such events.

Among the regulations are ensuring a contestant has been drug tested and having an on-site inspector. Women would also be required to submit a negative pregnancy test before competitions.

Michigan Chamber, Which Backed Peabody In 2014, Endorses Howell In 82nd

The Michigan Chamber announced on Wednesday its endorsement of Republicans Mary Whiteford in the 80th House District and Gary Howell in the 82nd House District, where former Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser are running for re-election, respectively.

Mary Whiteford of Casco Township lost to Ms. Gamrat (R-Plainwell) in the 2014 Republican primary for the seat. Ms. Gamrat was expelled from the House last month but has said the voters deserve a voice in the process and is attempting to win her job back.

"Mary Whiteford will be a strong supporter of job creation and economic growth and we are pleased to endorse her in this special election," said Michigan Chamber President and CEO Rich Studley, in a statement. "The residents of Allegan County deserve better representation. We believe Whiteford possesses the experience and strength of character necessary to serve the 80th House District well."

Ms. Whiteford also has the endorsement of the Great Lakes Education Project and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce political action committee.

Mr. Howell of North Branch is the Lapeer County Intermediate School District president and is taking on 11 other candidates in the 82nd District primary, including Mr. Courser (R-Lapeer), who resigned before he was able to be expelled from the House.

"Gary Howell understands the importance of pursuing policies based on individual freedom, incentive and opportunity to keep Michigan moving forward," said Jim Holcomb, senior vice president and general counsel for the Michigan Chamber, in a statement. "If elected, Howell will provide the residents of Lapeer County with the effective representation they deserve."

Endorsements in the 82nd District are split up more than in the 80th District. Former Rep. Kevin Daley has endorsed Chris Tuski of Lapeer, who is a farmer and volunteer firefighter. And GLEP has endorsed Jan Peabody of Lapeer, who lost in the 2014 primary to Mr. Courser.

In the 2014 Republican primary, the state Chamber endorsed Ms. Peabody. It did not endorse in the 80th.

The November 3 special election primary comes as Ms. Gamrat and Mr. Courser were participating in an extramarital affair together while serving in the House. An internal House Business Office investigation then found the two were misusing state resources to attempt personal and political gains.

Revenue From Increased Hunting, Licensing Fees Less Than Expected

Revenue generated from the increase in hunting and fishing license fees is about $5 million less than expected, Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh told the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

Mr. Creagh said the department expected $18 million from the change in fees in the 2014-15 fiscal year, but only saw $13 million. And in the 2013-14 fiscal year, which included seven months of the new fee structure, the department expected $11.8 million in new revenue, but only received $7.8 million.

Austin Scott, the House Fiscal Agency analyst for the DNR, said he expects to receive more revenue numbers for the fiscal year that ended two weeks ago.

Mr. Creagh said the changes in fees also changed buying patterns, as the licenses are shorter term rather than annual. He also said the increase in the out-of-state licenses has affected those hunters coming into the state.

A non-resident hunter must purchase a $150 base license and then purchase additional licenses for the species they wish to hunt, which range from $8 to $25. Out-of-state fishing licenses also increased from $42 to $67.

But, Mr. Creagh told the committee, the state is not out of line in its fees compared to neighboring states, and the fees are a bargain compared to states out west.

Rep. Michael McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) said many groups encouraged the increase in fees when the Legislature began considering them and noted it may simply take time for the increases to set in.

LANDFILL ODOR VIOLATIONS: The committee reported HB 4783, which would increase penalties under Michigan's waste management laws for first and second violations of the law from $10,000 and $25,000 each day, to $25,000 and $75,000, respectively.

The bill cleared the committee 25-0, with Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) and Rep. Henry Yanez (D-Sterling Heights) abstaining.

Mr. Yanez said he abstained from voting because the Department of Environmental Quality is working on updating the waste management laws and an additional series of bills could come up.

And Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), chair of the committee, said he looks forward to working with Mr. Yanez on the issue, because he does not believe the bill increasing the fees will be the last piece of legislation on the issue.

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association was opposed to the bill, saying it would increase the fines for all firms and all violations, including compost facilities and municipal properties.

Mr. Pscholka, however, said the fines have not been increased since 1987.

"This is not out of the ordinary," he said. "This is something we should have been doing all along."

Mr. Pscholka introduced the bill in response to ongoing odor issues and a citation by the DEQ for inadequate daily cover by the Orchard Hill Landfill in Southwest Michigan.

"Let's go have a barbeque in one of these neighborhoods," he said in a statement. "You have to have a real sense of what it is like to have this in your backyard, for years. If you're not willing to put a little more pressure on these bad actors, you're saying you'd be willing to put a down payment on a house here."

Civil Rights Could Again Select Former Commissioner

The Department of Civil Rights could potentially have three of its four most recent directors also be members of the commission that heads it.

Among the three candidates to be interviewed to succeed retiring Director Matt Wesaw is Agustin Arbulu, who succeeded Mr. Wesaw on the commission in January 2013. He left the commission earlier this month and has yet to be replaced.

Mr. Arbulu is president of Metro Care Services, which provides health care and legal consulting in the Detroit area.

The other Michigan candidate is Portia Roberson, who is group executive for ethics and civil rights for the city of Detroit. Ms. Roberson was among those interviewed when Mr. Wesaw was hired and was discussed as a Democratic candidate for attorney general for the 2014 election.

And Akia Haynes is deputy director and general counsel for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, where she has served since January 2013. She has also served as a deputy attorney general for the state, as well as a private practice attorney.

Mr. Wesaw had been a member of the commission, and so had been Kelvin Scott, who served as director from February 2009 to February 2010 when he died. Both had served as chair of the commission.

House Panel Considering Regulation Of Charity Bins

What Rep. Lee Chatfield, chair of the House Local Government Committee, had thought would be a brief discussion turned contentious as local government groups raised concerns over his legislation to regulate charity donation bins.

All agreed the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was clear that the bins could not be prohibited (the court found they were charity speech and so protected under the First Amendment), but locals wanted to retain the right to oversee their location and maintenance.

Mr. Chatfield (R-Levering) said the goal of his bills (HB 4862 and HB 4863) is to unify regulation of the bins, which allow people to leave clothing, books and other materials for the charity listed on the side.

Local governments had tried to ban the bins, arguing, as some still did Wednesday, that they attract not only legitimate donations but also trash dumping.

Suzanne Schultz, managing director of design, development and community engagement for the city of Grand Rapids, brought pictures of bins overflowing with various materials.

Ms. Schultz said allowing cities to control the locations through zoning would help, but she said communities needed to be able to issue civil infractions for bins that become a nuisance.

"Courts are not going to take this up if it's misdemeanors," she said, echoing others who had argued the penalties as laid out in the legislation would be too costly to enforce.

But Judy Allen with the Michigan Townships Association said limiting the location regulation to zoning would limit townships' ability to regulate the locations because of their lesser planning powers, and it could potentially leave some bins unregulated.

"Everyone who has a bin, they would be grandfathered in and be a nonconforming use," she said.

She also joined others in urging against a cap on the annual licensing fee. The bill provides for no more than $75, but since local governments cannot charge more than their costs anyway, she said taxpayers would have to subsidize the system if costs rise above that cap.

Mr. Chatfield said his goal with the bill was to create a system and uniformity across the state. But he also said the bills would allow communities to do some of the things their representatives had asked.

"If the bill doesn't prohibit it, there will be more things locals will be able to do," he said.

Officials with Planet Aid, which had been the defendant in the federal lawsuit, said the bill would allow their operations but would help to weed out those not caring for their bins.

Kai Nelson said his group checks its bins once a week and has systems in place to allow response within 24 hours if there is a problem reported.

But he said local government groups' call for agreements between the charity and the property owner are not necessarily workable. He said in many cases the properties where the group places collection boxes have absentee or corporate owners and a local property manager is the right person to make the agreement.

Mr. Nelson said the company would be open to provisions that would require even its existing boxes to be licensed and, if they do not meet siting requirements, moved. He said the company has already done that in some locales that have adopted regulatory ordinances.

Mr. Chatfield said he would continue to work with all of the parties to meet their concerns in the legislation.

TAX CAPTURE: In what was intended to be the primary focus of the meeting, libraries said any changes to tax increment financing authority laws have to allow them more say in captured taxes.

And Eric Lupher with the Citizens Research Council said the state needs to place more limits on the authorities.

"Libraries are having to return for more millages in the future when their revenues are being captured by tax increment finance authorities," Lance Werner with the Kent District Library, speaking for the Michigan Library Association, said. "We're living within our means but our means are being siphoned away."

He noted, for instance, that the Litchfield library loses 47 percent of its funds to tax capture.

Mr. Werner said the libraries did not object to all tax capture authorities, but they should be given more power to choose which ones are appropriate to get library revenue. Current law, he said, allows them to accept all or reject all.

"We want to work with the tax captures ... so we can explain to our investors where our money is going," he said.

He said libraries should also be permitted to opt-in for all authorities. He said some provide for library revenue to automatically be captured and require the libraries to opt out.

Mr. Lupher said future authorities need to be given a limited time to operate. While courts have ruled that tax capture for economic development is constitutional, he said TIFAs have morphed into something that might not be.

"They're being used for police and fire; they're being used for street fairs," he said.

And he said they are being routinely renewed instead of expiring when an intended project is completed.

"There should be some finality to this," he said, adding that in many cases there is also less accountability for the funds.

"Those revenues have just been pushed off budget and you don't hear about it," he said.

Mr. Lupher, pointing to issues raised with recent millages to support the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Institute of Arts, said existing authorities also should be limited to capturing the taxes that are in existence when the authority is created. To capture any new taxes should require creation of a new authority, he said.

REWARDS: The committee also began discussions on HB 4292, which would allow county commissions to approve up to $20,000 for rewards leading to arrests for certain crimes.

Rep. Tom Cochran (R-Mason), sponsor of the bill, said in a recent incident where an Ingham County sheriff deputy was killed during a chase, the county was limited to offering $2,000 for information on the suspect, who had fled.

He said that limit was set in 1948.

"This money falls more in line with what the value of money is today," Mr. Cochran said of the bill. "This is a little more enticing to have people come forward."

Mr. Chatfield questioned whether the bill, which addresses only counties, should be expanded to cover other local governments under the same theory.

Senate Ends Deadline To Petition For DNA Test, Trial

The Senate voted unanimously Wednesday to eliminate the deadline in the law for a defendant convicted of a felony at trial, serving prison for that felony, to petition the court for DNA testing of biological material identified during an investigation that led to his or her conviction.

Those convicted of felonies may also request a new trial based on the results of that testing under SB 151. Currently, such a petition must be filed by January 1, 2016.

Only Michigan and Louisiana currently have sunsets on such provisions.

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION: The Senate also approved SB 372, which provides firefighter certification reciprocity with states that have the same certification as Michigan. The bill requires the state fire marshal to extend reciprocity certification to a firefighter from another state who seeks to work as a firefighter in Michigan as long as the individual was certified in another state after completing a program that meets or exceeds Michigan's standards.

"I have heard from many fire chiefs and local officials about how difficult and expensive it is to recruit and retain firemen in our local fire departments," Sen. Dale Zorn (R-Ida), sponsor of the bill, said in a

statement. "Part of the problem is that Michigan currently does not recognize out-of-state firefighter certification. This legislation will improve our local fire departments ability to protect families and staff their departments at appropriate levels."

State Unemployment Rate Falls Below National Rate For First Time Since 2000

News that Michigan's unemployment rate fell to 5 percent in September, putting it below the national unemployment rate for the first time in 15 years, brought plenty of cheers Wednesday.

The national unemployment rate in September was 5.1 percent.

"We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come. Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States," Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement. "Today we are below the national average for the first time since August 2000. This means more people in Michigan are able to use their skills and are finding fulfilling jobs to support themselves and their families, making our cities and our communities stronger in a variety of ways."

Mr. Snyder posted a photo of him from 2000 on his Twitter feed with much less gray hair and a beard to commemorate the occasion.

Employment rose for the month by 10,000, and the labor force was up, too, by 3,000.

In the past year, the unemployment rate has fallen from 6.7 percent, and employment is up by 68,000.

"Since early 2015, several key labor market indicators have shown improvement in Michigan and in the nation," Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, said in a statement. "Monthly unemployment rates in the state and nation have been comparable, as have over-the-year payroll job growth rates."

Bridge Authority Has 6 Potential Bidders

The Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority announced Wednesday that six companies had responded to its request for qualifications to build the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

The authority is now submitting the qualifications to a review panel of authority members and experts to determine the three most qualified potential bidders.

"The private sector has shown a vibrant interest in working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, between this RFP, the responses we received to our recent RFP for early works, as well as the recently-held Industry Days," Mark McQueen, chair of the authority's board of directors, said in a statement. "Although site preparation has already begun for the eventual construction of the new Canadian Customs plaza, businesses and travelers on both sides of the border understand that the completion of the new bridge is dependent upon the successful conclusion of the pending RFP process."

Committee Roundup

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS: The Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday began taking testimony on reviewing boilerplate language that requires reports of agencies that spend more than $500,000 in new or expanded programs.

The first programs up for review were making Michigan a no-wait state for senior home-delivered meals and in-home services; child welfare performance-based funding; and the Ok2Say school safety hotline.

"This is harder work than passing budgets, is going back and checking and seeing if we're delivering on our promises," Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake), whose idea it was to conduct such reviews, said in committee. "The intent of this is not necessarily to review why we did something. The intent is to review whether what we said we were going to accomplish is actually occurring."

By and large, Mr. Shirkey and other members of the committee requested more specific and detailed metrics, especially identifiable metrics like number comparisons, of all of the programs reviewed Wednesday. The committee expects to review another three programs next week, and chair Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) recommended that members consider the practice for their own subcommittees when and where possible.

Capital Notebook

DEADLINE THURSDAY FOR LOCALS TO APPLY FOR GRANTS PROGRAM: Municipalities have until 11:59 p.m. Thursday to apply for the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, and Townships grant program. Any city, village or township experiencing one or more conditions of "probable financial distress," under PA 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, is eligible to apply.

STATE CHRISTMAS TREE HAILS FROM WAKEFIELD: A 66-foot spruce from Wakefield in the Upper Peninsula will serve as the state's Christmas tree this year.

Florence Daniels is donating the tree to the state in memory of her husband, Jim Daniels, a former teacher and youth sports coach.

The tree will arrive October 31, and as per longtime tradition, be illuminated at the annual Silver Bells in the City celebration that Lansing holds to kick off the holiday season Friday, November 20.

MACMHB ANNOUNCES CEO: The executive board of the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards has announced Robert Sheehan will lead the organization as chief executive officer effective immediately. Prior to his new role, he served for 18 years at the CEO of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties.

Mr. Sheehan replaces Michael Vizena as CEO of MACMHB. Mr. Vizena is retiring.

"Behavioral health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities affect so many of Michigan's residents, and are central to overall health, yet are often overlooked or stigmatized in the public eye," Mr. Sheehan said in a statement. "I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the Association's members - hundreds of innovative provider and healthcare management organizations across the state - as they serve those in our communities with behavioral health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families."

LAND LEASES: The Department of Transportation will be leasing 17 parcels of land around the state for agricultural use only.

The lease sale is scheduled for November 4 at 10 a.m. (doors open at 9 a.m.) at the Office of Aeronautics Auditorium at Capital City Airport, 2700 Port Lansing Road in Lansing.

Those interested in bidding must attend and provide a sealed bid for each parcel.

CASINO REVENUE: Two of the three Detroit casinos saw revenue increase both for the month of September and for the third quarter, the Gaming Control Board announced Wednesday.

MotorCity Casino saw the most growth, with the $35.7 million it collected in September representing a 7.5 percent increase over the same month in 2014. For third quarter, its revenue was up 3.6 percent over the same period in 2014.

MGM Grand Detroit was up 4.6 percent in September to $45.2 million and up 0.5 percent for the quarter.

Greektown Casino saw revenue decline 0.1 percent for the month to $26.6 million and 2.4 percent for the quarter.

Appointments By The Governor

BOARD OF MECHANICAL RULES: Robert Fosburg of Caledonia, Christopher Freeman of South Lyon, Catherine Gay of Troy, Daniel Grafmiller of Fenton, Kenneth Misiewicz of Lake Odessa and Mark Riley of Berkley are reappointed for terms expiring October 1, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY: Jill Marlan of DeWitt succeeds Vijay Kumar, who resigned, to represent professionals for a term expiring December 31, 2016. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

IRON INDUSTRY MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD: Charles Swanson of Marquette and Bob Niemela of Ontonagon are reappointed for terms expiring October 4, 2019. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Elaine Didier of Plymouth succeeds Tara Fulton to represent librarians from a special library, and Judith Houser of Waterford is reappointed, both for terms expiring October 1, 2018. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: Sen. Phil Pavlov of St. Clair is appointed to represent the Legislature, filling a vacancy, and Deana Strudwick of White Pigeon succeeds Sondra Stegenga, who resigned, to represent public or private providers of early intervention services. The appointments are for the remainder of terms expiring October 31, 2016. Barbara Corbin of Jenison, Judy Goth-Owens of East Lansing, Lauren Heilman of Cadillac and Prachi Shah of Ann Arbor are reappointed for terms expiring October 31, 2019. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE: James "Jim" Matthews of Grand Haven succeeds Eleonora Huskey to represent pharmacists, and Margo Farber of Grosse Pointe Park, Steven Hadesman of Bingham Farms, Anthony Ognjan of Shelby Township and Victoria Tutag Lehr of Birmingham are reappointed. The appointments are for terms expiring October 1, 2017, and are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SKI AREA SAFETY BOARD: James Grundstrom of Negaunee succeeds Jim VanderSpoel to represent public members from the Upper Peninsula, and Steve Robinson of Birmingham succeeds Ron Edwards to represent engineers with ski experience. Mr. Grundstrom's appointment is for a term expiring June 8, 2018. Mr. Robinson's appointment is for a term expiring June 8, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Appointments By The Supreme Court

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Robert Gardella is reappointed commissioner-at-large for a three-year term beginning upon adjournment of the 2015 annual meeting of the outgoing board. Brian Shekell and Krista Haroutunian are appointed commissioners-at-large for three-year terms beginning upon adjournment of the 2015 annual meeting of the outgoing board.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 15

~~**Canceled:** Senate Elections and Government Reform (Committee Record), (Chr. Robertson, 373-1721), Room 210, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.~~

HB 4904 **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY** (McBroom) Provides for the presidential primary election as a regular election date and clarifies filing deadlines for candidates for local office and for all local ballot question.

SB 189 **AVIATION FEES** (Casperson) Removes certain restrictions on recovery of costs and fees in an action involving this state.

SB 190 **PREVAILING PARTY FEES** (Robertson) Removes certain restrictions on the award of costs and fees to prevailing party in a case involving this state.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 9:27 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 15, 2015

News

Chief judges appointed to improve trial courts (Associated Press, 10/15/2015)

House OKs bill shielding youth who report drug overdoses (Associated Press, 10/15/2015)

Bill banning powdered alcohol on way to becoming law (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Can Flint residents sue over bad water? (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Road funding talks enter 'cooling off' phase (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

State jobless rate below national average (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Flint's $2 million share for Detroit water reconnection a done deal (Flint Journal, 10/15/2015)

When did state know about lead in Flint water? 6 takeaways from Snyder plan (Flint Journal, 10/15/2015)

Civil Rights Department names director finalists (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Michigan state employees would see raises under deals (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Poll: Minimum nurse staffing levels a win with voters (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder backs presumptive parole proposal as AG Bill Schuette leads opposition (MLive, 10/15/2015)

Fed corruption probe targets DPS, EAA officials (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

House OKs $9.3M for Flint water switch (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Right to Life sits out Gamrat, Courser GOP primaries (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Editorials

Michigan's mounting water failures (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Stabenow: Equipping a new generation of workers (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Lawmakers have lost their minds, and it's time to call them out (Michigan Radio, 10/15/2015)

Snyder, Schuette must act now to take oil out of Straits pipeline (MLive, 10/15/2015)

COLUMN: Pass presumptive parole reform to save millions without threatening public safety (Oakland Press, 10/15/2015)

Lawmakers need to fix school problems, not add to them (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/15/2015)

Finley: Road deal too elusive, too long (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Gamrat's campaign takes its cue from Kardashians (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Howes: Roads impasse 'embarrassing' for leaders, GOP (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

McNeilly: Will Lansing side with corporations or kids? (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Blogs

Whiston, The Parliamentarian (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/14/2015)

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From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:05 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: NEWS UPDATE--Flint Water Funds Head To Snyder

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:56 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Flint Water Funds Head To Snyder

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 10:56 AM

Flint Water Funds Head To Snyder

The Senate wasted no time in approving today more than $9 million to help pay for temporarily returning the city of Flint to the Detroit water system and fund additional staffing in the city's schools to gauge the exposure to lead.

The fix came with unanimous passage of HB 4102, a supplemental appropriations bill the House passed late Wednesday.

The bill allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for the Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for the department's laboratory services; $1 million for Department of Health and Human Services emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow-up services for children, including lead testing and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) expressed thanks for his colleagues' support in the matter. The move to pump water for the city from the Flint River without proper corrosion controls allowed lead in service lines and welds to leach into the drinking water at levels beyond those requiring remediation.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in Thursday's Michigan Report.

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From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 8:21 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips
Attachments: g 1015.doc

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 16, 2015

News

A Chaldean enclave in Detroit yearns for Syrian refugees (Bridge Magazine, 10/16/2015)

For impoverished Michiganders, a little help in the kitchen (Bridge Magazine, 10/16/2015)

Concerns raised about ability to stop Asian carp (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Legal fight could mean longer lines to renew licenses (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Road deal: There may still be hope (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Senate approves, Snyder signs cash for Flint water fix (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs spending bill with $9.35M for Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 10/16/2015)

Michigan House panel OKs foster kid credit check bill (Lansing State Journal, 10/16/2015)

Michigan Workforce Development chief leaves for federal post (Lansing State Journal, 10/16/2015)

Challenge accepted: Michigan Senators to debate road funding, fuel taxes in public forum (MLive, 10/16/2015)

FBI probes state-run school reform district in Detroit after internal review (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Mandatory nursing levels would improve patient care, nurses say (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs spending bill with $9.35M for Flint water crisis (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Michigan House OKs 3rd grade reading bill to hold back struggling students, boost intervention (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Newsweek column calls Flint 'cheapskate city that poisoned its children' (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Sports betting could help fix Michigan roads, bill sponsor says (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Teacher evaluation proposal sails through Michigan House after 'huge improvements' (MLive, 10/16/2015)

ACLU files complaint with state about Catholic hospital (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

State's $6M aid for Flint water switch signed into law (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Editorials

The right recipe for transforming Michigan public education (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Sometimes, justice has to take the long route (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/16/2015)

Federal probe of state reform district is troubling (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Lennox: Presidential politics hangs over Mich. gov race (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Our Editorial: Doctors key in halting painkiller abuse (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Frank Kelley: Pillar of Michigan's political past, beacon for future (Toledo Blade, 10/16/2015)

Blogs

The Presumptive Parole Fight: Schuette Vs. Everyone (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/15/2015)

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Volume #54, Report #205 -- Thursday, October 15, 2015

Most Dems Drop Support As Third Grade Reading Bill Passes

While Democrats were hopeful after a late session Wednesday they would be able to support a bill designed to get elementary students reading proficiently before entering fourth grade, in the end, House Republicans passed the bill Thursday with only three Democratic lawmakers in support.

The bill, HB 4822, cleared the chamber 57-48. Immediately after the bill's passage, both Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) requested they be removed as co-sponsors.

Under the bill, students could be retained in the third grade if they do not test proficiently in reading. The bill does outline multiple reading intervention programs in an effort to get students reading at grade level before retention is necessary. There are also "good cause exemptions" outlined in the legislation.

Additionally, in a change adopted Thursday, the retention portion of the bill would not go into effect until the 2019-20 school year, a two year delay from what was in the reported version of the bill.

Democrats speaking on the House floor said they were concerned about the lack of parental involvement in the retention process, the negative impacts of retention and the possibility that the funding in the current year budget for literacy programs would not actually cover the costs to schools.

Mr. Zemke, who had been working with fellow Democrats and the bill's sponsor, Rep. Amanda Price (R-Park Township), on an agreement, said in his opposition speech he still considered Ms. Price a friend, though she might not feel the same.

Mr. Zemke said he was voting no because an amendment he offered, which would allow a student who has been working on an individualized reading plan since the end of second grade, but was still not proficient in reading by the end of third grade, to move on to the next grade level while still working the individualized plan, was not adopted.

"I am not going to remove the hope of a 9-year-old. Period," he said on the House floor. "You want to see what's going to happen when you paint that picture. ... They're working hard, they're playing by the rules, they're doing everything right. ... And then you take it away. What do you think they're going to do for the rest of their educational career? They're not going to try. Because they played by the rules and they got screwed anyway."

Ms. Price said she was disappointed to lose Mr. Zemke's support, but said his proposed amendment watered down the retention provisions in the bill to a point where she was no longer comfortable.

"I understand what he was saying," she said. "But right from the get-go, the line in the sand has been for people to say, 'No, you need to read.' And we can't keep promoting kids because we're not getting them where they need to be."

Ms. Price said the reason the House worked so hard to get the bill passed this week rather than working longer behind the scenes is she wanted to get it done before the Legislature finds itself in an election year and before other education policy debates, like Detroit Public Schools, come up.

According to the House Fiscal Agency analysis, in the 2013-14 school year as many as 39 percent or 42,500 third grade students did not test proficiently in reading under the Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

With the "more rigorous" National Assessment of Educational Progress test, in 2013, 69 percent of fourth-graders did not reach proficient reading levels.

Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto) said the bill is not a reactive, retention-focused measure. She said it includes many intervention programs that work to help students improve their reading.

"It is not acceptable to allow our kids to not be able to read and yet send them along their way," she said.

Rep. Harvey Santana (D-Detroit), one of the three Democrats who voted for the bill, said there is a 47 percent illiteracy rate in Detroit. He said current policies tell children in Detroit, "It's okay to be a failure."

He criticized comments from other members saying retention would emotionally impact children.

"How emotionally affected is that third-grader going to be when they grow up to be an adult with kids of their own who they cannot take care of because the system failed them?" he said.

The Great Lakes Education Project praised the passage of the bill, saying it was "a great day for school children in Michigan."

"We extend our deep appreciation to Rep. Amanda Price, the chair of the House Education Committee and the bill's primary sponsor, as well as to House leadership and those 57 members who voted to help kids today," GLEP Executive Director Gary Naeyaert said in a statement. "As the leading advocacy organization supporting this bill, we are confident Senator Phil Pavlov and the Senate Education Committee will schedule hearings soon so this common sense policy can be evaluated and passed in the Senate and then sent to the governor for his signature."

The bill outlines intervention programs for children before they go into the third grade. Students are allowed to be taught other subjects that they are proficient in - like reading and math - in a fourth grade setting, while still receiving reading interventions at the third grade level. There are also good-cause exemptions to retention outlined in the bill.

The Department of Education would be required to approve at least three reliable reading assessment systems and recommend or create a reading/literacy coach model. The reading/literacy coach would be required to undertake 11 tasks, including working with teachers to diagnose and address reading deficiency.

The bill would increase the costs for the department, but the 2015-16 fiscal year budget included $900,000 to implement the early literacy initiatives. The school aid budget also included additional funding for a portion of the implementation costs for schools.

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, school boards and charter school boards of directors would be required to select one of the reading assessments from the MDE and provide any student with a reading deficiency at any time with a reading improvement plan and provide notice to parents about the student's reading deficiency.

Reading intervention programs for those students showing a deficiency would need to include a screening of progress at least three times per year; provide a highly effective core reading instruction; and take place during regular school hours. Parents would also receive a "read at home" plan.

Educator Evaluations Appear Finally Set As House OKs Bill

The House on Thursday passed a bill outlining teacher and administrator evaluations in the state, and the bill appears to have an easy path through the Senate and onto Governor Rick Snyder's desk.

The bill, SB 103[redacted], passed 97-8 after four months of debate in the House and many changes - following a tough debate during the 2013-14 term. The bill was initially controversial, as Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of Senate Education Committee, took a different approach from the House versions of the legislation drafted during the last term.

Mr. Pavlov, after the bill passed Thursday, said he was comfortable where the House went with the legislation.

"They're protecting my key tenants, and that is that, one, any money that goes to the department is dedicated toward actual training," he said. "The second thing I wanted to make sure happened was it didn't water down the historic reforms we got on tenure. Thirdly, the important concept was locals would have the ability to form and choose a model that best fits their situation."

The House-passed version of the bill establishes both training requirements and options for school districts and public school academies to develop their own teacher evaluation tool or make modifications to an existing tool. Changes added Thursday stipulated the funding for training must come from the Educator Evaluation Reserve Fund

Since the bill originated in the Senate, the chamber has to concur in the House changes to send it to Governor Rick Snyder's desk.

Rep. Daniela Garcia (R-Holland), the vice chair of the House Education Committee, said the bill avoids a "one-size-fits-all" evaluation system.

"Under this legislation, school districts will have the flexibility to decide on their own evaluation standards to meet that goal," she said in a statement. "The House has included additional language that will make certain teachers, principals and superintendents are all familiar with and trained in their district's evaluation methods."

Under the bill, the Department of Education would have to establish and maintain a list of teacher and administrator evaluation tools, and the list would have to, at the very least, include the tools recommended by the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness in 2013. Districts do not have to use the same tool for teachers and administrators.

For teachers, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, 40 percent of the year-end evaluation would be based on student growth, with half coming from the state assessment and half coming from a local assessment.

For administrators, beginning immediately, 25 percent of the annual evaluation would be based on student growth and assessment data. The data is an aggregate of student growth data used in teacher evaluations in the district where the administrator works.

Training for teachers and administrators on evaluation tools is also required. School districts and PSAs could create a consortium to conduct the trainings. All evaluators and observers would also be required to receive training from a person who has expertise in the training tool.

A school district or public school academy could also develop its own tool, and the department would promulgate rules for how a district would submit its tool for placement on the list. Also required under

the bill is for the district or PSA to publish on its website a variety of information about the evaluation tool and the evaluation process beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Ananich On Flint Water Funds: 'This Is By No Means Over'

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich was both heartened and relieved Thursday to have a supplemental appropriations bill unanimously approved in the Senate to provide $9.35 million to help his city of Flint get better water faster, but it was a cautious optimism as there is much left to do, he said.

Of the money, $6 million will go toward switching from the Flint River as the city's source for drinking water back to the Detroit system. Insufficient corrosion control for the river water caused lead in the service lines and pipes to leach into the water, leading to led levels above federal standards for remediation and rising levels of lead in Flint children's blood.

"As soon as we switch over to Detroit, we're not going to automatically have clean, drinkable water. We're still going to have to use the filters, still going to have to make sure they take precautions, because it takes a while to rebuild the corrosion controls against the pipes," Mr. Ananich (D-Flint) told the press after session. "I'm not an expert by any means, but it could be a few months.

"The one benefit I do think we have going forward is Flint will probably be the most tested water anywhere in the world over the next six months, as it should be, to make sure we rebuild that trust," he said.

The Senate decided quickly to take up HB 4102[redacted], as the House sent it over Wednesday evening after a unanimous vote among representatives as well.

And within hours, Governor Rick Snyder signed the bill into law, becoming PA 143 of 2015 with immediate effect.

"This funding is a coordinated response to a serious problem and I'm pleased so many parties came together to help deliver safe drinking water to the city of Flint," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "Reconnecting to the Great Lakes Water Authority is only the first step, as the state will continue testing and inspections to ensure Flint families and children have clean water in their homes and schools."

A week ago, Mr. Snyder called on the Legislature to provide funding to the city to help it in its efforts to switch back to the Detroit water system and have staff from both the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services. During that time, and even before, there had been a lot of finger-pointing about who ought to ultimately be responsible for the crisis that has caused Flint to go on high alert due to elevated levels of lead in its water.

And many of those questions of accountability remain, Mr. Ananich said.

"(The switch) was during the period of an emergency manager, and there wasn't many decisions allowed to be made by local elected officials. I can't speak about whether they were part of the conversations or not," he said. "It was the decision of the emergency manager to switch over, a decision by a different emergency manager to stay on it, and a third emergency manager denied the request to go back.

"It definitely needs to be looked at, the emergency manager laws, make sure there's some accountability on the back-end before they leave. They shouldn't be leaving cities with such crises when they leave," Mr. Ananich said.

But the other question is who should look at what and how. Mr. Ananich said he wasn't sure yet whether the state should investigate itself (effectively), a commission should review the situation, the Legislature should make changes to existing laws or create new ones, or more.

"All those questions need to be looked at," he said. "I'm not 100 percent sure exactly what method it should be, but I think it's warranted to have a further look at what happened, what mistakes were made, and how to make sure it doesn't ever happen again in cities like Flint but also across the state.

"This isn't a victory for my community. This is a fix to a problem that never should've happened," he said.

The supplemental appropriations allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Of the $9.35 million allocated, $7.15 million is from the General Fund.

Driskell Leads Walberg In Third Quarter Fundraising, Gilbert Tops $200,000

The highly touted challengers to U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop and U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg posted strong fundraising totals in the third quarter, based on campaign finance reports filed Thursday.

The reports showed their Democratic challengers, Rep. Gretchen Driskell (D-Saline) and former "Little House on the Prairie" star Melissa Gilbert, with strong hauls.

But the reports also showed a number of candidates with steep hills to climb in their efforts to either be their party's nominee or to unseat the incumbent.

In what could be the closest funding race based on reports available at press time, Ms. Driskell, the latest Democrat to face off against Mr. Walberg (R-Tipton), raised $203,698 for the third quarter and $523,610 for the cycle, leaving $435,004 cash on hand.

"Working families, students, and seniors across the 7th District are standing behind our campaign, and we are really proud to be building grassroots momentum from a network of neighbors," Ms. Driskell said in a statement announcing her fundraising. "It's because of their enthusiasm and support that we'll continue to attract the resources necessary to win."

Mr. Walberg raised only $133,160 for the quarter. But he had raised $753,284 so far for the election cycle and had $922,034 in cash on hand.

In the 8th U.S. House District, Ms. Gilbert raised $200,372, all in the third quarter. She had $183,317 left in cash on hand. It was her first report since declaring her candidacy.

Mr. Bishop (R-Rochester) had not filed his reports as of press time. The deadline was 11:59 p.m. Thursday

In the 1st U.S. House District, Jerry Cannon, the Democratic nominee in 2014, appeared to have donors staying away in droves. His first report for his new committee showed he raised only $3,640 and spent nothing. Mr. Cannon created a new campaign committee for his second run and did not show the transfer of any funds from those coffers, having spent the full $1 million he raised.

Former Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson, expected to be the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, reported $350,977, all raised in the latest quarter. Of that, he had $293,265 left in cash.

U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek (R-Crystal Falls) is not seeking re-election and so far no Republicans have stepped up to replace him.

Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba), one of those named as a possible candidate, has retained an active campaign account from his prior run for the seat and reported raising a net $180 so far for the election cycle (he returned $2,700 in contributions). He showed $12,759 in cash on hand, but $22,570 in debt.

Paul Clements, so far the sole Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph), had $135,374 in cash after raising $154,808 so far toward the election, $151,126 last quarter. He has spent $29,100 toward his second effort to unseat Mr. Upton.

Mr. Upton had not yet filed his reports, but historically has raised substantially more than Mr. Clements is reporting.

In the race to succeed U.S. Rep. Candice Miller (R-Harrison Township), former Sen. Alan Sanborn reported raising just $4,070 for the third quarter and $46,337 overall. That left him $25,851 cash on hand.

Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-Saint Clair), in contrast, raised $57,349 for the quarter and $164,729 total for the cycle toward his effort to succeed Ms. Miller. He reported $126,153 cash on hand.

Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey, who is challenging U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Detroit), now the longest-serving member in the U.S. House, brought in $18,840, all in the third quarter. She had $7,900 cash on hand. Ms. Winfrey formed her committee late in the quarter, on September 21, so had little time to raise money before the close of books on September 30.

Mr. Conyers did not report much of a war chest either, but it was still substantially larger at $40,588. He raised $42,997 for the third quarter and $193,322 for the cycle.

Pavlov Introduces Bills To Prohibit Sale Of Fetal Tissue, Parts

Sen. Phil Pavlov is leading the charge in the Senate to prohibit compensation for the distribution or transfer of any portion of an embryo, fetus or neonate obtained as the result of an elective abortion, introducing two bills on the matter on Thursday that were sent to the newly created Senate Oversight Committee.

The bills come amid a controversy over Planned Parenthood charging for the costs of acquiring such tissue.

"The key is we need to protect the unborn in the state of Michigan, and these bills do that," Mr. Pavlov (R-St. Clair) said of SB 564 and SB 565.

The first bill states "a person shall not knowingly financially benefit from or receive any type of compensation for the distribution or transfer of any portion of an embryo, fetus, or neonate including any organs, tissues, or cells that were obtained as the result of an elective abortion."

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), who is one of the 17 Republican co-sponsors to SB 564 and SB 565, the latter of which enacts sentencing guidelines for a violation of the

prohibitions in SB 564, deferred questions on the bills to Mr. Pavlov, noting that he has been in numerous conversations with various members of the caucus on the matter.

Asked about that level of prioritization in the Senate Republican caucus, Mr. Pavlov said, "The leader saw it fit to create a special committee to examine the issues of the unborn and protecting the unborn in Michigan. This is all about taking away any financial motivation to sell or traffic these elective abortion procedures."

Planned Parenthood has said repeatedly it does not sell fetal tissue, but only seeks to compensation for the costs of obtaining the tissue, storing it and transporting it.

Indeed, the Senate Oversight Committee where the bills were sent, was created in mid-September, with Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford) as chair and Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township) as majority vice chair (See Gongwer Michigan Report, September 17, 2015).

Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton) and Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) are also on the committee, as well as named co-sponsors to the bills. Sen. Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield) was designated as the lone Democratic member of the committee.

Mr. Pavlov said he could not speak to specific instances of such things happening in Michigan, but pointed to the national controversy related to Planned Parenthood that he said prompted the desire to draft some kind of legislation.

The controversy, of course, happened over the summer when The Center for Medical Progress, an anti-abortion organization, secretly recorded and edited a video of Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical research, Deborah Nucatola, talking about procedural techniques to preserve certain organs that can later be donated for research purposes, which is legal. It would be illegal to sell any tissue.

She also says in the video Planned Parenthood is sensitive about being seen as gaining a profit from these donations, and will charge for shipping and other costs the clinic takes on in the course of making donations.

Planned Parenthood has denied selling organs and charged that the video was heavily edited to give a false impression.

Additionally, earlier this week, Planned Parenthood announced it would no longer accept any reimbursement as part of its fetal tissue donation program, Lori Carpentier, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood for mid and south Michigan, said Thursday.

"So it doesn't change anything that will happen for us," Ms. Carpentier said. "In order to take this off the table as a sticking point for our opponents, we're not going to take reimbursement. And to the extent we have any, we'll find ways to cover those costs ourselves."

More important to her and her organization at this point, she said, is the hope that Mr. Pavlov's legislation doesn't have any effects on the "important medical research that comes as a result of fetal tissue donation."

"I think my concern about this is the Legislature may be dinking around in areas where they are unfamiliar with," she said. "As is commonly the case, legislators put these things together ... don't create specifics and often create limbo positions."

But Mr. Pavlov said he is not sold on someone's word.

"When someone tells you you're not doing something, you require them to prove a negative," he said. "Partial birth abortion has been banned, but we just saw through a series of videos that it's still taking place. We're going to make sure we put an end to it and protect the unborn child."

Asked how the language might affect stem cell research or in vitro fertilization procedures, Mr. Pavlov said he did not think it would affect either.

"I think it's pretty clear. Part of the strength of the bill is its simplicity," he said. How it is proven that a person "knowingly" did so is not defined in the bill, however.

Mr. MacGregor did not immediately return a request for comment on when his committee might take up Mr. Pavlov's legislation, but Mr. Pavlov said he just had a conversation with Mr. MacGregor about the matter on Wednesday when the bill was still on Mr. Pavlov's desk.

Domestic Violence Package Clears House

A father who was found by "clear and convincing" evidence to have raped the mother would be denied visitation or custody under bills passed Thursday by the House that create "sensible" protections for the victims of domestic violence.

The lead bill, HB 4481, passed 101-4, would allow a court, after a fact-finding hearing where evidence presented was deemed clear and convincing, to deny custody and visitation with the child to the father.

"Michigan needs to send a message that we stand with the victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape," Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto), sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "Too often in cases of sexual assault and domestic violence, a rapist will use the threat of seeking custody of the child to intimidate pregnant victims into not pressing criminal charges of the attack. It is unthinkable that we would allow this to occur when we have the ability to provide victims with the protection and peace of mind they need in order to heal."

The other bills in the package passed Thursday were HB 4476 and HB 4477, which passed 104-1 and would revise the service of process in actions appealed to the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals if a court order has been issued to prohibit release of the address of the party being served and make changes to the mediation process if domestic violence was involved, respectively.

HB 4478 passed 96-9 and would allow a personal protection order to include a pet. And HB 4479 passed 103-2 and would treat an assault against a pregnant woman the same as domestic violence in terms of repeated offenses.

EAA Official Pleads To Tax Evasion In Corruption Probe

The Education Achievement Authority has been added to the list of Detroit institutions subject to a Federal Bureau of Investigation corruption inquiry with the guilty plea Thursday of former Mumford High School Principal Kenyetta Wilbourn-Snapp.

The Detroit News reported Thursday that investigators had been looking into the relationship between Ms. Wilbourn-Snapp and at least one of the district's contractors.

The district, designed as part of the Snyder administration's efforts to improve school performance, has been the subject of criticism both for its efforts in that direction and for its administrative operations.

The Detroit Free Press reported Thursday afternoon that Ms. Wilbourn-Snapp had accepted a plea in relation to an investigation into kick-backs she received. The paper said documents showed a possible relationship with Allstate Sales and For-Most Educational Consulting and Training Group.

Sara Wurfel, spokesperson for the Snyder administration, declined to comment on the investigation beyond noting, as did a statement from the EAA, that it was an internal review that uncovered financial discrepancies that pointed to the alleged corruption. State and EAA officials had forwarded that information to federal law enforcement.

"Our office was in full coordination in reporting and bringing to light with appropriate state and federal law enforcement agencies," Ms. Wurfel said in an email response.

The district, created through an interlocal agreement between Detroit Public Schools and Eastern Michigan University, was intended to receive struggling schools from around the state but so far has only 15 Detroit schools.

Former Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan had canceled the contract with the EAA to be the sole recipient for any schools taken over by the state for poor performance, in part over concerns raised that the tactics the EAA was employing were not actually improving student achievement.

The district was also slammed for spending on furnishings and travel under its initial chancellor, John Covington.

EAA supporters have been working since early in the last legislative session to codify the EAA to be clear that it had the authority to oversee schools other than in Detroit, but so far have come up short in that effort.

Dems Plan Legislation With Minimum Nurse Staffing Standards

The Michigan Nurses Association on Thursday said a poll commissioned by the group shows 80 percent of voters support having minimum staffing standards for nurses working in the state.

Currently there is no law, but Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) and Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) are planning to introduce legislation in their respective chambers.

"Michigan residents are saying loud and clear that our registered nurses are being forced to care for too many patients at once," Mr. Hoadley said. "Chronic nurse understaffing jeopardizes the care and safety of people in our hospitals every day. The only real solution is to pass a law that gives nurses enough time to spend with each patient and provide individualized care."

The Safe Patient Care Act the lawmakers plan to introduce includes implementing a staffing plan specific to each unit that adheres to minimum nurse-to-patient ratios based on research and national professional standards; limiting mandatory registered nurse overtime to instances of genuine emergencies; disclosing actual registered nurse staffing levels; and informing patients how to report potential violations of the law.

Rep. Larry Inman (R-Williamsburg) said it is time for a public policy conversation on staffing levels for nurses in the state.

"It's just plain wrong that when you go into the hospital, your nurse could have far too many patients to be safe," he said. "A nurse's workload can literally be a matter of life or death for you or your loved

one. This is a case where the government needs to enact reasonable standards to protect all its citizens, and I'm glad to see bipartisan movement toward achieving that."

The poll commissioned by the group also showed 77 percent of voters agree that "the quality of patient care in MI hospitals is suffering because registered nurses are being assigned too many patients per shift." And 44 percent of households with an overnight hospital stay in the past two years believe the quality of care suffered due to nurses having too many patients at one time.

The statewide survey of 600 Michigan voters was commissioned by the Michigan Nurses Association and conducted by telephone (landlines and cell phones) September 8-14 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, a statement said.

Anderson Robbins Research, a Boston firm, conducted the survey and was chosen because it has worked with both nursing and hospital organizations and Democratic and Republican clients, the group said.

Revenues Mostly Steady In September

State revenues were $30.8 million better than expected in September, but entirely because of a $42.6 million reimbursement the state received from the federal government in home heating credit refunds, a Senate Fiscal Agency report released Thursday showed.

Revenues to the School Aid Fund were $38.3 million more than forecast in May, while revenues to the General Fund were $8 million less than expected.

Through September, revenues to the General Fund are $25.9 million below the May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference forecast and revenues to the School Aid Fund are $66.9 million below expectations.

September was the first month since January that sales tax revenues exceeded the year-over-year figure for the month from the previous year.

Net income tax revenues were up 11.6 percent from September 2014. Also up from the previous year was the sales tax (3.3 percent), the state education property tax (13 percent) and the Real Estate Transfer Tax (3.1 percent).

Declining from year-ago levels were the Corporate Income Tax (-14.7 percent), the insurance tax (-95.4 percent) and the oil and gas severance tax (-48.5 percent).

Committee Roundup

PROMISE ZONES: The maximum number of eligible entities that may be certified by the Department of Treasury to establish educational promise zones assisting in affording a postsecondary education would increase from 10 to 15 under legislation reported by the Senate Economic Development and International Investment Committee Thursday.

SB 539 and SB 540 would also require a promise zone development plan to include provisions regarding the assessment and reporting of student performance, as well as allow Treasury to adjust the calculation of captured State Education Tax revenue if the boundaries of a promise zone were changed by a merger or other circumstance.

The bill also requires the property and assets of a dissolved promise zone authority to be used solely for the purposes of promoting access to postsecondary education, but the committee adopted an S-

2 substitute to SB 539 that includes "trigger language" regarding such dissolutions, one legislative aide told the committee. In it, a Promise Zone Development Plan must be submitted to Treasury within five years of a municipality deciding to have such a zone, and once that zone is granted by the state, the municipality must begin awarding scholarships within two years.

Language was also added to ensure Promise Zones include in their development plans how they'll track data on students.

The bills were unanimously reported to the full Senate for consideration.

Capital Notebook: Former President Clinton To Speak At MSU

Former President Bill Clinton is the first recipient of the Spartan Statesmanship Award for Distinguished Public Service and will be the keynote speaker at the Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum on November 18 at Michigan State University.

Mr. Blanchard and his wife, Janet, donated $1 million for the program.

"The goal of this lecture series is to provide generations of students, faculty and people in the MSU community with the opportunity to hear and learn from national and international political leaders and others," Mr. Blanchard said in a statement. "(Mr. Clinton's) public service in politics, followed by his excellent work through the Clinton Foundation, is exactly the type of dedication and inspiring story we hoped to bring through the Blanchard Forum."

Mr. Blanchard was one of Mr. Clinton's most enthusiastic supporters when the then-Arkansas governor ran for president in 1992. After Mr. Clinton won, he named Mr. Blanchard the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

The Department of Political Science in MSU's College of Social Science administers the Blanchard Forum and statesmanship award.

The event will be held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center and will serve as a fundraiser for the program, MSU said in a statement, with proceeds paying for student attendance at this event and future ones.

DEBANO DEPARTS RESTAURANTS ASSOCIATION: Brian DeBano, the president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurants Association, is leaving the organization after four years. A statement from the association said he was leaving to pursue future ventures but did not specify what those would be. Justin Winslow, the association's vice president of government affairs, will serve as interim president and CEO.

"Brian has left the MRA in great shape and for that we sincerely thank him," MRA Board of Directors Chairman Ken Miller said in a statement. "Under his leadership, the association is financially and operationally sound and our strong reputation remains intact. I have no doubt he will be successful in his future ventures."

TALBOT GETS FULL TERM AS CHIEF APPELLATE JUDGE: Court of Appeals Chief Judge Michael Talbot will keep the chief judge title through 2016, under a Supreme Court order released this week. The court named Mr. Talbot to the post in January to fill the remaining year of the term begun by then-Chief Judge William Murphy.

GROUP SUPPORTING ENERGY LEGISLATION STARTS COUNTDOWN CLOCK: Citizens for Michigan's Energy Future, a group that supports energy legislation backed by the chairs of the

House and Senate energy committees, has started a "countdown clock" to mark when some coal-fired plants will be shuttered next year. The site also is designed to let visitors urge legislators to support SB 437 and SB 438 as well as HB 4297 and HB 4298.

"To account for growing capacity concerns, Michigan must responsibly replace the power we will lose due to these plant closures," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, spokeswoman for Citizens for Michigan's Energy Future.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR LEAVING: Michigan Workforce Development Agency Director Christine Quinn is resigning from her position to become regional administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training, the state's Talent Investment Agency announced Thursday.

She will be headquartered at the federal department's regional office in Chicago and assumes her new duties on November 30.

Ms. Quinn will manage a team that oversees a 10-state region including Michigan. The regional office ensures that employment and training programs at the state level reflect the political and socio-economic conditions that impact state and local economies.

"Michigan has been fortunate to have someone of Christine's caliber spearheading these critical workforce development initiatives," said TIA Director Stephanie Comai, in a statement. "She has a genuine passion for helping workers to succeed in this changing economy and for helping employers to meet their talent needs. On behalf of our entire agency, I wish her all the best."

Stephanie Beckhorn, who currently serves as director of programs for the Workforce Development Agency, was named acting director.

COLBECK, HERTEL TO DEBATE ROAD FUNDING: After issuing a challenge to his fellow legislators in either chamber to debate him on why a tax increase is necessary to help pay for the state's ailing infrastructure, Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) has found acceptance to such an invitation from Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing).

The debate is to take place on Tuesday, October 20, between 1:45 and 2:45 p.m., the location to be determined but for sure in Lansing, according to a statement from Mr. Colbeck's office.

Doors are to open at 1:30 p.m., Mr. Colbeck's office said.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, November 4

Michigan Pancreatic Cancer briefing (Hosted by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and sponsored by Celgene Corporation), Mackinac Room, Anderson House Office Building, Lansing, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9

Michigan Railroads Association winter board meeting, Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 20

Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee, Legislative Council Conference Room, Third Floor, Boji Tower, 124 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

Thursday, October 22

Waterways Commission, Council Chambers, Rogers City Hall, 193 East Michigan Avenue, Rogers City, 9 a.m. (8 a.m. Work Session)

Volume #54, Report #206 -- Friday, October 16, 2015

Newsmaker Friday: Price Says Third Grade Reading Took Over Her Heart

The process leading up to the vote on two separate bills related to education policy was "intense," Rep. Amanda Price, who led the charge on legislation to get third-graders reading at grade level and another outlining educator evaluations in the state, told Gongwer News Service.

"I think maybe I can sleep now," Ms. Price said Friday. The House voted Thursday HB 4822, which would set up interventions for students struggling with reading in their early elementary grades and would also retain students if they are not reading proficiently at the end of third grade.

The bill was more controversial than SB 103, outlining educator evaluations, and it took two long session days this week before the third-grade reading bill had enough votes to eventually pass the House 57-48.

"It was a heavy lift," Ms. Price said.

Though a similar bill did come up last term on reading proficiency, it never got enough traction for the full House to bring it up on the floor.

But this term, Governor Rick Snyder also made it a priority. A work group was put together with various lawmakers and stakeholders who met for three hours every Thursday during the summer, Ms. Price said.

"That process was very intense," Ms. Price said.

Ms. Price, during her floor speech on the bill Thursday, said she wouldn't consider herself "fire-y," but when talking with stakeholders on the third grade reading bill, she said it wasn't difficult for her to hold her ground on ideas she thought would harm the legislation.

"It's hard for me not to get fired up about this though," she said. "Every so often there is one piece of legislation that takes over your heart. For me it is this bill. I think it is likely because I love to read so much and I don't want any child to be deprived of that ability."

Ms. Price said her passion originated with hearing the statistics of how many students in the state were not reading proficiently before entering the fourth grade. Using the state assessment, it's 30 percent of kids, she said. But when looking at a more rigorous national assessment, it's almost 70 percent.

Ms. Price said she used to have conversations with former Rep. Joe Haveman about how the state could decrease its prison population, and both agreed it started at early childhood.

"If you start giving children a better education ... then they will have more options in life," she said.

The bill began as a bipartisan effort with Democrats involved in the work group and Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor), the minority vice chair on the Education Committee, and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) co-sponsors on the bill.

However, Democrats ended up offering a variety of amendments that were not adopted to the bill, and the bill passed with only three Democrats voting in support. Mr. Zemke and Mr. Greimel removed their names from the bill.

"I will just be honest," Ms. Price said of losing the Democratic support. "I was very disappointed."

Ms. Price said it is not a partisan issue, but there was a disagreement on how to get increased reading proficiency in the state.

"I don't think anyone disagrees our children's reading scores are too low," she said.

Ms. Price said the retention portion of the bill got too much attention. She said the intervention pieces in the bill are the key. But last term, instead of being in a single bill, the legislation was a package of two. One held the retention portion and the other held the interventions.

Ms. Price said she believes that led to a focus on the retention last term and this one.

"Truly, I do not want to retain any kids," she said.

On the Senate side, Ms. Price said she believes Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, is on board with the bill. She said he was on the work group as well.

"I have every reason to believe it will pass in the Senate," she said.

Another bill that passed this week, SB 103, which outlines educator evaluations in the state, began dramatically but eventually passed with relative ease in the House.

"If you had asked me about that three months ago, I would have (been surprised)," Ms. Price said of the bill passing drama-free.

But Ms. Price said the committee worked hard with stakeholders to get a final product out of committee.

"We were pretty confident when it came out of the committee it would move forward easily," she said.

On what's next for the Education Committee, Ms. Price said Mr. Zemke and Rep. Daniela Garcia (R-Holland), the vice chair of the committee, have been working in a group discussing teacher preparedness.

She also said a debate on how to move forward with Detroit Public Schools is also coming to the committee.

Mr. Snyder has advocated getting state funds help pay off DPS debt and developing a new district in the city.

Ms. Price said she understands where the governor is coming from with his proposal, but also knows her caucus will be hesitant because of the money involved.

She also said she wants something sustainable put in place.

"I am very concerned that whatever is put in place is sustainable and in 10 years we won't be right back here," she said. "That means for me financial stability and academic improvement."

Presumptive Parole Has Uphill Battle In Senate

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof was not shy earlier this week about the fact that his caucus has numerous concerns and questions about a bill allowing presumptive parole for inmates reaching

their earliest release date, and responses from several members of that caucus on Friday only further illustrate the bill is in trouble in the chamber.

"I did not hear one person pushing this at all, and I think it's very telling this wasn't referred to Judiciary committee or the corrections budget (subcommittee) where it should be," Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton) said of general caucus support or opposition to HB 4138.

Indeed, when the House passed the bill earlier this month, Mr. Meekhof sent it to the Senate Government Operations Committee, which tends to serve either as a bill graveyard or a place where very controversial legislation that needs a longer period of time to review goes.

Of the prospects of this bill in particular, Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township) said it was likely the latter. Mr. Kowall said he does not himself have a position on the bill as it was sent over.

"Right now I'm listening to all sides," he said. "There's concerns, rightfully so, with prosecutors and sheriffs. It's a long way from being done."

Having run a small police department himself, Mr. Kowall said, he shares the concerns of some on whether those who would be paroled are still a danger to society and whether they were prior to being locked up.

"It's all the typical concerns over what type of parolees will be looked at to let out, the danger to society, (and) are we letting out people we're afraid of or people we're simply mad at," Mr. Kowall said. "It's all the same discussions that have been going on in the House and it's just going to take a while."

Sen. John Proos (R-St. Joseph), chair of the Senate Appropriations Corrections Subcommittee, said all the conversations are exactly what need to be had for meaningful reform, though. He said his colleagues have been interested in whether HB 4138 would indeed show savings to the cost of corrections, how much, and whether it begins to change the way the department operates "for the benefit of the taxpayers and public safety."

"I have a lot of questions as to what the intent of the bill is and whether or not the intent matches the goals and objectives. If the intent is to save us money, I'm not sure this gets us to the kind of savings we want," he said. "If the intent is to provide the kind of services necessary to reintegrate offenders into Michigan society after they've served their time, I'm not sure this accomplishes that goal either."

Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) earlier this week pointed to Mr. Proos as being one of the lead legislators on the matter as the Senate considers the legislation and other types of Corrections reform. When asked about those alternatives, Mr. Proos listed numerous options, including:

- Continuing investment in law enforcement as the deterrent and as the public safety factor;
- Continuing investment in things like the Swift and Sure program, as well as the pilot program Parole Sanction Certainty (which follow the same model as Swift and Sure on the probation side to ensure parolees are receiving the kind of services they need to prevent them from becoming repeat offenders, he said); and
- A continued effort to ensure the cost structure in the Department of Corrections is "closely aligned with private sector costs so as to get the best taxpayer value possible," he said.

In fact, those issues are so central to this matter, Mr. Proos said, that he expects to have a hearing to discuss prisoner education, the positives and negatives of that expenditure, and whether it's meeting present-day job needs in various communities.

"After all, every three-to-four years, we parole the entire population of the Department of Corrections," he said. "If the folks are not prepared for parole, the question should be asked, why aren't they?"

He continued, "You have to peel away all the misinformation that exists on all sides of the issues and try to get to the root cause and the root problem. This isn't just a discussion about finances, it's not just a discussion about criminals, it has to be a more comprehensive and broad conversation about corrections, the judiciary and law enforcement and our entire criminal justice system."

Of the House plan, he said it calls into question "the most salient question about parole" in that some offenders are not as ready as others to go before the Parole Board before their earliest release date.

But Ms. Schuitmaker, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who also served on the House committee during her time there, said the rate at which Michigan already paroles most of its prisoners is exactly why the legislation isn't necessary.

"We've done a lot in probation and swift and sure ... to try to rehabilitate people or hold them accountable to break the cycle of crime," she said. "I think the statistics don't bear it out and most people are let out within their first year of their earliest release date.

"I think also, we've had two reports from (Council of State Governments) come in and dispel the myth that we have all these people in prison that shouldn't be there," Ms. Schuitmaker said. "I think when you take a look at how we rank comparatively, we send fewer people initially to prison than surrounding states and that's why you see on the back-end that we keep more people. Michigan does a good job keeping people with substance abuse problems out of prison."

And the cost savings are "minimal" at best, she said.

As to the chance the bill might have in the Senate, especially in the immediate future, Mr. Proos said his hope is simply that the bill takes the time necessary for such a monumental change.

"We'll look at the positives and negatives of the House package and take that into account as it relates to comprehensive reform and criminal justice," he said. "I commend the House for working on a package that has opened the door to real conversations (about Corrections)."

EPA Creates Drinking Water Task Force For Flint

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday it had developed a Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force to provide technical assistance to the city and the Department of Environmental Quality as they work through the water issues in the city.

The task force will be led by Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator Susan Hedman and will assist with developing and implementing a plan to secure water quality, including measures to optimize corrosion control, it said. Task force members will also be available for consultation purposes, as well as to coordinate, as necessary, with federal, state and local public health agencies to assist with protection of public health.

"EPA is committed to working with our state and local partners to ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply for the residents of Flint, Michigan," Ms. Hedman said in a statement. "The formation of

this task force continues our commitment to providing technical assistance to the city of Flint and the state of Michigan."

The task force is intended to provide technical guidance for both the coming switch back to the Detroit Water and Sewerage System and, once it is completed, to the new pipeline from Lake Huron by the Karegnondi Water Authority. The various officials and experts are intended to be available on-site in Flint.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said the switch back to Detroit water was expected to be completed by 5 p.m. Friday, earlier than expected.

The DEQ welcomed the additional assistance, spokesperson Brad Wurfel said. "We are glad to have the continued technical support and counsel from our federal partners," he said." We have been working closely with the U.S. EPA on the challenges in Flint, including its added presence on the city's technical advisory and the Governor's 10-point plan. This is welcome news and we anticipate it will help us implement the Governor's strategy."

Elected officials from the region also hailed the EPA's assistance.

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Flint) said he had requested the EPA send in advisors.

"I welcome the EPA's announcement today that they'll be sending technical advisors to Flint to assist the city and MDEQ on site with ensuring the safety of Flint's water," Mr. Kildee said in a statement. "The task force is a result of letters and phone calls over the past week with Administrator McCarthy and the EPA. In those communications, I repeatedly requested that the EPA send technical advisors to Flint to help with the transition of water sources. I am pleased to see that within a week the EPA has responded positively to my request, and I'm hopeful that this announcement is a step forward for the future of Flint's water."

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) also took some credit for the additional assistance being lent to Flint.

"All Michiganders deserve access to safe and clean drinking water, and the increased lead levels found in the Flint water system are simply unacceptable. I personally raised this issue with EPA Administrator McCarthy and have called on the EPA to provide the necessary resources and technical expertise to help ensure the water system is safe for drinking, cooking and bathing," Mr. Peters said in a statement. "All levels of government need to work together to prevent this type of situation from ever happening again, and the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force is a good first step."

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) was also pleased to hear the news.

"The EPA plays an important role in managing Flint's crisis recovery. We should work closely with them and consider whether they may be able to offer additional support," Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said. "I also hope the EPA will be able to help us determine what happened and provide us with a solid oversight framework going forward. It's crucial that we take steps to ensure this never happens again."

The Task Force will be comprised of scientists and technical experts from the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago, the National Risk Management Research Lab in Cincinnati and the EPA drinking water program. In addition, EPA will ask Governor Rick Snyder to designate a DEQ official and the Mayor of Flint to designate a city official to serve as points of contact for the Task Force, the EPA said.

Bishop Shows Slight Lead Over Gilbert In Funds With All Reports In

U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop was able to outraise Democratic challenger Melissa Gilbert, but not by much, his quarterly campaign finance report showed.

Mr. Bishop (R-Rochester) raised $213,962 for the quarter compared to the $200,372 Ms. Gilbert raised (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 15, 2015). But his $396,776 in cash gave him a substantial funding head start in the race. He has raised $529,352 total for the cycle. He also brought in $2,975 total for the cycle from other authorized funds.

He did, though, still have $31,872 in debt.

Paul Mitchell is leading the race to succeed U.S. Rep. Candice Miller (R-Harrison Township), at least based on funding, reporting $328,025 raised in his first quarter in the race. He had $363,758 cash on hand but also had a $250,000 loan from himself as part of those funds.

Ms. Miller, as she wound down her campaign, still had $739,721 in cash, though she raised nothing for the quarter and only $7,675 for the cycle.

Democrat Paul Clements does have a way to go to catch U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) on fundraising. Mr. Upton reported collecting $235,000 for the quarter and $1.28 million so far for the cycle. He had $829,168 in cash.

Among his total funding, Mr. Upton had $67,493 for the quarter and $89,790 for the cycle from other authorized committees.

U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek (R-Crystal Falls), had he chosen to run, would have been substantially behind his likely Democratic challenger, at least in current fundraising. Mr. Benishek reported raising $119,903 for the quarter and $633,467 for the cycle. He showed $446,341 cash on hand, which was more than Lon Johnson, but still had outstanding debts of $89,500.

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE: U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Tipton) slightly outraised challenger Rep. Gretchen Driskell (D-Saline) for the quarter. In addition to the $133,160 his campaign raised in contributions for the quarter, his leadership fund, the Walberg Victory Fund, transferred $77,970 to his campaign committee. That fund provided him $93,844 in total for the cycle. Those receipts were included in his $922,034 in cash on hand reported Thursday.

Supreme Court Vacates Appellate Ruling On MCCA, FOIA

The Supreme Court in a unanimous order has vacated a Court of Appeals ruling holding that the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and remanded the case to the appellate court for further action.

Specifically, the Supreme Court vacated the conclusion of the Court of Appeals that the establishment of the MCCA did not violate Article IV, Section 25 of the Constitution, which requires the section or sections of any act altered or amended by a bill to be re-enacted and published at length.

The MCCA statute specifically exempts the records of the association from being public, but the Legislature did not also amend the FOIA to exempt MCCA records.

In its order regarding *CPAN v. Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association* (SC Docket No. 150001), the Supreme Court said the Court of Appeals on remand should rule on an issue it left untouched in

its first ruling - whether the MCCA is a public body. If it is a public body, then it should again decide whether the statute creating it violated the Constitution's requirement that all statutes amended should be re-enacted and published.

If it is not a public body, then the entire issue is moot because then the MCCA would not fall under the jurisdiction of the FOIA.

The Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault and others have urged the opening up of MCCA records. Insurers, which run the MCCA, have resisted the change.

The Supreme Court held arguments Tuesday on whether to grant leave to appeal (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 13, 2015).

Major points of discussion during those arguments were the question of whether the MCCA is a public body and whether the Legislature erred in not amending the Freedom of Information Act.

Attorneys for the two sides vigorously disagreed on whether the MCCA is a public body with CPAN contending it is and the MCCA arguing it is not.

In a statement, CPAN general counsel George Sinas said he expected CPAN to prevail on the question of whether the MCCA is a public body.

"When the Michigan Legislature publicly creates such entities through its legislative power, the entity created should be considered a 'public body' and therefore be subject to FOIA," he said. "This allows that all interested citizens who impacted by that entity will have the ability to learn the truth about the way it operates."

Snyder Names Task Force To Draft Special Education Changes

Governor Rick Snyder announced Friday a new task force to turn the comments Lt. Governor Brian Calley collected over the summer on special education into new policy recommendations on special education.

Mr. Calley started his listening tour on special education at about the same time the Department of Education was seeing substantial backlash to a package of administrative rules changes that opponents said would give more power to school districts to limit or deny services.

Among the key recommendations Mr. Calley collected from his public meetings and online surveys was stronger language controlling how districts use restraint and seclusion to control behavior.

He had asked the State Board of Education, when he presented his findings to that body (See Gongwer Michigan Report, September 8, 2015), for help developing a dispute resolution process.

Mr. Snyder is seeking quick work from the task force, asking for a final report before the end of the year.

"This group will help us remain focused on putting Michigan's special needs children and their families front-and-center when considering reforms to this vital component in our educational system," Mr. Snyder said.

In addition to Mr. Calley, who will chair the panel, the task force includes education board members Michelle Fecteau (D-Detroit) and Eileen Weiser (R-Ann Arbor).

Legislators on the panel include Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-Saint Clair), Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor), Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston) and Rep. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park).

Karen McPhee, Mr. Snyder's education adviser, as well as Walled Lake Schools elementary teacher Melody Arabo, who was Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2014-15 will also participate, as will Mary Bouwense, president of the Grand Rapids Education Association and a special education teacher; Elmer Cerano, executive director of Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service; Teri Chapman, director of the Department of Education Office of Special Education; Diane Heinzelman director of special education for Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District and chair of the Michigan Autism Council; Laura Jones, founder of Special Education Advocacy and Development; Scott Koenigsknecht, superintendent of the Ingham Intermediate School District; and Marcie Lipsitt, founder of Michigan Alliance for Special Education.

Appeals Court Upholds Registry For New Non-Sex Convictions

The requirement, added in 2011, that those who have a prior criminal sexual conduct conviction who commit a new felony have to register as sex offenders is a recidivist law and so is constitutional, the Court of Appeals said in a case released Friday.

Anthony Tucker, who was required to register after pleading guilty to felonious assault and domestic violence charges, argued the law was unconstitutional because it added to the penalty of his prior offense. He had been released from probation for a 1990 assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct conviction before the registry took effect in October 1995.

Mr. Tucker argued the new provision requiring him to register was an ex post facto addition to that earlier charge.

The court, in a per curiam published decision signed by Judge Joel Hoekstra, Judge Kathleen Jansen and Judge Patrick Meter (*People v. Tucker*, COA docket No. 322151), found the law met the standards for a recidivist statute.

"Defendant's registration was not required until he committed another felony in 2013," the court said. "His 1990 conviction was used to enhance the consequences of his 2013 felony, which was committed after the effective date of the statute."

To be considered ex post facto, the law would have had to require Mr. Tucker to register immediately on its effective date based on his prior conviction, the court said.

The court also rejected Mr. Tucker's argument that the prohibition on him being in school safety zones and the requirement that he register in person were cruel and unusual punishment. The court, citing a variety of prior cases, found the provisions were not punishment.

CONDOMINIUM OWNERS: Residents of a condominium are on their own land and so cannot sue for slip and fall injuries, the court said (*Francescutti v. Fox Chase Condominium Association*, COA docket No. 323111).

Michael Francescutti sued after such a fall, arguing the association was negligent for not keeping the snow and ice from the walks. The association countered that it was an open and obvious hazard.

Judge David Sawyer, joined by Judge Elizabeth Gleicher and Judge William Murphy, said the association owed Mr. Francescutti no duty as a lessor because it was not. He, as a unit owner, was a co-owner of the common area where he fell.

"Defendant is not leasing the common areas to plaintiff under a lease and, therefore, it is not a 'lessor'," Mr. Sawyer said.

Nor, because he is a co-owner, is he an invitee or a licensee owed any duty of care by the association, Mr. Sawyer said.

Campaign Notes

FARM BUREAU ENDORSES WHITEFORD: The Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPAC has endorsed Rep. Mary Whiteford of Allegan in the 80th House District special election.

Ms. Whiteford is up against seven other Republicans in the special election primary for the seat, which was vacated when former Rep. Cindy Gamrat was expelled. Ms. Gamrat is also running for re-election.

The Farm Bureau also endorsed Ms. Whiteford in her 2014 bid.

Capital Notebook: Court Again Continues Hearing In State, HP Case

Kent Circuit Judge Christopher Yates continued the hearing held Friday on the state's request for a preliminary injunction ordering Hewlett Packard to turn over the source code for the Business Application Modernization project for the Department of State and assist the department with an orderly transition following the state's termination of HP's contract.

Department spokesperson Gisgie Davila Gendreau said the two sides have agreed on a transition plan and that HP agreed to provide the source code by Monday until the judge rules on the state's request.

The hearing will continue November 2.

TOURISM SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP RFP: Travel Michigan has issued a request for proposals for a contractor to create a series of regional workshops and materials to educate Michigan's travel industry on utilizing social media to promote their destinations and better engage with Pure Michigan.

The RFP seeks a contractor to educate members of the state's tourism industry on the latest social media strategies, trends and best practices; organize and host a series of regional, in-person workshops and develop a Social Media Tourism Toolkit; create and maintain a social media Resource Library and provide industry members with a self-assessment workbook that will allow them to audit their social media efforts and presence.

Application questions will be due via email by 3 p.m. Eastern Time on October 22, 2015, a q-and-a posted to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation website on October 28 and electronic proposal submissions due by 3 p.m. on November 4, 2015.

The complete RFP can be viewed online at http://www.michiganbusiness.org/public-notices-rfps/

BONE MARROW STANDARDS: The Certificate of Need Commission announced Friday that the members of its Bone Marrow Transplant Standards Advisory Committee had been posted on its website.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 20

Administrative Board/Building Committee, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Agenda)
Administrative Board/Finance and Claims Committee, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Agenda)
Administrative Board/Transportation and Natural Resources, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Natural Resources Agenda)

Wednesday, October 21

Natural Resources Trust Fund, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, 9 a.m. (Agenda)

Thursday, October 22

Canceled: ~~State Police Retirement Board, Conference Room A, First Floor, General Office Building, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.~~

Subscribers Please Note

An item in Thursday's Capital Notebook contained the incorrect year through which Court of Appeals Chief Judge Michael Talbot's term as chief judge runs. It runs through 2017.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:52 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

From: MIRS Delivery [mailto:mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:36 AM
To: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB) <fullerm@michigan.gov>
Subject: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2112

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Dan **WYANT** today admitted staffers in his department mishandled the city of Flint's water situation, pointing to departmental issues with experience and protocol in corrosion control efforts.

Wyant said in a statement that staff used a federal protocol they believed was appropriate. Those testing steps "would have been correct for a city less than 50,000 people, but not for a city of nearly 100,000," he said.

In response to that finding, DEQ Chief Deputy Jim **SYGO** was named the interim chief of the department's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance.

Wyant said he was convinced the staff involved in the program believed they were doing their job right, and that the state took appropriate steps once it became clear there could be a health threat to Flint residents.

"We are now embarked on an unprecedented effort to safeguard Flint residents and families with near-term, intermediate and long-term actions to protect and educate city

residents," he said. "We will learn from this. We will make necessary changes to see to it that our program becomes a national leader in public health protection."

In addition to the staffing change, Gov. Rick **SNYDER** has reportedly called for an independent, third party after-action review. The department is also working with the federal government and is "committed to being part of the U.S. EPA's effort to strengthen its Lead and Copper Rule," Wyant said.

"All who brought this issue to the department deserve credit for bringing it forward," he added. "Lead is a serious issue, particularly for young people, and we take it seriously."

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Volume #54, Report #207 -- Monday, October 19, 2015

DPS, Debt Rising, At Risk Of Default Without State Action, Snyder Says

It will take $715 million from the state over 10 years to extract public education in Detroit from the debt the Detroit Public Schools has piled up, as well as putting together a new governance structure, Governor Rick Snyder said Monday.

Mr. Snyder unveiled a slightly revised plan to overhaul K-12 public education in Detroit from the one he announced in April, and as was the case then, the proposal faces major challenges in clearing the Legislature. Mr. Snyder said he wants legislative approval by the end of the year to ensure the new structure is ready to launch with the start of the district's next fiscal year in July. He said he anticipated formal introduction of the legislation in about a week.

There were two big differences in the proposal: a voluntary instead of mandatory common enrollment system for both charter and traditional public schools in the city, and a bigger financial ask of the Legislature.

Pegged at $483 million in April, DPS debt is now at $515 million as a result of spending exceeding revenues. Mr. Snyder said the new Detroit district he would recommend to take over running DPS classrooms needs another $100 million for investments and working capital, and then another $100 million to cover operating losses once the district's 2016-17 fiscal year begins July 1, 2016, that are the result of declining enrollment and the need to find cost savings.

Under Mr. Snyder's plan, the district's $715 million in debt would stay with the old district and the 18-mill tax on all property other than principal residences in the district would go toward paying down the debt. The millage raises $70 million a year, so it would take 10 years to pay off the debt, Mr. Snyder said.

The catch is the 18 mills, like all school districts, goes to the state School Aid Fund, so the state would have to make up those funds.

Without state intervention, DPS could default on its debt as soon as February, Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said. Mr. Snyder said the state would have to cover Detroit Public Schools' debt and retiree benefits should the district fall into bankruptcy, and that would cost all school districts much more than $715 million, describing that burden as "billions."

Mr. Snyder said he hoped the Legislature could come together to support the plan much as it did to bring the city of Detroit's government out of bankruptcy.

"Isn't this important to help the kids of Detroit? We're all Michiganders," he said. "Just like we did with the Grand Bargain, we recognized that there's benefit in helping one another when someone has issues. Look at the benefit to the city of Detroit today, how it's helping the whole state of Michigan by its comeback in terms of perception and business development."

The major components of the plan are the same as what Mr. Snyder proposed in April.

A Detroit Education Commission, appointed by the governor and Detroit mayor, would be established and in charge of hiring a chief education officer. That official would operate a common enrollment system encompassing DPS schools, charter schools and the Education Achievement Authority schools, but in the biggest change from the April plan, it would be voluntary to participate.

Charter schools had criticized the April plan's lumping them in with DPS.

The chief education officer would have the authority to close any school for low performance.

The current Detroit school board would remain with the old school district that only is in charge of paying down debt. A new school board would be created for the new district, jointly appointed by the governor and the mayor but eventually fully elected by Detroit voters by 2021.

In a new piece from the April plan, the city's Financial Review Commission, created as part of the Grand Bargain to bring the city out of bankruptcy, would oversee the district's finances until the debt is repaid. It would have a slightly different membership that does not include city government-specific appointees.

Despite the loss of $70 million a year for 10 years for the School Aid Fund, Mr. Snyder said projected growth in School Aid Fund revenues means that helping reconstruct public education in Detroit will not lead to cuts for other school districts' funding. He said he still anticipated increasing funding to all school districts.

"The amount of that could be somewhat less than it would be, but again, there will be no cuts," he said.

The final plan could look much different than what Mr. Snyder has outlined. He, and others, said bill drafting continues, and top Republicans said it would be a big lift. Additionally, Detroit Democrats raised concerns about returning control of the schools to an elected school board.

Detroit Public Schools has been run by a governor-appointed emergency manager since 2009, with its school board reduced to virtually no role.

Several Detroit Democrats, in a joint statement, said there were some positive aspects to the plan, but concerning pieces as well. They focused on the need for academic improvement and local control.

"The Detroit Caucus and I are committed to finding a solution to improve our Detroit Public Schools so that we can find solutions to improve Detroit's schools," said Rep. Brian Banks (D-Detroit), the Detroit Caucus chair. "The state has controlled DPS for many years, and it has been a failure. We have to find a better way, and we believe that way lies through local control. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to address all of the issues surrounding DPS."

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: The legislation is expected to start in the Senate. Sen. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart), the chair of the Senate K-12, School Aid and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, said he will sponsor some components of the package.

Mr. Hansen said he did not want to discuss specifics in the plan because work continues to develop the legislation, even on the question of whether $715 million is the amount of money the state needs to address. As to Mr. Snyder's goal of passing the legislation before the end of the year, Mr. Hansen hesitated.

"We need to make sure it gets done right," he said. "I'm not going to set an artificial timetable."

But Mr. Hansen also said completing the legislation by the end of the year would be good "because of the complexity of it and the time it would need to get instituted."

Amber McCann, spokesperson for Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), said the Senate Republican Caucus is eager to review the details of the plan. The $70 million a year for 10 years is "going to be quite a lift," Ms. McCann said.

"It's a big commitment. It's a long-term commitment," she said.

As to the end of the year timetable, Ms. McCann said it is ambitious, but not out of the question.

Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw Township), the House Appropriations K-12 School Aid Subcommittee chair who called Mr. Snyder's April plan inadequate, sounded the same message Monday.

"I think this is just something that's going to require a little more imagination and a lot more boldness than this," he said. "I think the whole idea of replacing one command and control edifice for another isn't going to get the job done."

Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant), said Mr. Cotter's comments on the April plan still stand.

In those comments, Mr. Cotter called for "no raids" on the School Aid Fund. He said that fund exists to pay for education for all Michigan pupils, not to pay off the legacy debt of one district.

Until bills are introduced, it is not possible to say whether the Legislature could complete action on them this year, Mr. D'Assandro said.

As to how House Republicans would react to the $715 million figure, Mr. D'Assandro said, "I think everybody knew there was a big problem there and everybody knew it was going to be a pretty substantial fix that was needed."

TEPID REACTIONS: Like the first plan, reaction was tepid. The American Federation of Teachers-Michigan, which represents Detroit teachers, said the plan tends toward too much state control.

Charter school groups had a mixed reaction.

"Based on what we've seen, we have concerns with any plan that takes decisions out of the hands of parents and puts them in the hands of a single, politically appointed person," Dan Quisenberry, president of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, said in a statement. "We need to raise student achievement in Detroit and solve DPS's financial situation, and from what we've seen and heard, this proposal does neither. We look forward to seeing the legislation that comes out of this, and having the charter school community continue being an active part of the discussion."

Jared Burkhart, executive director of the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers, said only that the organization was happy to see Mr. Snyder's interest in a system of "robust accountability" in Detroit and looked forward to working with the governor and legislators on the issue.

Mistakes In Flint Water Change Mean Leadership Change At DEQ

Department of Environmental Quality officials failed to follow proper treatment and testing protocols when Flint moved from the Detroit water system to drawing from the Flint River and took too long to fix the problem once they discovered their error.

Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant said his staff in the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance thought they were using the right protocols in testing Flint water, but he removed the head of that office in the wake of Governor Rick Snyder calling for an independent review of the state's actions in the situation.

But legislators from the region, and a water quality expert who has helped to test some of the Flint water, chastised state and federal regulators involved for trying only to preserve their own reputations when trouble with the water system began to emerge.

Mr. Wyant said DEQ staff made honest mistakes in how they handled the water source switch.

"It recently has become clear that our drinking water program staff made a mistake while working with the city of Flint. Simply stated, staff employed a federal protocol they believed was appropriate, and it was not," Mr. Wyant said in a statement announcing he had appointed Jim Sygo as interim head of the drinking water office. "The water testing steps followed would have been correct for a city less than 50,000 people, but not for a city of nearly 100,000."

Liane Smith, the former head of the drinking water office, has been reassigned within the department.

"It's an issue of leadership going forward given that this is a very difficult issue, and it's an issue of experience with corrosion controls and a recognition that we needed stronger leadership in that role to address both of those," Mr. Wyant told Gongwer News Service.

"Jim has more leadership experience - and this issue is going to require leadership - and we will identify corrosion control expertise that we will bring to the table," he said.

Mr. Wyant said Ms. Smith would remain with the department and be given other duties "as assigned", but also that her long-term duties in the department could depend on the outcome of the third-party after-action review.

Mr. Sygo will lead the office temporarily, with a national search planned to find a new director.

Mr. Wyant said he would also be reviewing his own connections with his management staff.

"I do have to look at my own policies to be sure I've got a mechanism to identify these issues and flag them sooner," he said.

But he said the issue in Flint is being addressed now. "We feel we have an action plan in place that addresses lead exposure both the long term, intermediate and short term," he said.

Mr. Wyant said his staff apparently did not have the experience with corrosion control needed to know how to properly monitor the system, but he also put some of the fault on the federal standards.

"I'm coming to the conclusion there needs to be some changes to the federal rule to allow us to be more protective of public health," he said.

Marc Edwards, a professor at Virginia Tech and an expert in drinking water corrosion controls, said documents he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act showed state officials should have known the city had to implement corrosion controls and instead worked to cover up the issue.

He pointed out several emails from earlier this year where officials said a corrosion study on the system was warranted but should not be started because the city would again change its water source before the study is completed.

"I think it started innocently enough. ... It's possible that they didn't understand the federal rule," Mr. Edwards told Gongwer News Service. "By early 2015, this problem became too big to ignore. ...

Even if they did not understand the rule, they should have taken much more aggressive steps to get this problem fixed."

To Mr. Wyant's offer to work with federal officials to improve the rule, Mr. Edwards said there is room for such improvement, but the current rule should have prevented the issues faced in Flint.

"The rule in fact did require them to have corrosion control," he said. "The rule does require them to take samples and, if they had done that correctly, people would have been told much sooner there was a problem."

Mr. Edwards said he had talked to Mr. Wyant on Monday and had agreed to Mr. Wyant's request for assistance.

"I will do whatever I can to make sure this doesn't happen again," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said recent documents indicate state and federal officials were working more to back up their earlier findings than to ensure the water was safe.

"The latest developments in the Flint water crisis raise more troubling questions. It is clear from several now available documents that certain DEQ and EPA staff chose to put their reputations ahead of the safety and health of Flint citizens," Mr. Ananich said in a statement. "We do not know whether the misapplication of federal rules was intentional or due to negligence. That's why the Legislature needs to have a robust role in any investigation, and in ensuring those responsible for Flint's water crisis are held accountable."

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon called for Mr. Wyant to be replaced.

"This was not an issue of experience and protocol. It is a question of competency and judgment. DEQ employees were not provided with the leadership and training necessary to do their jobs in this situation, and Mr. Wyant clearly lacks the judgment needed to do his," Mr. Dillon said in a statement. "You don't get to learn on the job when it comes to the well-being of Michigan's children and families. You may be able to fix the problem of Flint's drinking water going forward, but the damage done to the health of thousands of Flint's children is irreversible."

Spokespersons for Mr. Snyder could be reached, but The Detroit News reported that Mr. Snyder told its newspaper's editorial board that Mr. Wyant is doing a "great job" responding to the situation and that the initial focus is on the staff who personally handled the issue.

James Clift with the Michigan Environmental Council said his group has concerns over how much autonomy cities have in conducting the water testing. "Financially, the city has an incentive to not find a problem," he said, even though the protocols call for trying to test the likely worst homes.

Mr. Clift said cities also need to be required to let residents know that they could be at risk. "To the extent that people have these lead leads in their homes, do they know it," he said. The records of those connections should be computerized, he said.

HFA Report: Medicaid Will Need More GF To Meet Match

When the state has to contribute funds to finance the Healthy Michigan Medicaid Expansion program, it will need to use more General Funds, or find another source of revenues, a report by the House Fiscal Agency said.

But if the Healthy Michigan plan is discontinued, then the Legislature will also have to find more money from GF to cover annual savings Healthy Michigan provides the state now and to cover the loss of funds generate by the Health Insurance Claims Assessment as well as the use tax charged against Medicaid managed care organizations.

In addition, the HFA report said, the Legislature will need to make some fixes to the act that created Healthy Michigan because "the current statutory formula doesn't work mathematically."

With the addition of Healthy Michigan, which covers about 600,000 people whose incomes are up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, Medicaid provides health insurance to nearly 20 percent of the state's residents, the report said.

Approving Healthy Michigan was one of the most contentious issues of 2013, and in approving the program, the Legislature chose not to create a reserve program - that Governor Rick Snyder had proposed - that could help the state cover the federal cut in funding beginning in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

In addition, the legislative approval created two conditions under which Healthy Michigan could be ended: if the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid does not approve a new waiver the state has submitted by December 31 and if the costs of meeting the federal match exceed savings for the program.

Under the call for states to expand Medicaid enrollment to low-income individuals and families, in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the federal government promised to pay 100 percent of the cost of the additional coverage for the first three years. The federal match will then be set at 95 percent in calendar year 2017, and be phased down to 90 percent by 2021-22.

In terms of simple cash payments, the General Fund amount needed to meet the match will start at $137 million in 2016-17 to $356 million in 2020-21.

However, including the offset of the some $235 million in net savings, the state will not actually see an expenditure until the 2018-19 fiscal year, a total of $55 million, the House Fiscal Agency report said. By 2021-22, the expenditure would be an estimated $89 million.

That means the Legislature would have to pull more money out of the General Fund to cover the program, unless an alternate revenue source were found.

But there are other technical factors that could affect the overall savings and costs, especially in terms of when the Healthy Michigan costs exceed its savings (the report did not guess at a time when that might happen).

One of the most significant factors is how the level of state retainer savings will be set under the hospital provider assessment the state now charges. The current formula doesn't work mathematically, the HFA said, so the Legislature will need to change that in law, and when it does, it could set those savings at higher levels than currently forecast. The state also had not yet calculated the savings it is seeing by reducing the amount of uncompensated care it was paying for individuals who were uninsured, needed treatment and were unable to pay their expenses, the report said.

Veterans, Businesses Tout Support For Prevailing Wage

Two groups on Monday held separate press conferences opposing repeal of the prevailing wage, calling on legislators to support the policy because it's good for veterans and the state's small businesses.

"When I got out of the military, I looked at a lot of different jobs, but going into the trades is what suited me. Veterans will be hurt more than any other group (by a repeal)," said Jesse Stevens, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

Citizens Protecting Michigan Taxpayers, a group seeking to repeal the prevailing wage law, has submitted some 391,000 signatures in support of its efforts. It awaits a recommendation from the Bureau of Elections as to the validity of those petitions.

Presuming the Board of State Canvassers determines sufficient signatures of registered voters, then the Legislature has 40 days to pass the proposal, which would make a repeal law. Or it could take no action and let the proposal go to the November 2016 ballot. The former is widely expected, but backers of prevailing wage are trying to stop that scenario.

Dave Waymire, spokesperson for Michigan Prevails, a group in support of maintaining the prevailing wage law, estimated that of the 568,000 veterans in the state, about 10 percent were working construction and skilled trades.

Repealing prevailing wage could also hurt the sustainability of the skilled trades at a time when Governor Rick Snyder is seeking to invest even more in those fields to fill the demand for such jobs, one veteran said.

"Our Local 252 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) spends over $1 million a year to train apprentices," said Matthew Charles, an Army veteran who is currently a first-year electrician in an apprenticeship program. "I appreciate people saying, 'Thank you for your service,' but now we have politicians who say they want to thank me for my service by ending prevailing wage. This will cut opportunity, pay and benefits for construction workers who are veterans in Michigan, and that's not right."

Repealing the prevailing wage is also a slight to local businesses that have weathered the Michigan economic storms, said Jim Judd, owner of Master Craft Carpet Services in Plymouth.

"Michigan is coming back from a decades-long decline and this attempted repeal of the prevailing wage does nothing to help our comeback," he said in a press call separate from the veteran's event, both held on Monday. "(It) rewards out-of-state businesses that often don't provide jobs for our friends, family and neighbors."

Another business owner, Donna Pardonnet from Architectural Contractors Trade Association, said she has had first-hand experience that tells her Michigan contractors would face "unfair" competition from out-of-state corporations "that avoid paying taxes by paying workers under the table."

"They will be forced to compete with operations that promote unsafe worksites and with operations that replace skilled Michigan tradespeople with unskilled workers from out of state," she said.

Mr. Judd and Ms. Pardonnet are among dozens of business owners who signed and sent a letter to the Legislature urging lawmakers to protect Michigan's prevailing wage laws.

Both groups argued that an earlier suspension of the law in the 1990s did not lead to cost savings, as fewer contractors bid on public projects.

But Chris Fisher, president of Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan, said prevailing wage is "decidedly anti-taxpayer."

"Most credible studies prove that prevailing wage kills jobs and wastes tax dollars because it isn't hard to figure out that when you let unions rig the bidding process, prices will go up," he said. "Michigan's one of just six states where prevailing wage is based exclusively on union agreements. It's time to put taxpayers in charge instead of giving big labor a blank check with our tax dollars."

Hospital Report Says Improved Practices Netted Savings, Improved Lives

A report by the Michigan Health and Hospital Association said Monday that ongoing improvements in overall patient care has both saved money and improved overall outcomes for patients, including saving lives.

Significantly, the improvements include a 34 percent cut in deaths from septic shock from 2011 to 2014, the report said.

And in 2014 alone, hospitals saved more than $100 million in overall costs by reducing the number of readmissions by more than 10,000 cases.

The report said from 2010 to 2014, hospitals were able to reduce early elective births by 60 percent, which meant healthier mothers and babies. Approximately 2,900 births were affected.

And from 2012 to 2014, state hospitals were able to cut the use of catheters by 27 percent, which reduced the risk of overall infection.

Campaign Notes

PAC TAUNTS COURSER, GAMRAT WITH BUMPER STICKERS: The Progress Michigan Action Fund is selling bumper stickers in the 80th and 82nd House Districts where special elections are taking place to replace expelled former Rep. Cindy Gamrat and resigned former Rep. Todd Courser. In Ms. Gamrat's district, the bumper sticker says, "Todd's Girlfriend, Republican for State Representative," and in Mr. Courser's district, the bumper sticker says, "Cindy's Boyfriend, Republican for State Representative."

SBAM ENDORSES WHITEFORD; SPLITS ON 82ND DISTRICT: The Small Business Association of Michigan's political action committee has endorsed Republican Mary Whiteford of Casco Township in the special election in the 80th House District where former Rep. Cindy Gamrat was expelled. In the 2014 primary, Ms. Whiteford received the PAC's seal of approval.

In the 82nd District, where former Rep. Todd Courser resigned, the group said it had given stamps of approval to both Republican Jan Peabody of Lapeer and Republican Gary Howell of Lapeer.

GILBERT DONATIONS: Republicans used recent campaign finance filings to again hit Melissa Gilbert, candidate for the 8th U.S. House District as well as former television star, with her tax problems.

Ms. Gilbert has said in prior statements that she is working with the Internal Revenue Service and California tax officials to repay tax debts, but Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ronna Romney McDaniel said she should use at least one of her campaign contributions toward that end: the $5,400 she received from actor husband Timothy Busfield.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 20

Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Special Meeting)
Administrative Board/Transportation and Natural Resources, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Natural Resources Agenda; Transportation Agenda)

Friday, October 23

Civil Rights Commission, Partrich Auditorium, Wayne State University Law School, 471 West Palmer, Detroit, 12 p.m. (Interviews of director candidates)

Tuesday, October 27

Canceled: ~~Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m.~~

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, October 20

Senate Local Government (Committee Record), **(Chr. Zorn, 373-5323), 100, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.**

HB 4039 **PROPERTY TAX** (Bumstead) Revises delinquent tax notice by publication. (Testimony Only)

HB 4212 **COUNTY BOARDS** (Victory) Eliminates sunset on the transfer of functions from a county road commission to the county board of commissioners.

HB 4215 **COUNTIES** (Victory) Eliminates sunset on powers and duties of county road commissioners to be exercised by the county board of commissioners.

SB 350 **CARRIER PIGEONS** (Hopgood) Requires compliance with local ordinances and regulations and prohibits the enactment of local ordinances that prohibit the keeping of carrier pigeons. (Testimony Only)

SB 394 **RENTAL HOUSING** (Robertson) Allows certain townships to conduct inspections of rental housing.

Senate Finance (Committee Record), **(Chr. Brandenburg, 373-5312), Room 210, Farnum Building, 2:30 p.m.**

HB 4461 **REFUND INTEREST** (McCready) modifies timeline for interest claims on refunds.

HB 4462 **REFUND INTEREST** (Clemente) Aligns interest claims on city income tax with Revenue Act.

HB 4685 **SALES TAX ON GASOLINE** (Poleski) Revises provisions for prepaid sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

Wednesday, October 21

House Families, Children and Seniors (Committee Record), **(Chr. Hooker, 373-2115), Room 327, House Office Building, 9 a.m.**

SB 334 **CHILD ABUSE** (Emmons) Allows reporting child abuse or child neglect through an online reporting system and waiving a written report under certain circumstances.

House Tax Policy (Committee Record), **(Chr. Farrington, 373-2002), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.**

SB 349 **DELINQUENT TAXES** (Stamas) Revises delinquent taxes notice provision.

SB 369 **INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING** (Schmidt) Expands tangible personal property eligible for an industrial processing exemption.

SB 370 **INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING** (Brandenburg) Expands tangible personal property eligible for an industrial processing exemption.

HB 4871 **PROPERTY TAX** (Howrylak) Provides for adjusting the caps on taxable value, salary and the amount of the credit for inflation.

House Local Government (Committee Record), **(Chr. Chatfield, 373-1260), Room 307, House Office Building, 12 p.m.**

- **Tax Increment Financing presentation**

HB 4292 **REWARDS** (Cochran) Increases maximum reward authorities of counties can offer for information leading to an arrest and conviction. (Voting)

HB 4696 **LABOR** (Durhal) Prohibits certain automatic increases in benefits clause in city bargaining agreements. (Testimony only)

HB 4888 **PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT** (Hughes) Allows assessor to maintain assessment roll electronically. (Testimony only)

Senate Natural Resources (Committee Record), **(Chr. Casperson, 373-5314), 210, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.**

- **Presentation by Mark Rudnicki of Michigan Technological University (MTU) on REFORGE, an initiative related to the forest products industry in Michigan.**

SB 363 **WATERS AND BOTTOMLANDS** (Casperson) Waives payment for occupying waters or bottomlands in certain circumstances.

Thursday, October 22

Senate Elections and Government Reform (Committee Record), **(Chr. Robertson, 373-1721), Room 210, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.**

HB 4904 **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY** (McBroom) Provides for the presidential primary election as a regular election date and clarifies filing deadlines for candidates for local office and for all local ballot question.

SB 189 **AVIATION FEES** (Casperson) Removes certain restrictions on recovery of costs and fees in an action involving this state.

SB 190 **PREVAILING PARTY FEES** (Robertson) Removes certain restrictions on the award of costs and fees to prevailing party in a case involving this state.

Senate Economic Development and International Investment (Committee Record), **(Chr. Horn, 373-5312), 210, Farnum Building, 1:30 p.m.**

SB 556 **COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION** (Horn) Repeals sunset on Commercial Rehabilitation Act.

Volume #54, Report #208 -- Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Cotter, Meekhof Now Tangling On Roads

Efforts to find a way to generate $1.2 billion more for the state's roads further devolved Tuesday when Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof and House Speaker Kevin Cotter disagreed, publicly and privately, about the next step to take to break the stalemate on the issue.

Governor Rick Snyder, Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) and Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) met in Mr. Meekhof's office for a little less than an hour Tuesday with staff, other legislators and Lt. Governor Brian Calley. The meeting began about a half-hour after Mr. Meekhof took the unusual step of publicly calling for the House to convene conference committees and put before the House the "deal" for a vote.

That "deal" is the 400-400-400 plan that relies upon $400 million in new revenue from raising the gasoline tax by 6.5 cents per gallon, $400 million from fees, largely through ending the depreciation in new vehicle registration fees and $400 million from the General Fund.

"There's other bells and whistles, but that's the base plan," Mr. Meekhof told reporters after session. "The drafts are completed, so no other work needs to be done. I have the drafts ready. A conference committee could meet. And I'm asking them to call the conference committee, put the last best deal we had on the table up for a vote, and go get the votes."

Mr. Cotter, exiting the leadership meeting later, asked if he could comment on the situation, simply said, "No."

Cotter spokesperson Gideon D'Assandro later dismissed Mr. Meekhof's request.

"Senate Majority Leader Meekhof abruptly left the last quadrant meeting early because Rep. Greimel changed his mind on an income tax cut, so he should know there is no deal," he said. "Speaker Cotter has been working with the governor on the issue since then, and he remains hopeful we can find reliable support for a permanent road funding solution."

Adding to the acrimony, later in the day, WOOD-TV, the NBC affiliate in Grand Rapids, aired a story in which House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) went further on the manner in which Mr. Meekhof allegedly left the last Legislative Quadrant meeting with the governor.

"I want to continue talking with the other quadrant leaders. I made that very clear last week when Arlan rushed out of the room like a child when he couldn't get his way," Mr. Greimel told WOOD-TV.

Meekhof spokesperson Amber McCann said Mr. Meekhof would not comment "on the actions of his colleagues" in quadrant meetings, saying those meetings are for frank conversations.

As to Mr. Cotter's rejection of Mr. Meekhof's request, she said, "I would find it surprising that the speaker and ... Representative Greimel aren't interested in moving the process forward."

Legislative sources, speaking on condition they not be named, said Mr. Cotter now plans to try to see if the House, using mainly Republican votes, can pass a new plan and essentially dare the Senate and Mr. Snyder to say no. Several sources said, at least initially, Mr. Cotter is considering another try at the 600-600 plan ($600 million in new revenue and $600 million dedicated from the General Fund).

The House took a stab at a 600-600 plan in August, but it faltered because House Republicans were short of the votes in their caucus, and Mr. Snyder declared $600 million from the General Fund was

too much without addressing other pressures on it, such as the coming sunset of the Health Insurance Claims Tax, a key source of Medicaid funding.

A week ago, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Cotter declared an "impasse" in negotiations for a bipartisan deal for road funding. The main problem was that Mr. Greimel resisted the size of the income tax cut Republicans were seeking.

The quadrant has not met since that meeting.

"The House has this in their lap and they have the ability to act, and I'm asking them to act," Mr. Meekhof said. "I think to say it this way, the plan we put forward guarantees the road funding and gambles on the fact we'd have revenue for tax relief."

And Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) seemed to agree.

"There's a point in time where we do have to have some action," Mr. Ananich said. "I get the point he's talking about ... the House has kind of Charlie Brown-ed us a number of times on these roads deals."

Mr. Ananich said he has some concerns about the proposal by his Senate Republican colleagues because it does not account for a potential downturn in the economy.

"It's similar to Proposal A in that it only ever goes down, it doesn't go up. If there's a bad year or a series of bad years, that cut would compound the problem, and we've seen it's difficult to raise taxes," Mr. Ananich said. "So I'm hopeful we can have a conversation and figure out a plan that meets the need of tax relief but at the same time doesn't put the budget in a long-term sustainability issue."

Mr. Snyder, leaving the leadership meeting, said he appreciates where Mr. Meekhof is coming from with a call for the House to vote, but did not make the same request.

"There's an issue for the House and the Senate to have dialogue and discussion because it's a conference committee issue, but ... that last plan was a pretty reasonable compromise," he said.

Business Leaders for Michigan and the Michigan Municipal League issued a joint statement supporting Mr. Meekhof's call for the House to bring the 400-400-400 plan to a vote and also warning against any plan using more than $400 million from the General Fund for roads, saying it would jeopardize other key services.

Teacher, Administrator Evaluations Head To Snyder

Only two senators opposed supporting a revamped proposal that provides a framework for educator evaluations on Tuesday, sending the bill that had just been passed by the House last week to Governor Rick Snyder for his approval.

Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) and Sen. Coleman Young II (D-Detroit) voted in opposition to SB 103[redacted], and Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) was absent from session.

The bill has seen something of a wild ride in the Legislature, as it first passed the Senate back in May, but with much more dissent (See Gongwer Michigan Report, May 20, 2015). Among those who had first opposed to the bill's passage was Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) who, when she served in the state House last term, worked alongside Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) to craft a bill.

Ms. O'Brien supported the bill that passed the Senate 35-2 on Tuesday, saying she felt many stakeholders had been included in the process and were actually heard this time.

"It's focused on good, sound, education policy," Ms. O'Brien said of the final version Tuesday.

The House began taking up SB 103 in June, but before long it became clear there was too much distance between what the House Education Committee chair, Rep. Amanda Price (R-Park Township), envisioned for the bill and what Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, had in mind. Making matters worse is that an adviser for Governor Rick Snyder in June told the House committee that Mr. Snyder did not support the bill in its current form (See Gongwer Michigan Report, June 18, 2015).

"I think the districts started realizing that if we don't make this happen now, they'll be under current law, and current law just wasn't going to be acceptable," Mr. Pavlov told reporters of what finally broke the log-jam on the matter. "So we wanted to make sure going into this school year that teachers, administrators and boards knew there was going to be a new policy in evaluating teachers that was better than current law, and I think that's what really started moving the discussion."

The bill heading to Mr. Snyder now establishes both training requirements and options for school districts and public school academies to develop their own teacher evaluation tool or make modifications to an existing tool. It also the funding for training must come from the Educator Evaluation Reserve Fund.

The Department of Education would also have to establish and maintain a list of teacher and administrator evaluation tools, and the list would have to, at the very least, include the tools recommended by the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness in 2013. Districts do not have to use the same tool for teachers and administrators.

For teachers, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, 40 percent of the year-end evaluation would be based on student growth, with half coming from the state assessment and half coming from a local assessment.

For administrators, beginning immediately, 25 percent of the annual evaluation would be based on student growth and assessment data. The data is an aggregate of student growth data used in teacher evaluations in the district where the administrator works.

Sen. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights) praised the bill on Tuesday as providing "clearly defined evaluation expectations to help create a system of effective teacher evaluation accountability," as well as allows for more local decision-making.

"This bill as amended will help us hold our educators accountable and ensure our students are receiving a quality education in the state of Michigan," Mr. Knezek said.

SB 103 also provides $14.8 million for districts to train administrators and teachers on the use of new evaluation tools.

The bill was well-received by various education interests, especially those had been pushing for such reforms since the first report from the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness years ago.

"Although the legislation passed by the House and Senate does not contain all of the council's recommendations, it does change the focus of evaluations," Michigan Education Association President Steven Cook said in a statement. "Instead of punishment, the goal of evaluations is now aimed at improving classroom instruction. In creating the Ball Commission and using its report as a

guide, the Legislature acknowledged that experts in the field are invaluable in guiding education reform forward. That too is a change for the better."

Others were pleased to see the bill's final passage but looked to the Department of Education for leadership going forward.

"Michigan has not invested in nor developed new systems to better train and support Michigan's existing teachers. "We've done even less for school leaders," said Amber Arellano, executive director of The Education Trust-Midwest, in a statement. "Now the Department of Education can change that. It will need to play an unprecedented leadership role in systems change, oversight and ensuring the new system is providing sophisticated feedback to teachers, improving instruction across all districts and dramatically raising student achievement. Combined with the state's new college- and career-ready standards for teaching and learning, this is a huge opportunity for Michigan students."

The Tri-County Alliance for Public Education, which includes superintendents from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, also applauded the vote by the Senate.

"Effective teachers and administrators can make all the difference in the world when it comes to educating our kids, and constructive evaluation will strengthen teaching in our classrooms," said Russel Pickell, superintendent of Riverview Community Schools.

"We commend Senator Pavlov and the Michigan Legislature for working in good faith with educators on this legislation," said Mark Burton, executive director of the Alliance. "His leadership on this issue should be held up as an example of how legislators can learn from those on the frontlines of education to achieve our common goals and ensure our kids are prepared for college and a career."

And officials with the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals said passing the bill in its H-8 form was "an important milestone" for the state's principals, but more work still needs to be done.

"Educators finally have a clear target: implementing improvement-focused evaluations and growing the quality of all educators. Today's vote validates the work of the schools that have already begun the hard job of implementing quality evaluation systems and will support those districts that still need to make the transition," the group said in a statement. "Regardless, there is still plenty of difficult work ahead to implement this new law, improve our collective performance and ensure that every student benefits from the expertise of skillful educators. The Department of Education also has a significant role to play moving forward in providing guidance for schools and allocating the funding appropriated to support these systems."

Ananich: 'Troubling' Finds On Flint Water Crisis

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich said Tuesday it is "really troubling" that individuals within the Drinking Water Division of the Department of Environmental Quality spent more time protecting their reputation than they did protecting citizens, but he wouldn't go so far as to call for DEQ Director Dan Wyant to resign or be fired.

"I think we need to have a thorough investigation before we make any decisions about who should be fired or anything like that. I think it's clear he sees the gravity of the problem in his department, and I think he's learning that every day," Mr. Ananich told reporters after session. "But we have to get the bottom of how folks in the Drinking Water Division could so blatantly do everything they can in their power to hide the truth from the public, and that's pretty clearly what they did. "

The Flint Journal recently reported that emails exchanged among several DEQ and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials show flags had been raised about lead possibly leaching into Flint's water system some seven months ago.

Mr. Ananich said he's had some preliminary conversations with Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) about next steps the Legislature could take to ensure accountability and help the citizens of his hometown regain trust in their water, their elected officials and their government. But Mr. Ananich said the two need to have more formal discussion about a course of action.

Mr. Ananich said he was also in the process of sending a request to the state's auditor general, who happens to be auditing the drinking water division, to add a few questions about the process and procedures in place in the event that a situation like has happened in Flint were to break out.

"When you get an email from somebody on your personal account, four or five people, and none of them have the self-respect for my community to say, 'hmm, maybe I shouldn't do this, maybe I should take this to the next level,' that's a problem," Mr. Ananich said. "That's a cultural problem that people would be more concerned about hiding something than telling the public the truth, and it's really troubling."

He said he felt there ought to be an investigation, though he wasn't immediately sure the form that could take. He hoped it would be independent, he said, and that "if things come out that people were negligent or purposeful in their actions, I think there needs to be some very serious consequences."

He also suggested a possible avenue is through the recently-created Senate Oversight Committee, especially because the House has a committee of the same name too.

"But I think with a department that's got such a heavy responsibility and one division in particular has shown that for the last 18 months they've failed, that warrants our involvement," Mr. Ananich said. "We have to get to the bottom of it. Every day more and more information comes out and it just gets worse."

Pavlov Taking Time On DPS Plan, Third Grade Reading Bill

Sen. Phil Pavlov may have cleared one major hurdle on Tuesday when the Senate passed a bill outlining a framework for the evaluation of teachers and administrators, but more work is still in front of him when it comes to potentially leading in the Senate on Governor Rick Snyder's recently announced plan for Detroit Public Schools, as well as a bill on third-grade reading proficiency that passed the House last week.

Mr. Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, said he is reviewing the proposal by Governor Rick Snyder on how to revamp Detroit Public Schools and pay down its debts without harming education for the students enrolled in the district (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 19, 2015).

"We've been meeting with the leaders and the coalition over the last several months. I think it's got a long way to go, but I think again, there's a need there," he told reporters after session. "There's a crisis looming. So we'll work through that just like we have with any other issue."

Mr. Pavlov said one of his preliminary concerns about the plan is school of choice, and the ability of parents and students to have "unfettered choice to educational opportunities" without be penalized, he said.

But he's also concerned about the amount of funding that Mr. Snyder is requesting for the Legislature, "because you're taking that from all other students in the state of Michigan," Mr. Pavlov said.

Although some believe the plan could start over in the Senate, Mr. Pavlov said he was not immediately sure himself, but the Senate GOP caucus has a great deal of interest in the proposal.

As to whether he could personally support something like what Mr. Snyder is asking, especially given how much money and effort has already been given to Detroit, Mr. Pavlov said, "I'm not convinced anybody is willing to go and reward bad behavior, but we do have a problem and that is that these kids need to be educated. So there's got to be a balance there."

He said he thought it to be "a big ask" to try to get the deal on DPS done by the end of the year, seeming a little more open to a timeframe that is before the beginning of the next school year.

"I think some of these issues are going to work themselves out over time, and to put a timeframe and predict when that would happen is going to be very difficult from where we are today," Mr. Pavlov said.

READING PROFICIENCY: Mr. Pavlov's committee was also assigned the task Tuesday of reviewing HB 4822, a bill designed to get elementary students reading proficiently before entering fourth grade. The bill cleared the House last week with only three Democratic lawmakers in support - although it had cleared committee with support from the Democrats (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 15, 2015).

Mr. Pavlov said he has no specific timeframe on the bill, admitting he hadn't really followed the issue very closely in the House until this point.

"I think we've clearly identified there's a problem here in this state. There's a number of issues I'm concerned about," he said. "We've made the largest investment in the country on early childhood education. We're asking the questions - when are those results going to start showing up? Why are kids still getting into third grade with all this additional support and still not having the highest proficiencies in reading. We're not just looking at third grade reading, we need to look at the Great Start program all the way through third grade."

'Kevin's Law' Update Clears House

Family and friends would be permitted to get mental health treatment for a person close to them before an unfortunate incident under legislation passed by the House Tuesday.

In 2004, former Governor Jennifer Granholm signed "Kevin's Law" in honor of Kevin Heisinger, who was beaten to death in a Kalamazoo bus/train station by a man with schizophrenia who stopped taking his medication.

Current law allows judges to order involuntary assisted outpatient treatment, but only after a major incident occurs.

Under HB 4674, which passed 103-2, sponsored by Rep. Tom Leonard III (R-DeWitt Township), a family member or friend would be allowed to petition the court and allow judges to order outpatient treatment for those who have had their mental illness confirmed by a physician, all without a crime being committed.

"This reform is sorely needed because current law makes it very difficult for people who might not recognize the severity of their situation to obtain the treatment they need," Mr. Leonard said in a statement. "In the same vein, we must guarantee individuals' due process rights are protected by providing legal counsel to guide them through the court process if they believe AOT is not necessary. This protects both the public safety and the privileges of the individual."

Supporters have said under current law (passed about a decade ago), a crisis needed to occur before intervention could happen, and communities have been confused by the complexity of "Kevin's Law" and it hasn't been used much.

"We must make public safety - including the well-being of the individual in need of care - a priority in this type of situation, but also ensure that their rights remain protected. This legislation strikes that delicate balance." Mr. Leonard said. "I want to thank Lt. Gov. Calley for bringing this issue to my attention, and for the strong leadership he has shown working to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens."

HB 4674 does the following:

- Offers early intervention, since current law requires a serious incident that might endanger public safety to occur before AOT may be requested;
- Simplifies the process of seeking court-appointed treatment; and
- Allows a judge to order AOT before an incident has occurred that could cause injury to the prospective patient or a member of the public.

Hertel, Colbeck Debate On Roads Drifts Into Other Issues

A debate between two sitting senators that was supposed to be on the fundamental question over whether a tax increase is a necessary component of a final road funding solution went a bit off topic Tuesday as other issues such as the cost of health care, maintaining prevailing wage and fewer taxes on the middle class found their way into the hour-long back-and-forth.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) was pleased last week when Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) took him up on a challenge Mr. Colbeck had earlier raised to his colleagues about having a public debate on the necessity of a tax increase as a component for a road funding solution. But what began as a fairly civil disagreement on whether the objective was to raise $1.2 billion or to fix the roads in a manner that made them more sustainable eventually turned into a debate about the philosophical differences between Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. Colbeck began the discussion, saying he hoped to obtain an agreement that he and Mr. Hertel were trying to solve the same problem - a search that would come back perhaps in a manner he hadn't expected to, which is, not at all. Mr. Colbeck said beyond that key point, he wanted to debate his proposal, which in brief was to reprioritize existing funds, reduce expenses on fixing roads, leverage existing resources, and, if none of those were amicable, talk a tax increase.

Mr. Hertel took his opening statement in a completely different direction, saying that while he agreed funding Michigan's roads is the single-most important issue facing the state today, "I think people are frustrated because under this governor and this Legislature, they're paying more in taxes and they're not getting much out of it," he said. "I think people are frustrated with the massive tax cuts that have gone to corporations and have not gone to helping people in their everyday lives."

And he called Mr. Colbeck's proposal "a math problem" that focused more on logistics than it did on creating a long-term, sustainable funding solution for the state's roads and bridges.

"You believe the objective is to find $1.2 billion. I believe the objective is to find a way to fix roads faster than they degrade," Mr. Colbeck shot back.

Mr. Hertel returned, "$1.2 billion is the number the experts have come up with, not me. That's to maintain our current road system. I think we should invest more money into research and development to build longer lasting roads, but that's not been talked about in the Legislature."

The disagreement on the $1.2 billion number would continue, as Mr. Colbeck argued the problem could be smaller at about $700 million if the state would invest more into roads materials that were more sustainable, such as those being developed at the University of Michigan. Mr. Colbeck would raise other examples, but Mr. Hertel said his research into such materials and their companies is that they hadn't been tested in a practical manner, such as serving as a highway instead of a driveway, yet.

"I believe it's fiscally irresponsible," Mr. Hertel said of Mr. Colbeck's proposal, which, after some time, had finally revealed itself to involve a look at, and use of, restricted funds (which Mr. Hertel said was unconstitutional), as well as possibly using money associated with the Michigan Strategic Fund and the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Colbeck said fixing the roads ought to be considered economic development, and so the use of MSF funds would be warranted. And there is an excess of money in the BSF, so at least some of that could be directed toward roads, he said.

But Mr. Hertel ripped both as one-time solutions (though Mr. Colbeck later argued that funds from the BSF could be made into ongoing funds). He also pointed to some of the details in Mr. Colbeck's proposal, which Mr. Hertel alleged included taking money away from sexual assault prevention funds for university campuses and newborn screenings.

"I just don't understand. You can't play a legislative shell game. People pay these fees because they expect a service," Mr. Hertel said of Mr. Colbeck's proposal.

"All I'm saying is let's look into and make sure the actual funds are meeting the needs," Mr. Colbeck shot back.

Before long, the debate slid into an argument over whether to keep the state's prevailing wage and what the cost of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has to the state, though it would eventually return to point when questions from the audience were asked, the first of which questioned whether the Department of Transportation ought to be investing more into research and development projects on roads.

"They have (the) equivalent of sand box. The problem is, we never seem to convert those projects, those sandbox items into changes of how we fix those roads. I think we need to do a better job," Mr. Colbeck said of MDOT. "We're not getting the bang for our buck we deserve."

Mr. Hertel defended MDOT, saying like other parts of the state budget, theirs has been cut "to the bone."

"I'm all for doing more for less but you can't expect that to routinely work forever," Mr. Hertel said. "If you had a plan that was sustainable, don't you think Rick Snyder would jump on it?"

Both had different takeaways from the defeat of Proposal 1, but both also had concerns about an income tax rollback.

"I'm always for a tax rollback, but I'm cautioned by the fact that one of the first things we did when I came into the Legislature was to stop a rollback," Mr. Colbeck said. "I'm not convinced it would go all the way down, because people are still fixated on raising taxes."

"It's fiscally irresponsible," Mr. Hertel said of the rollback. "It scares me to roll it down in good times but have no time to go up in bad."

Bills Would Increase Motorcycle Safety Course Fee

The maximum fee for a motorcycle safety course would increase from $25 to $50 under legislation discussed in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Tuesday.

HB 4853 and HB 4854, introduced by Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston), would increase the fee and require the Department of State to waive the written knowledge test, road signal test and driving skills test for an applicant who had successfully passed a private or public motorcycle safety course.

Under the first bill, government agencies offering the motorcycle safety courses would be allowed to charge up to $50, but could charge less if they chose.

Mr. Tedder said the fee not been increased since 1982. He said $25 does not come close to covering the cost of the class. He also said the fee is so low, some sign up for the class but then do not show up.

Under the current program, the public entities providing the classes submit a grant request to the department for reimbursement. Mr. Tedder said because the fee is low and the Motorcycle Safety Fund has shrunk, they are not always reimbursed for the full amount spent.

"Several institutions have voiced concerns over their ability to maintain hosting the class because they are quite frankly losing money," Mr. Tedder said. "This is an opportunity to make these whole so they can continue hosting these classes."

Mr. Tedder said he took one of the courses a couple months ago, and took a class from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

He said at the class booklets were provided, and six hours were spent out on the course and a motorcycle was provided during the class at no additional costs.

"For $25 I received nearly nine hours of quality instruction and at the end of that experience successfully completed a secretary of state approved test," he said.

Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica) questioned why the increase was so large. "I am thrown back a little bit by a 100 percent increase in fees," he said.

Mr. Tedder said the fees were artificially maintained at a low level.

And Rep. David Rutledge (D-Ypsilanti) said he thought the fee should be $100. "The fee has been $25 for 30 years," he said.

American Bikers Aiming Toward Education also supports the legislation. The committee did not act on the bills.

MDOT PRESENTATION: Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle also spoke to the committee Tuesday on various efficiencies within the department and projects it's working on this year.

Mr. Steudle said the department has reduced staff by 15 percent during the last three years and combined with other efficiencies has saved $316 million during that time.

In 2015, he said, the department has saved $13.5 million by partnering with private entities to provide more street lights in Detroit, and saved $22 million through bond refinancing.

Mr. Steudle said during the next five years, the department will invest $503 million annually to repair and rebuild roads.

He said $168 million will be invested annually to repair bridges.

The committee ran out of time and Mr. Steudle was only able to take a couple questions from committee members but will return at the request of Rep. Peter Pettalia (R-Presque Isle), the committee chair.

Senate Panel Approves Ban On Marketing To Students

Companies that provide electronic services to schools would be prohibited from targeted marketing to students under legislation reported Tuesday from the Senate Education Committee.

The bill (SB 510), as reported, would ban advertising to students based on information the company collected on them as well as prohibit sale of any of that information.

The student or his or her parents would be permitted to request disclosure of any of the collected data, but the company would also be required to delete any or all of that data if the school district requests that.

The bill was reported unanimously with an S-2 substitute.

SHARED TIME: The committee also began discussions on bills (HB 4594 and HB 4790) that would allow kindergarten students to be eligible for shared time.

Current law allows students in first grade and above who are home schooled or attend a private school to take some classes at their local public school, with the school being reimbursed based on the amount of time the student spends at the public school.

Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), sponsor of the bill, said the current law was written when kindergarten was generally part-time and so did not lend itself to shared time programs.

"Half-day kindergarten is pretty much not the rule anymore," he said. "This allows both home schoolers and private schools to work together with the public schools."

Mr. McBroom said there would need to be conflict substitutes approved when the committee moves the bills, which appeared to have general support from Republicans, to accommodate recent School Aid Act changes.

Snyder Signs Civil Asset Forfeiture Bills

Legislation putting new limits on civil asset forfeiture, one of the few major issues in recent years that largely united both conservative and liberal legislators, was signed into law Tuesday by Governor Rick Snyder.

The package of bills sets new reporting requirements for governments and police agencies on property seized, as well as setting new stricter standards governments must follow before seizing property.

"These new reporting requirements will raise the bar so that a fair balance is struck between private property rights and law enforcement's effective ability to do their job in pursuing criminal activity," Mr. Snyder said in a statement about the seven-bill package.

The main measure, HB 4504 (PA 148) requires all government entities to report any and all property seizures and forfeitures to the State Police. The State Police will then compile a report on those seizures which will be given to the Legislature and posted on the department's website.

HB 4499 (PA 153) raises the threshold to "clear and convincing evidence" to seize property in nuisance abatements. And HB 4505 (PA 154) the plaintiff in a controlled substance case has to show the seizing property was a violation again by the clear and convincing standard.

Also signed were HB 4500 (PA 149) HB 4503 (PA 150, HB 4506 (PA 151) and HB 4507 (PA 152) which amend different statutes to comport with the new standards.

Mr. Snyder also signed a package of Senate-House bills to help ensure individuals who rely on service animals have greater access to public facilities. The bills were created after a number of incidents where individuals were prevented entrance to some public places because they had a service animal, most commonly a dog, with them.

SB 298 (PA 144) makes it a crime to deny access to someone with a service animal, or to attack a service animal. SB 299 (PA 145) exempts service animals from licensing fees if they are assisting a person with a disability or a veteran with a service-related disability.

HB 4521 (PA 146) requires the Department of Civil Rights to offer voluntary identification for service animals, and HB 4527 (PA 147) makes it a misdemeanor to falsely identify a service animal.

Other bills signed by Mr. Snyder were:

SB 64, PA 155	PATIENT CARE POLICIES (Hansen) Requires establishment of patient care policies and compliance procedures based on nationally recognized guidelines or best-practice resources, and provides other general amendments.

Signed: October 19, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 65, PA 156	HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (Hansen) Allows employment of or contracting with health professional to provide medical treatment to nursing home patients regardless of business entity status of nursing home.

Signed: October 20, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 66, PA 157	LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES (Hansen) Clarifies application of definition of learned profession to certain health professionals.

Signed: October 19, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 67, PA 158 — BUSINESS CORPORATIONS (Hansen) Clarifies application of definition of learned profession to certain health professionals.

Signed: October 19, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 358, PA 159 — TEACHER CERTIFICATES (Hansen) Revises requirements for professional teaching certificate and requirements for alternative teaching certificate process.

Signed: October 20, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

Snyder Names Two To Oakland Circuit Court

Governor Rick Snyder on Tuesday named two people to the Oakland Circuit Court, one of which was Hala Jarbou to succeed new Court of Appeals Judge Colleen O'Brien.

Also named was Jerry Matis to succeed Judge Rudy Nichols (who served in the House for two years and then was elected to the Senate in 1984 succeeding the recalled Sen. Phil Mastin. He was elected to the court in 1990).

Ms. Jarbou is currently with the U.S. Department of Justice as an assistance U.S. attorney in the Drug Task Force. She must run for full term as judge in 2016.

Mr. Matis is in private practice and is also the vice chair of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. He previously had been on the Rochester City Council. He must run in 2016 to complete the term which will end in 2020.

Committee Roundup

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES: The committee began discussions Tuesday on legislation (HB 4908) to remove the sunset date on authority for the Natural Resources Commission to set regulations for recreational feeding of deer and elk.

Supporters said it was important for the commission to retain that authority as part of the effort to combat chronic wasting disease and other communicable diseases.

But Rep. Ken Goike (R-Ray Township) and Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) argued for extending the sunset three years.

Mr. Goike said he was happy with the commission's work now, but said that could change. "Why give it away and then have to do legislation to get the power back," he said of legislative control over the commission's actions.

Rep. John Kivela (D-Marquette), sponsor of the legislation, said the legislative process takes too long. "Three years from now, chronic wasting disease is going to be more of a threat, not less," he said.

Amy Trotter with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs said it would be a waste of time to keep a sunset on the authority given the small likelihood any of the parties would reverse their support for the commission's work.

Mr. McBroom noted there was nothing that would prevent the governor from taking the authority from the commission and giving it to the director, as former Governor Jennifer Granholm had done with oversight of invasive species.

Campaign Notes

GILBERT ENDORSEMENT: The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 951 has endorsed Democrat Melissa Gilbert in her run for the 8th U.S. House District.

"Melissa has a proven track record of protecting workers' rights and supporting unions, which strengthen the voices of American workers," John Cakmakci, president of the local, said in a statement. "I am confident that she will fight for Michigan's working families in Congress."

Capital Notebook

SIMON TO CHAIR AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES: Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon will serve as chair of the Association of American Universities for the next year. Ms. Simon was elected to the post by the association's board on Tuesday.

The association includes 62 of the top research universities in the United States and Canada, and both promotes university research and the relationship between the United States government and university research.

As chair, Ms. Simon will act as the spokesperson for the association, especially on issue that directly concern research universities.

GORZ JOINS MAC: Elizabeth Gorz has joined the Michigan Association of Counties as the organization's governmental affairs associate. Before joining the counties organization, she was a lobbyist at Capitol Affairs, and had been a staffer for former Senate Majority Leader and now U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester), and an aide to former Sen., now U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland) and to Sen. Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights).

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, October 21

Board of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 9 a.m. (Agenda; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following (Agenda))

Wednesday, November 4

Criminal Justice Policy Commission, Senate Appropriations Room, Third Floor, Capitol, Lansing, 9 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, October 28

Rep. Julie Plawecki **(D) Fundraiser, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.**

Thursday, October 29

Rep. George Darany **(D) Fundraiser, LaPita Banquet Hall, 22681 Newman, Dearborn, 5 p.m.**

Thursday, November 5

Rep. Robert Wittenberg **(D) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.**

Thursday, November 12

Rep. LaTanya Garrett **(D) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.**

Friday, November 13

Rep. Sheldon Neely (D) Fundraiser, Signature Chop House, 1537 Pierson Road, Flushing, 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 15

Rep. Erika Geiss **(D) Fundraiser, 24645 Muirfield Drive, Taylor, 4 p.m.**

Sunday, November 22

Rep. Jon Hoadley **(D) Fundraiser, 277 South Rose Street, Suite 5000, Kalamazoo, 11:15 a.m.**

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Wednesday, October 21

House Appropriations (Committee Record), **(Chr. Pscholka, 373-5795), House Appropriations Room, Capitol, 9 a.m.**

HB 4898 **ANIMALS** (McCready) Modifies pet shop, dog pound and animal shelters act to include large-scale commercial dog breeders and to make other general revisions.

House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (Committee Record), **(Chr. Rendon, 373-8474), Room 326, House Office Building, 12 p.m.**

- **Presentation on Pure Michigan by David Lorenz, vice president of Travel Michigan.**

HB 4983 **NATURAL RESOURCES** (Rendon) Provides for prohibition on enforcement of recreational passport on free fishing weekends.

Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services (Committee Record), **(Chr. Emmons, 373-5323), Room 210, Farnum Building, 3 p.m.**

SB 517 **UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT** (MacGregor) Repeals and recreates uniform interstate family support act (UIFSA).

SB 518 **FRIEND OF THE COURT** (MacGregor) Updates friend of the court reference to the uniform interstate family support act.

SB 519 **CHILD SUPPORT** (Emmons) Updates child support reference to the uniform interstate family support act.

SB 520 **PARENTING TIME** (Emmons) Updates parenting time reference to the uniform interstate family support act.

Tuesday, October 27

Senate Finance (Committee Record), **(Chr. Brandenburg, 373-5312), Room 210, Farnum Building, 2:30 p.m.**

HB 4461 **REFUND INTEREST** (McCready) modifies timeline for interest claims on refunds.

HB 4462 **REFUND INTEREST** (Clemente) Aligns interest claims on city income tax with Revenue Act.

HB 4685 **SALES TAX ON GASOLINE** (Poleski) Revises provisions for prepaid sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 9:09 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 8:47 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 21, 2015

News

Michigan lawmakers approve teacher evaluation framework (Associated Press, 10/21/2015)

Snyder signs bills improving access for service animals (Associated Press, 10/21/2015)

Top Dem calls for hearings, audit on Flint water crisis (Associated Press, 10/21/2015)

Legislature OKs increasing Michigan 529 college savings account limit to $500,000 (Crain's Detroit Business, 10/21/2015)

Bill to set new standards for teacher evaluations (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Lt. Gov. Calley holding fund-raiser in Lansing Thursday (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Senate calls for fast action on deal to fix state roads (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Snyder signs forfeiture reform laws (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Read state DEQ emails as lead-in-water crisis unfolded in Flint (Flint Journal, 10/21/2015)

Snyder orders flags lowered for fallen state worker (Lansing State Journal, 10/21/2015)

Meekhof urges action on 'last best deal' for Michigan roads (MLive, 10/21/2015)

Michigan DEQ 'completely failed' Flint residents, says Ananich, calling for water investigation (MLive, 10/21/2015)

Gov envisions progress on bridge with Canada's new PM (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Senate GOP leader seeks to kick-start road aid talks (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Editorials

Gov's plan to fix DPS: The best we've got (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Snyder gets the Boehner treatment (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Flint water crisis exposes Michigan's infrastructure funding problem (Flint Journal, 10/21/2015)

Rep. Moolenaar: Constituent's idea becomes tax relief bill (Greenville Daily News, 10/21/2015)

Schor: End wage gap, bring pay equity for women (Lansing State Journal, 10/21/2015)

Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's schools will fall on deaf legislative ears (Michigan Radio, 10/21/2015)

Ken Braun: Should lying be illegal for everyone but the politicians? (MLive, 10/21/2015)

Right to Work lawmakers impose their own 'union dues' (MLive, 10/21/2015)

List mania putting our privacy, security at risk (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/21/2015)

Editor's Note: Minimum sentence bill not dangerous (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Heise: Presumptive parole is safe, smart justice (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Letter: State's energy future at crossroads (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

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Volume #54, Report #209 -- Wednesday, October 21, 2015

House Republicans Go It Alone, Pass Road Funding Plan

House Republicans on Wednesday found the votes, mostly within their own caucus, to pass a $1.2 billion road funding plan with no guarantees of support from Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof or Governor Rick Snyder.

The plan involved $600 million in new revenue through a gas tax increase and registration fee increases and $600 million from existing sources. An income tax rollback and an expansion of the Homestead Property Tax credit are also included.

Business groups were also split in their reception of the plan with some seeing it as a breakthrough and others as fiscally irresponsible (see separate story).

"I think that this is a very good plan," House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) said after the bills passed. "We are going to be working with our partners. This is a huge step forward. I think this is a good grand compromise plan."

But House Democrats tore the plan apart as irresponsible and said the only reason the House Republicans wanted to vote on a plan this week is because Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) "challenged" Mr. Cotter to take a vote on a plan the quadrant leaders had been discussing.

"Let's just set the record straight here for everyone," said Rep. Marilyn Lane (D-Fraser), the minority vice chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. "This is a knee-jerk reaction plan simply to match egos with our counterparts in the Senate."

Those talks fell apart last week, with House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) concerned about an income tax rollback.

Mr. Meekhof called for Mr. Cotter to hold a vote on the plan anyway. Mr. Cotter refused. At that point, as Gongwer News Service first reported Tuesday, Mr. Cotter began attempting to put together support for a 600/600 plan that could pass with Republican support only.

And about 9 p.m. Wednesday, he did.

It was seen as a retort both to Mr. Meekhof and Mr. Greimel.

"This plan is an embarrassment to the Legislature and it has managed to combine most of the worst aspects of the terrible plans we have seen over the course of the last year," Mr. Greimel said.

The plan would include a 3.3-cent increase effective in 2018 in the overall fuel tax, as well as an additional 4 cents for diesel to bring it up to the gas tax level effective in 2017.

The plan would increase registration fees by $400 million total, averaging $55 additional per vehicle for both passenger and commercial vehicles ($40 for passenger vehicles).

To offset the tax increases, the plan would increase the amount of homestead property tax credit available by both increasing the amount of income affected, to 3.5 percent from 3.4 percent, and increasing the income cap to $60,000, with the phase-out of the credit starting at $51,000. That is a $10,000 increase from the current caps.

The phase-in of the plan would provide $400 million for fiscal year 2016-17 and increase to $1.2 billion by FY 2020-21. Part of the increase is General Fund, which would increase from $150 million in FY 2018-19 to $600 million the final year.

The tax credit offset would start with $40 million in FY 2017-18 and increase to $200 million in FY 2020-21.

The plan also includes a proposed income tax roll-back beginning in 2019 if general fund revenue outpaces inflation.

Democrats criticized the income tax rollback for not having a floor and said it could severely strain the General Fund.

"It's a fiscal time bomb," said Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak)."And I don't know if anybody on this floor knows just how explosive it could be."

But Mr. Cotter said the income tax rollback was a crucial feature of the final plan in terms of getting votes.

SB 414, the income tax rollback bill, is not tie-barred to the other bills in the package.

The bills passed with varying support, with 54 votes needed for passage, some bills passed narrowly: The gasoline tax increase passed 56-50 (HB 4614, HB 4616 and HB 4738); HB 4736 boosting vehicle registration fees passed 55-51; The competitive bidding bills (HB 4610 and HB 4611) and the expansion of the Homestead Property Tax Credit (HB 4370) passed 62-44; the income tax rollback passed 61-45 and HB 4737 concerning warranties passed 101-5.

Rep. Harvey Santana (D-Detroit) was the only Democrat to vote for many of the bills other than the legislation regarding warranties.

Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica) said the plan would "literally" pave our roads.

"Today we vote for investing in our future," he said. "We vote for tax relief for seniors, and families. ... We are choosing to govern. Today the residents of Michigan have a good roads solution."

Now the question is what the Senate and Mr. Snyder will do. The speculation was rife Wednesday night that Mr. Snyder could relent on his concerns about the impact to the General Fund.

"Forward progress is a good thing, though (the) governor does have some concerns," Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said, saying any solution must be "fiscally responsible."

Said Mr. Meekhof in a statement: "I am happy the House sent over an idea for the Senate to consider. I look forward to talking with the governor and legislative leaders about the proposal. I have not had an opportunity to review the legislation, yet. The next step is for my fellow caucus members and I to review the details."

Business Groups Divided On Road Funding Plan

Business Leaders for Michigan came out strongly against the plan, saying it relies too heavily on the General Fund.

"We believe this is unsustainable and fiscally irresponsible," the group said in a statement. "The state General Fund has not grown in real terms since 1999. Redirecting $600 million from the

General Fund to roads means fewer dollars would be available to make college more affordable, train Michigan workers and incent job creation. All are important to our state's future. We should not have to choose between them. The plan adopted by the House would fix one problem but create another."

The group called for the Senate to pass a plan that fixes roads without putting other important priorities at risk.

Also voicing concern, prior to the vote, was the Detroit Regional Chamber, at least on the idea of going beyond $400 million from the General Fund for roads. While the chamber urged the Legislature to act, it warned, "further dedication of the General Fund beyond the $400 million ... would be short-sighted and run counter to Michigan's best interests."

But the Michigan Chamber of Commerce hailed the House vote.

"We commend Speaker Cotter and the House GOP for taking action this evening to pass a comprehensive plan to fix Michigan's roads," said Michigan Chamber President and CEO Rich Studley in a statement. "Breaking the impasse on this key issue is an important and positive step forward."

And the National Federation of Independent Business-Michigan praised the lower reliance on higher taxes and fees than other plans.

"Speaker Cotter and House Republicans deserve credit for listening to what the voters said with the Proposal 1 defeat - more prioritization of spending and less reliance on funding roads with across the board tax hikes," said NFIB State Director Charlie Owens in a statement. "The House plan attempts to look at existing resources and balance any tax increases with cuts in other taxes."

Snyder Names Flint Water Task Force

With controversy growing over how the state handled the water crisis in Flint, Governor Rick Snyder on Wednesday named a five-member independent advisory task force to investigate actions by the state involving water use and testing in the city.

As Mr. Snyder made the announcement, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Flint) and Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) called for the federal Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the controversy and its handling by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Snyder's announcement and the separate calls by Mr. Kildee and Mr. Ananich come as revelations of some internal emails from the DEQ brought into question how seriously some officials viewed the problem.

When the state announced earlier this month it would push for Flint to be reconnected to the Detroit Water and Sewerage System - the city's emergency manager decided in 2014 to draw water from the Flint River while the city prepared to join a pipeline drawing water from Lake Huron after no agreement could be reached on a short-term contract with the Detroit system - Mr. Snyder said he would create the independent body.

Along with looking into how the state handled the crisis, which after more than a year of complaints about water taste and smell broke wide open this past summer when tests showed elevated levels of lead in the water, the task force is to make recommendations to the state for "future guidelines to protect the health and safety of all state residents."

Co-chairing the task force will be former Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, now with Public Sector Consultants, and former Democratic Rep. Chris Kolb, now with the Michigan Environmental Council.

Also named to the task force is Matthew Davis of the University of Michigan Health System, Eric Rothstein of the Galardi Rothstein Group and Lawrence Reynolds of Mott Children's Health Center of Flint.

Mr. Snyder said he wanted an "unbiased report" that looked at past actions affecting the Flint water situation and recommendations to help ensure that all state residents have access to safe drinking water. He said administration officials would cooperate fully with the task force.

There was no time frame set on when the task force would issue a report.

Mr. Ananich on Wednesday, meanwhile, released a letter to the U.S. EPA asking for a formal review of the DEQ's handling of the Flint water situation, emphasizing that the public needed to know if "the misapplication of federal water testing rules was intentional or due to negligence.

"Our citizens deserve answers," Mr. Ananich said.

And Mr. Kildee also wrote to the EPA, saying to ensure failures like that with the Flint system does not occur again, an investigation into how the crisis occurred is necessary.

"Unfortunately, the citizens of Flint are the victims in this situation. They deserve a thorough investigation and answers to these questions," Mr. Kildee said in his letter.

Snyder: Plan Could Mean More Students In Detroit Schools

One of the structural issues facing Detroit Public Schools is loss of students, but Governor Rick Snyder said his plan to restructure the district could reverse that.

The plan Mr. Snyder outlined this week (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 19, 2015) would, among other things, split the district, with educational functions moving to a new entity (new co) and historical debt remaining with the current district (old co).

"By leaving the debt with old co, you can see improved performance and hopefully that will lead parents to say they want to see their children go to DPS," Mr. Snyder said Wednesday on Detroit Public Television's MiWeek.

Mr. Snyder said his plan is also designed to balance the needs of the district with the desire of those outside Detroit to have control of the funds funneled there.

Under the plan, the old district would remain under the current elected board, but the new entity would be headed by a board appointed in part by the governor and in part by the mayor. That board would, over six years, move to an elected body.

Mr. Snyder said he had comments from Detroit residents and officials that they would like to see the district remain under elected control, or at least move back to that more quickly.

"I tried to propose a balance because I got comments from the rest of the state that if the state's making a huge investment, they should have some control," he said.

As to the state funds headed to Detroit under Mr. Snyder's plan, he said it was not substantially different from what the state has done on school pensions since he took office.

"The $70 million compared to what we've been helping districts with MPSERS is actually a smaller obligation," he said of the state funds that have gone directly to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

And he said not assisting the district could mean more dire consequences.

"If it's not done in this fashion, it's ultimately going to end up in court, not necessarily in bankruptcy, but in court," he said.

Action also needs to come soon, he said. His proposal would have the changes in place before schools start their new fiscal year in July.

"The longer we wait, the better chance we have of having an uncontrolled financial default," he said.

Meekhof: Problems With DPS Plan; Wyant Should Not Be Fired

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof said Wednesday his caucus has a number of concerns with a plan floated by Governor Rick Snyder earlier this week to reform Detroit Public Schools which includes providing $715 million over 10 years to get the district out of debt out of debt.

"There's some things in there to like and a lot of things we have concern over. My concern, and my caucus' concern, has been getting an educational experience in front of these kids that gives them the best opportunity to be successful," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) told reporters after session. "We have all these great, new, innovative and cool jobs coming to Detroit, and it would be a shame if we couldn't put an educational experience in front of these kids that gives them the ability to be eligible for those jobs."

He said he hasn't even talked about the money aspect of the proposal with his caucus given how new it is, but there are general concerns there too.

"We want to do the best by all taxpayers, but again, the effort is to try to get performance improvement for those kids so they can get those great jobs in Detroit," he said.

Asked whether he thought the proposal and the money associated with it would be a tough sell to his caucus, Mr. Meekhof said "almost everything" is a tough sell at this point.

"We've done some very innovative and creative things over the last four or five years, very successful, and now we're at some really tough stuff that we have to solve, but that's why people sent us here. And we're going to do it," he said.

FLINT WATER: Mr. Meekhof said he hasn't talked with Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) on whether a legislative hearing could be had to review the actions taken - or not - by varying authorities when it comes to the Flint water crisis, but Mr. Meekhof did not believe Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant need be fired over it.

"I support Dan. I think he's done a terrific job on a lot of other issues. This one is difficult for a host of reasons because a couple of local governments couldn't get their act together for some period of time," Mr. Meekhof said. "Decisions were made because they thought they needed to make those decisions separately, and the results weren't very good. There's a whole lot of blame to go around, but at this point we've fixed the problem."

Indeed, as Mr. Ananich has previously pointed out, the decision to switch the city's water source and then later deny a request to return to water from the Detroit system had gone through three state-appointed emergency managers. But Mr. Meekhof skirted on whether those people ought to be held responsible either.

"I don't know that the state knew that," he said to a question about the state needing to react if it in fact knew a public health crisis was growing. "If I'm understanding what's happening, they tested at the source, when they bring it in, and that was their only requirement. So after that, I'm not sure what their culpability would be."

Asked if the Legislature had the ability to hold emergency managers responsible for their actions while serving, Mr. Meekhof said he thought that to be the case but would also be interested in seeing "alternate opinions on that."

"I think Director Wyant and folks are doing an after-action and are concerned, and I want to see what their after-action reports are," he said.

Large School Bond Proposals, Road Millages Highlight November Ballot

Thirty-seven proposals for school bonds and nine proposals for new or increased local millages to fund road maintenance are among the many measures voters will see on their local ballots November 3.

Two cities - Keego Harbor in Oakland County and Portage in Kalamazoo County - will vote on whether to decriminalize possession of up to one ounce of marijuana on private property for those 21 and older.

Two other communities - Lathrup Village in Oakland County and Mount Pleasant - will decide on term limits for local elected officials.

Twenty-four school districts will vote on whether to renew their 18-mill property tax on all commercial and non-principal residences. Seven school districts will decide on passing sinking fund property taxes for infrastructure needs, and nine municipalities will vote on tax increases to fund public safety.

Several cities also will elect local elected officials. Among those generating interest at the Capitol are those for the Lansing and East Lansing city councils, as well as the Flint mayor's race, where Mayor Dayne Walling is trying to win re-election amid that city's water crisis.

A Gongwer News Service analysis of ballots in the communities that will hold elections showed 169 separate ballot proposals in school districts, municipalities and other voting jurisdictions.

The largest bond initiatives in school districts for infrastructure improvements:

- $185 million for Rochester schools
- $175 million for the Grand Rapids schools
- $128 million for the Portage schools and a separate bond for $16 million
- $67.5 million for the Saline schools

- $64.86 million for Kentwood schools
- $57.4 million for Woodhaven-Brownstown schools
- $55.24 million for the Kenowa Hills schools
- $49.55 million for the Owosso schools
- $44.6 million for the Hastings schools
- $32.6 million for the Grand Blanc schools
- $27 million and $10.2 million for the Dowagiac schools

Voting on new or increased road millages: Allen Park, Boston Township in Ionia County, Charleston Township in Kalamazoo County, Crystal Lake Township in Benzie County, Clare, Harbor Springs, Lapeer, Meade Township in Huron County and Pipestone Township in Berrien County. Grosse Ile Township in Wayne County also has an $18.8 million bond proposal to fund road and water needs.

Another six municipalities have road millage renewal questions in front of voters.

A complete chart of all local ballot proposals is available via the Gongwer website. Subscribers can sort the chart by voting jurisdiction, county and type of proposal.

Lower Fuel Prices Should Permit Savings On Winter Bills, State Says

The Michigan Agency for Energy released its energy appraisal for the upcoming winter on Wednesday, expecting residents to save big on their heating bills "thanks to lower fuel prices and predicted warmer-than-normal temperatures," the agency said.

Michigan's energy market is also expected to have adequate reserves and lower prices, the agency said in a statement. With the expectation of a return to normal winter weather, consumption of home heating fuels such as natural gas, propane and distillate will fall, it said, while demand for motor fuels such as gasoline and diesel will rise.

The National Weather Service projects Michigan to have a 40-to-60 percent chance of a warmer than normal winter, as well as a 40 percent chance of a drier than normal winter.

Michigan's total electricity sales in 2015 are expected to decrease by 0.2 percent from 2014 sales, assuming normal weather for the rest of the year, the agency determined. The projected decrease is driven by the industrial sector, whose usage is expected to fall by 4.4 percent, while residential demand is projected to decrease by 0.5 percent. The commercial sector expected to increase by 3.6 percent, it said.

Total natural gas sales are projected to increase by 2.1 percent in 2015 to 859.5 billion cubic feet assuming normal winter weather for the remainder of the year, the agency found. The increase is primarily due to consumption in the electric generation sector, it said.

"In recent years, the electric power industry has begun a shift toward natural gas generation, in part to reduce air pollutants and in part to take advantage of lower fuel costs," the agency said. "With an expected return to normal winter weather, natural gas consumption for the residential and commercial sectors should fall below 2014 levels."

The average residential winter natural gas bill for the four largest utilities in Michigan is expected to average $512, an 18 percent reduction from last year.

Michigan propane usage is projected to decrease by 5.8 percent in 2015 assuming normal winter weather for the remainder of the year. Colder than normal temperatures and a concerted effort to promote early fills caused propane use to increase 15 percent in 2014. Propane prices this winter should be the lowest Michigan has seen in many years, the agency said.

U.S. crude oil production averaged 8.7 million barrels per day in 2014, the highest production levels seen in decades. Continued growth is expected through the 2015 calendar year, reaching 9.2 million barrels per day in 2015, but is expected to retreat in 2016 as new investments are reduced in light of current crude oil prices.

Finally, gas sales in Michigan are projected to increase by 2.1 percent in 2015, marking the third-straight year of increased demand. Consumption increases in 2015 are likely due to significant decreases in the retail cost of gasoline that resulted from lower crude oil prices.

In fact, the AAA Fuel Report determined the average price of unleaded gasoline in Michigan was $2.48 on October 1, 2015, down 26 percent from the same time last year when it averaged $3.36.

Johnson: County Treasurer's Office Needs Relationship With Legislature, Governor

Sen. Bert Johnson is one of several candidates who have recently thrown their hat in the ring to be the next Wayne County Treasurer, and he said Wednesday his qualifications and relationships in the legislative and executive branch could make him a good candidate.

The Detroit Free Press reported that eight applications had been received for the position in the wake of the decision by current County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz to retire. Mr. Johnson (D-Highland Park) is said to be up against former Rep. Phil Cavanagh, a Democrat from Redford Township, as well as Etta Wilcoxon, who had previously run for Detroit city clerk and mayor; David Szymanski, who retired in September as former chief deputy county treasurer; Richard Hathaway, chief assistant to Prosecutor Kym Worthy; Beverly Kindle-Walker, who has run for county treasurer numerous times; James Williams IV, a former Wayne County Commission candidate; and George "Jerry" Paffendorf, who heads Detroit data firm Loveland Technologies.

"Michigan probably needs to undertake a very comprehensive rewrite of our property tax rules and our codes. It's how we fund our cities, how we fund our schools. I think it's a broken system," Mr. Johnson told Gongwer News Service Wednesday. "I think a lot of that begins with stabilization of what it means to be the Wayne County Treasurer's Office and the property tax ordinances down there that govern the area. Wayne County is centrally important to not just Southeast Michigan but Michigan as a whole because when Wayne County is broken, the entire state does not work."

Mr. Johnson said the county is losing so much money in property as vacant or abandoned lots continue to go up for auction, and he's interested in changing that.

"I actually think, from the perspective that Wayne County has been a leader over the years in county government, that that office is as important as the work the Wayne County Executive has to do, if it can ever get right," he said. "I think part of getting right is having a legislative relationship here with both the legislative and the executive. I think then Michigan becomes a better place for people to live, work, play and pray."

The Free Press said a three-person committee made up of Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett, Chief Probate Judge Freddie Burton Jr. and Ms. Worthy are expected to meet at 2 p.m. Thursday in

room 700A of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to discuss applicants - a meeting that is open to the public.

Mr. Johnson said interviews are currently slated for early November, though it remains unclear if every candidate will be interviewed or just a select few the committee determines are the best fit.

Pavlov Announces Hearings On Academically Failing Schools

Sen. Phil Pavlov on Wednesday announced his Senate Education Committee will conduct a series of hearings, beginning November 4, on Michigan's academically failing schools.

The hearings will involve the committee and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Brian Whiston, Department of Education staff, Richard McLellan and former Oakland Schools Superintendent Vickie Markavitch. Invited guests also include State School Reform Officer Natasha Baker and Governor Rick Snyder's Senior Advisor for Education, Karen McPhee.

The hearings are slated to begin at 8:30 a.m., a statement from Mr. Pavlov's (R-St. Clair) office indicated, and official public notices will still be posted for each hearing as the meetings approach.

The purpose, Mr. Pavlov's office indicated, is to continue the conversation on the fiscal health of the state's public schools, especially in light of Mr. Snyder's recent proposal for Detroit Public Schools (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 19, 2015) and work the Legislature completed earlier this year on an "early warning system" for financially distressed schools.

"The academic health of our schools is equally important, and given the Legislature's purview over elementary and secondary education provided for in the Michigan Constitution, it is appropriate that the Senate Education Committee should lead this discussion," the statement said.

Large-Scale Dog Breeder Regulations Clear Committee

A bill regulating large-scale dog breeding kennels with 15 intact female dogs used for breeding in the state would be required to pay a $500 fee under the H-3 version reported from the House Appropriations Committee Wednesday.

HB 4898, under its original version, would have required a $25 fee to be paid by the kennels.

The bill was sent to the full House 24-2, with Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw Township) and Rep. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) voting no. Rep. Sarah Roberts (D-Saint Clair Shores) abstained.

Under the bill, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development would receive $10,000 to implement the requirements.

However, the department would not perform regular inspections of the kennels and would largely rely on complaints and local animal control for kennel inspections.

The department would be required, 18 months after the bill is enacted and annually for four years after, to submit a report on:

- the number of registrations,
- the approximate number of animals housed at each registered location,

- the number of inspections performed,
- the number of complaints received,
- the number of penalties arising from complaints, and
- recommendations regarding staffing levels and best practices for working with partners.

Kennels found in violation of the regulations would be subject to a $5,000 fine.

Ms. Roberts offered two amendments on the bill but neither was adopted. The first would require the department to do unannounced inspections of at least 50 percent of the kennels.

"I feel the intent of the bill is good, and looking at some of these regulations they're a step in the direction. I just feel that there need to be inspections," she said.

The second amendment would have codified the amount of space that is in a dog enclosure.

In a statement from Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), the chair of the committee, it said other Midwest states have regulations in place to prevent the establishment of "'puppy mills."

"I'm proud to vote on behalf of these animals," he said. "It's not often that this committee is in a position to take a first step on a moral or ethical issue. I'm thankful to Rep. McCready and the other advocates who brought the issue before us."

The bill establishes requirements for importation and sale of or resale of a dog, as well as vaccination and health certification requirements.

Committee Ties Homestead Credit To Inflation

Seniors and low-income residents would see more money back each year from the Homestead Property Tax Credit under legislation approved Wednesday by the House Tax Policy Committee.

The bill (HB 4871) would index the credit to inflation. The caps on property value and income would also increase with inflation under the plan.

The program provides a credit for property taxes exceeding 3.5 percent of household income, with seniors able to claim all of that and low-income families 60 percent. But current law caps the credit at $1,200, the property taxable value at $135,000 and income at $50,000 (those with incomes more than $40,000 lose 10 percent of the credit for each additional $1,000).

As reported from committee, the changes would begin with the 2016 tax year. The bill also makes clear that the Consumer Price Index would apply to total household resources.

Though the committee did not take testimony on the issue Wednesday, the Michigan Catholic Conference praised movement on the bill.

"This is good tax policy that addresses the economic reality for Michigan's low-income families and senior citizens," Michigan Catholic Conference Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy Tom Hickson said in a statement. "Each year people see their day to day costs rise due to inflation; this policy addresses those increases and provides relief for those who experience daily the hardships of a strained family budget. House Bill 4871 is a welcome step toward recognizing the dignity of lower-income residents and seniors."

The committee also reported SB 349, moving up the date on which county treasurers can send delinquency notices; and SB 369 and SB 370, which exempt equipment used in producing alcoholic from sales and use taxes as industrial processing equipment.

Bill Would Allow More Residential Maintenance Work Without License

The House Regulatory Reform Committee on Wednesday took up a bill that would increase the current threshold for when licensure is required for performance of residential improvement work from $600 to $4,000.

Currently, a license is not needed by a person working on one project by one or more contracts if the aggregate contract price for labor, material and any other item is less than $600. HB 4282 increases that to $4,000.

And HB 4281 would modify how the funds in the Builders Enforcement Fund could be used. Under the bill, not more than 30 percent could be used for enforcement purposes and not more than 70 percent to issue grants to a statewide residential building and trade association for workforce development and outreach programs related to the residential building industry.

"This allows for those who do handyman work to not go through the entire licensing process for basically a handyman businesses," said Rep. Ray Franz (R-Onekama), the chair of the committee and sponsor of the bills.

Mr. Franz said the bill originally increased the dollar amount to $10,000, but after negotiations with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs agreed on $4,000.

Rep. Marilyn Lane (D-Fraser) said she would be more comfortable with a figure around $1,500. She said for $4,000, a significant amount of work can be done to a home. And without the license, the department would not be held accountable if something went wrong.

"It really takes away consumer protections," she said.

She also said she was concerned about the amount of funding the department would lose with the reduction of licensing fees.

Lee Schwartz, with the Home Builders Association of Michigan, spoke in support of the bill. He said when the legislation was introduced in previous sessions, the group was not in support, but the $600 threshold does not have many real-world applications.

ANIMAL SHELTERS: The committee also took up HB 4915, which would establish holding periods of animals for shelters in the state before other actions could be taken.

Rep. Mike McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) said the intent of the bill was to allow local shelters to keep animals for longer than the holding period in the bill indicates. But the bill analysis said the holding period is a mandate and pre-empts local ordinances.

Mr. McCready said he would work with Rep. Andy Schor (D-Lansing), who asking about the holding period, to correct any issues.

Under the bill, for a dog that does not have current, traceable evidence of ownership and is not a candidate for adoption or a sterilization release program, the holding period would be four days. For dogs with traceable evidence of ownership, the period would be seven days.

For cats without current, traceable evidence of ownership, an animal control shelter or an animal protection shelter may observe a zero-day holding period for that cat if it is a candidate for adoption or a sterilization release program.

Amy Trotter with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs advocated for some changes to the bill. Ms. Trotter said the group would like to see the countdown of the holding period begin on the following business day from whenever an animal - particularly dog for her members - was found.

Ms. Trotter said when hunting with dogs, for example, sometimes the owner is not familiar with the area and doesn't immediately know what shelters to contact.

She also noted the group has seen those who oppose hunting with dogs take a collar off of a hunting dog before taking them to a shelter, which, under the bill, would reduce the holding period because the dog would not have traceable evidence of ownership.

Court To Coast Guard: Issue Bridge Permit Or Explain Why Not

The District of Columbia U.S. Court of Appeals has told the U.S. Coast Guard to either issue a navigation permit allowing construction of a second Ambassador Bridge span or explain why.

The order, issued Monday as part of a federal lawsuit the Detroit International Bridge Company has against Canada, requires the Coast Guard to issue a permit by January 4, 2016, or it and the litigants in the case shall explain why a permit has not been issued.

The order is the latest incident in the ongoing battle over new bridges between Detroit and Windsor. While the focus has been on getting final approvals and construction plans for development of the Gordie Howe International Bridge - promoted by Governor Rick Snyder, most Detroit-area business and the Canadian government - the owners and operators of the Ambassador Bridge have not given up efforts to build a second span to the 86-year old bridge.

This specific issue - various aspects of the controversy have been litigated - has to do with a navigation permit from the U.S. Coast Guard. Such a permit is needed before a bridge could be built.

In 2009, the Coast Guard issued a draft finding that construction of a second span would have no significant adverse environmental effects.

But it held off on issuing a navigation permit for regulatory reasons. A U.S. District Court found the Coast Guard was justified in delaying the permit.

Mickey Blashfield, spokesperson for the Detroit International Bridge Company, said in response to the order, "The 'delay game' has gone on long enough. We look forward to the Coast Guard's response to the court."

The permit would be an important step in gaining final approval for a new bridge, though a question of whether the Canadian government would permit the second span to proceed remains.

Senate OKs Blue Alert System

A "blue alert" system to broadcast information on attacks on police is heading to Governor Rick Snyder for final approval after getting final approval from the Senate Wednesday.

SB 336 saw unanimous approval to concur in a House substitute to the bill that includes a definition of "law enforcement officer" and includes language that a law enforcement agency

investigating the incident had information identifying an individual as a suspect connected to the incident.

Under the bill, the Department of State Police would have to establish and maintain a Blue Alert Plan to disseminate information to radio and television stations when a law enforcement officer was killed or seriously injured by an offender who had presumably not yet been apprehended.

A House Fiscal Agency analysis of the bill determined the bill would have a "significant" fiscal impact on the department to the extent the State Police would encounter costs to develop and maintain such a system, estimated to include $10,000 to develop information technology systems, $10,000 for server storage and $300 a month to operate a plan in partnership with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Various police organizations have spoken in support of the bill.

FAILURE TO YIELD: The chamber also passed by a margin of 36-2 legislation to prescribe a misdemeanor penalty for failure to yield to an approaching emergency vehicle (currently a civil infraction), as well as prescribe felony penalties for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle causing injury or death to emergency personnel (SB 421).

The misdemeanor would be punishable by a maximum fine of $500 and/or up to 90 days' imprisonment, while the felony for injury could be punishable by a maximum fine of $1,000 and/or up to two years' imprisonment and the felony for death could be punishable by a maximum fine of $7,500 and/or up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Its companion bill, SB 422, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to add the felonies to sentencing guidelines.

Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) and Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) voted in opposition to the bills.

MIOSHA Violations Cited in Ypsilanti, Holland

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued citations for alleged violations of worker health provisions in two separate cases involving companies in Ypsilanti and Holland.

DMC Consultants, Inc., in Ypsilanti, is facing $265,200 in penalties after a health inspection at two duplexes in the city between July 8, 2015 and August 14, 2015 was conducted and found 14 alleged violations. Citations were issued for a total of seven willful/serious violations related to asbestos at 955 Madison Street, and another five for the same issue at 113 Bell Street.

The company has 15 working days from receipt of the citations to comply or contest the violations and penalties, MIOSHA, part of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, said in a statement.

In Holland, Gates Electric, Inc. and Electrical Inspection Service, LLC face $357,000 in penalties. MIOSHA's Construction Safety and Health Division conducted a fatality inspection of the two companies at a Brink Warehouse between June 16, 2015 and August 19, 2015, during which time six alleged violations were identified.

Gates Electric was issued four willful and serious citations related to electrical installations while one willful citation was issued to Electric Inspection Service related to the General Duty Clause about

following the National Electric Code and power being energized to work operation prior to the completion of installation.

Both companies also have 15 working days from receipt of the citations to respond.

Michigan In Top 15 For Energy Efficiency

Michigan is the 14th most energy efficient state in the nation, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy said in its annual scorecard released Wednesday.

Michigan received 23.5 points out of a possible 50 points in the scorecard.

Among the highlights the group noted were the loan programs for small businesses for pollution prevention and energy efficiency. It also lauded the state for having energy efficiency standards for state buildings.

The group also praised the state for the energy efficiency measures included in PA 295 of 2008, which is currently under discussion for revision.

Among the areas where the state lagged was not having an energy efficiency standard for state fleets and adopting federal efficiency standards for both commercial and residential buildings.

But environmental interests raised issue with the rating though, noting that Michigan's ranking slipped from 12th place.

"Michigan's energy efficiency standard has saved families in Detroit and across the state billions of dollars on their energy bills and we must build upon this progress, not turn back the clock," said Guy Williams, president and CEO of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, in a statement. "Michigan families face the highest electricity costs in the Midwest and we must protect and expand our energy efficiency standard to rein in rising costs."

Committee Roundup

SENATE FAMILIES, SENIORS AND HUMAN SERVICES: The committee reported a package of bills (SB 517, SB 518, SB 519 and SB 520) that would amend various statutes related to child support, specifically that a Michigan tribunal issuing a spousal-support order consistent with state law have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify that order throughout the existence of the support obligation. Similarly, a tribunal could not modify a spousal-support order issued by a tribunal of another state or foreign county having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order.

The bills are to ensure the state is in compliance with current federal law on such matters or else risk losing about $175 million in child support funding for the current fiscal year. There is also a larger potential fiscal risk in that if the bills are not passed, the state may not be in compliance with policies governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, risking another $775 million in federal funding, a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of the bills determined.

The bills were reported with unanimous approval and no amendments.

Campaign Notes

ROAD ASSOCIATION PAC ENDORSES HOWELL, STOREY: The County Road Association of Michigan RUSH-PAC announced its endorsements of candidates in the special election primary on

Wednesday, choosing Republican Gary Howell of North Branch in the 82nd House District and Jim Storey of Holland in the 80th House District.

Mr. Howell is running to fill the vacancy caused by former Rep. Todd Courser's resignation and Mr. Storey is running to fill the vacancy caused by Rep. Cindy Gamrat's expulsion. The PAC also endorsed Democrat David LaGrand of Grand Rapids in the 75th House District.

Mr. LaGrand is running to fill the vacancy caused by former Rep. Brandon Dillon becoming chair of the Michigan Democratic Party.

"With legislators still unable to pass the type of road funding package needed in 2015, now more than ever RUSH-PAC recognizes the importance of supporting candidates who understand how important Michigan's local road system is to our economy and quality of life," said Denise Donohue, RUSH-PAC treasurer and director of the County Road Association of Michigan.

LASINSKI OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR 52ND: Democrat Donna Lasinski of Scio Township officially announced her campaign to run for the 52nd House District on Wednesday. Rep. Gretchen Driskell (D-Saline) currently holds the seat but is forgoing re-election to run for the 7th U.S. House District.

Ms. Lasinski currently serves as the Ann Arbor School Board treasurer and has a long career of education advocacy and volunteer service around Washtenaw County.

"I'm very excited to be running to serve you in Lansing. With a record of making positive change, I will bring a strong voice for our communities to Lansing," she said in a statement. "Together we can secure our kids' future and make sure everyone has access to the quality education they deserve."

Capital Notebook

PORTAGE BUSINESS EXPANSION: The Michigan Strategic Fund approved an $875,000 grant for Pro Services Inc., which provides skilled trades and maintenance technicians to a range of industries, as the company plans to construct a new Center of Excellence and corporate headquarters in Portage.

The project expects to generate a total capital investment of $3.9 million and create 175 jobs, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation said in a statement about the expansion.

MORENCI, ALLOUEZ TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GRANTS: The Michigan Strategic Fund approved a $250,000 community development block grant fund for job training needed for a KAMCO Industries, Inc. expansion project that includes the acquisition of a building in Morenci. The project expects to generate $22.7 million in private investment and create 60 jobs. Michigan was chosen over other locations in the Midwest, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation noted.

And Keweenaw County was awarded a $20,000 community development block grant fund for the Keweenaw County Mountain Lodge Study Project located in Allouez Township. The project is a best-use study to consider possible change in ownership or operations, expecting to result in future job creation, the MEDC said.

MEDICAID IN THE CLOUD: The state has moved its Medicaid Management Information System to cloud-based servers, which officials said would both improve service delivery and cut costs.

"It's important for Michigan to look for more and better ways to take advantage of technology to improve services for our residents," Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement. "This is an innovative

approach, allowing us to more efficiently share information and resources in real-time, helping residents get the health care they need."

The system allows real-time access to data and allows Michigan and Illinois, one of the partners in the project, to share information.

FLU SEASON: The state has confirmed the first three cases of influenza for the season, Department of Health and Human Services officials said in a release Wednesday calling for residents to be vaccinated.

Officials said there was one case of influenza A (H1N1) and three cases of influenza A (H3N2) found October 4-10. The release did not say where the cases were but said all were adults.

Subscribers Please Note

The first name of Oakland Circuit Judge Jeffrey Mattis was misspelled in Tuesday's report.

The initial version of Wednesday's House Activity Report incorrectly said HB 4268 had been enrolled. The enrolled bill was actually HB 4286. The final version of the House Activity Report has been corrected.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 11:47 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 9:45 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 23, 2015

News

Building a path to better, higher-paying Michigan jobs (Bridge Magazine, 10/23/2015)

Three years later, jury still out on Michigan's cyber school expansion (Bridge Magazine, 10/23/2015)

Court: Parole board must consider inmate's release (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Everything we know about the House roads package (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

MDOT age discrimination claim tossed out (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Michigan poised for big shift in how it pays for roads (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Why Michigan lost shot at $45M for charter schools (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Detroit group meets with DEQ director on Flint water, asks him to resign (Flint Journal, 10/23/2015)

State says it will speed up money transfer to Flint for Detroit water (Flint Journal, 10/23/2015)

Fuel taxes, registration fees and tax relief: 14 things to know about new House GOP roads plan (MLive, 10/23/2015)

Gov. Snyder says $1.2B House road funding plan is positive, but needs 'extensive analysis' (MLive, 10/23/2015)

Michigan congressman asks FBI chief how refugees are vetted (MLive, 10/23/2015)

Michigan State Police using cell snooping devices (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

New Michigan roads plan strains budget, but 'doable' (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Editorials

We've seen what happens without a prevailing wage in Michigan (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Chirkun: Let's find a road funding fix, Lansing (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Harris: Think outside the box in reforming DPS (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Our Editorial: Keep momentum on roads solution (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Ferry operator looks out for Detriot (Toledo Blade, 10/23/2015)

Blogs

Snyder 'Rockin Out' To Paul McCartney (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/22/2015)

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Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 8:15 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips
Attachments: Gongwer 1120.doc

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 9:11 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 23, 2015

News

Energy efficiency in Michigan: what you need to know (Associated Press, 11/23/2015)

Fix for roads leads new bills signed into law by Snyder (Detroit Free Press, 11/23/2015)

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Volume #54, Report #241 -- Wednesday, December 9, 2015

House Eliminates Straight-Ticket Voting, Adds 'Secure' No-Reason Absentee

The House narrowly approved a bill to eliminate straight-ticket voting Wednesday and also cleared legislation establishing "secure" no-reason absentee voting with Democrats mostly in staunch opposition to both during a long and contentious session.

Seven hours passed with the House mostly at a standstill before it finally took up SB 13 to eliminate straight-ticket voting - a voter's ability to vote for a slate of candidates from one party by checking off a single box - and HB 4724, which would allow a voter to bring identification to their local clerk's office to receive an absentee ballot.

SB 13 passed with the bare minimum amount of votes needed, 54-51 (there are still three vacancies in the House). All Democrats voted no and Republicans Rep. John Bizon of Battle Creek, Rep. Ben Glardon of Owosso, Rep. Martin Howrylak of Troy, Rep. Dave Pagel of Berrien Springs and Rep. Phil Potvin of Cadillac also voted no.

HB 4724 fared a bit better, passing 59-46, with Democrats Rep. Jeff Irwin of Ann Arbor and Rep. Derek Miller of Warren voting yes with most Republicans and Republicans Rep. Thomas Hooker of Byron Center and Mr. Potvin voting no with the rest of the Democrats.

Democrats said the straight-ticket elimination would disenfranchise voters, particularly those of color in populous urban precincts, and the no-reason absentee bill requires a voter to go to their clerk's office before every election to get an absentee ballot.

Mr. Howrylak said he voted against SB 13 because it includes a $5 million appropriation, which makes it referendum proof. He said legislation passed should be able to stand on its own merits.

Rep. Pam Faris (D-Clio) offered amendments to SB 13 to strip the appropriations - a $1 million appropriation was originally in the bill but later removed through a Republican amendment - and then asked for a roll call vote.

Her request was denied and Minority Floor Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) then called a point of order asking for a roll call vote. His motion was ruled not proper. Democrats said they were told he did not ask a question.

Mr. Singh said: "I am using this point of order to ask you to listen to one-fifth of the members here to demand a record roll call vote at the Constitution demands."

The House then went at ease while House Republicans and their staff huddled with House Clerk Gary Randall. Mr. Singh's request was not granted.

"They did this because they want the debate struck from the journal. Why strike Singh's point of order? They have the majority and can vote in favor of the chair's ruling," said Katie Carey, spokesperson for House Democrats of the Republicans.

The bill still includes a $5 million appropriation making it referendum proof. Voters rejected a similar law in 2002.

Rep. Leslie Love (D-Detroit) said barriers should not be put in front of those wanting to vote.

"I take this very personally, because one of the most proud moments I had when I turned 18 is when I went to register to vote. And I took that responsibility very seriously, because I understand the legacy and the history," she said of African-Americans fighting for the right to vote.

Mr. Irwin called the bill electioneering. He also said the bill would lead to longer wait lines at the polls on Election Day.

"If the average wait time is 22 minutes, and some of these folks aren't waiting at all, that means a whole of other folks are waiting a whole lot longer than 22 minutes," he said. "And who are these people? The people who are waiting are the people who live in crowded precincts. They live in crowded urban precincts with more voters, more voters per voting booth, more voters per poll worker and that is why they have to wait. ... Sometimes they wait hours to vote."

Mr. Singh said Republicans were backing the bill because they have not been able to win education board seats.

"If you can't win an election fair and square, let's steal the election. And that is what happening here today," he said.

But Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville) said straight-ticket voting is an antiquated practice from when "party bosses" actually created ballots.

"It is time for change. And it is time for choice," he said.

And Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto), sponsor of the House bill and chair of the House Elections Committee, said voters should choose candidates based on people, not parties. And she said the no-reason absentee measure would allow for more people to spend more time with their ballots if necessary.

"The simple truth is this is good policy. It's not pro-Democrat, it's not pro-Republican. It's pro-voter," Ms. Lyons said. "Together these bills are good policy. Together they are the right policy. They complement each other and I ask you for your vote on both."

Amendments adopted to HB 4724 would eliminate a provision that would have required the Election Day rule against campaigning within 100-feet of a polling location to apply to a clerk's office during the 45 days preceding the election.

Another amendment states it is the Legislature's intent that the law is invalid if a court finds it is invalid.

Democrats attempted to amend SB 13 at least 19 times, and all failed. Many of the amendments would have tie-barred the legislation to other elections reforms the Democrats support. One amendment would have allowed a person to use their concealed pistol license as voter identification and another would have allowed disabled persons or seniors to skip the lines at the polls.

Maturen Leading House Workgroup On 'Dark Stores'

Rep. Dave Maturen has begun heading up a workgroup on what to do, if anything, about how large retail stores' property is assessed with the goal of introducing legislation in the first quarter of 2016.

Mr. Maturen (R-Vicksburg) owns a real estate appraisal firm.

It underscores that one major issue of 2016 is likely to be whether state law should be changed to address "dark stores," the phenomenon in which large big box stores see lower than expected property valuations because the property is valued based on comparable sales of other properties instead of true cash value.

Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica), chair of the House Tax Policy Committee, said Wednesday there is a problem. Local governments say the current method of valuing large retail store properties is eroding their tax base.

"Anyone with reasonable perspective understands there is an issue, the question is how we solve that problem?" Mr. Farrington said after his committee concluded a second hearing on the issue Wednesday.

Mr. Farrington does not think legislation previously introduced (HB 4909 and SB 524) adequately address the issue. Those bills would require assessing such properties at their highest and best use and bar the use of negative deed restrictions.

Local government advocates and officials told the Tax Policy Committee on Wednesday that without changes to the method of assessing large retail stores' property, they would have to either cut services or increase millages to maintain services.

Cities, counties, villages and townships have mounted a campaign to change state law on how local assessors value those properties following Michigan Tax Tribunal decisions requiring the comparable sale method to be used. Local governments say the reduced valuations are spreading to the point where revenues are falling everywhere.

Three Rivers Mayor Tom Lowry told the committee as Tax Tribunal decisions have been made, the city and its surrounding townships have had to give back money to big box stores, and some of the decisions have been retroactive.

He said the city is approaching 10 percent of its General Fund budget being used on the "dark store theory."

Steve Currie, with the Michigan Association of Counties, said the group would like to see a restoration of a "fair system" in assessing property.

"The dark store theory the Michigan Tax Tribunal has adopted has disrupted what is a fair system ...and extended special privileges to a sector of the market," he said.

MAC, which spoke to the committee alongside the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Municipal League, said the solution to the problem is to prevent deed restrictions that "distort" the market and require use of cost, sales and income assessment approaches based on the particular circumstances.

However, Tricia Kinley, with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, said the big store taxpayers have challenged local governments on assessments and won. Also, on the deed restriction issue, she said the owner of a property could choose to sell or not sell to whomever they want.

"This has been characterized, or mischaracterized, as a new or dark store theory," she said. "But these taxpayers that are the focus of this discussion have legitimately challenged over assessments and the Michigan Tax Tribunal has repeatedly found that the assessment approach of valuing these retail operations by local governments over recent years is not valid."

But she also said if abuses are pointed out, the Chamber will consider the issue with an open mind.

HICA Extension Heads For Senate Floor

The Senate Appropriations Committee moved quickly on Wednesday to advance a bill extending the sunset on the Health Insurance Claims Assessment that generates matching federal funds for Medicaid.

The HICA tax has been a thorn in the side of legislators, especially Republicans, essentially since its inception. The assessment imposes a 1 percent tax on all claims paid on or after January 1, 2012, for health and medical services provided in Michigan to Michigan residents. It was created to provide funding for Medicaid, but the tax has long fell short of its anticipated revenue.

The House just passed HB 5105 on Tuesday to extend HICA into 2025 despite very vocal opposition from usual allies of the Republican majority like the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the latter of which again testified in opposition to the bill in the Senate committee on Wednesday.

"HICA is a Michigan-only tax. It's in great contrast to the many strides that have been made in the past couple years that have positioned Michigan as a leader in the nation and the world," said Delaney McKinley of the Michigan Manufacturers Association. "Action now on the HICA tax is unnecessary and premature."

Ms. McKinley estimated the cost to employers yearly is about $250 million, and if the sunset is extended for another eight years, it would be an additional $2 billion for health care purchasers, she said.

The bill, a last-minute addition to the committee's agenda, was reported to the full Senate on a narrow 9-5 vote. Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford), Sen. John Proos (R-St. Joseph), Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton), Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) and Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) voted in opposition, and Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) and Sen. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights) abstained from voting. Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-Clarklake) was absent from committee.

Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), chair of the House Appropriations Committee and sponsor of the bill, said he has been disappointed in the stance the Chamber has taken.

"This is not a tax increase, this is a freeze in a fee," he told reporters on the House floor. "I don't know what lobby math can be used to try to make this look like an increase. I don't know if this is Washington, D.C., math. This is the same rate going into 2025."

Mr. Pscholka said there would be huge budget implications if the nearly $400 million raised in revenue through the fee no longer existed.

"This is the same organization that asks us to pass a 15-cent per gallon gas tax increase. And they want business tax credits for large manufacturers. They don't like a tax freeze and they don't like the Switch deal," Mr. Pscholka said. "This is really odd to me that the Chamber of Commerce is coming out for tax increases and against tax freezes and reductions. That is where they are on those four issues."

Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said there are members within the Senate Republican Caucus who have "a lot of concerns" about the bill, "but we wanted to move the process forward" and have a full conversation in caucus.

He said he was still optimistic that the bill could be out before the end of the calendar year but wanted to see where other members of his caucus were on the bill.

Asked if keeping the tax was the fiscally responsible thing to do, Mr. Hildenbrand said, "Everything can always be changed down the road. The sunset is set to expire December 2017, so we're kind of getting in front of that. But we can always turn a bill in down the road to change the rate, do a different set of things.

"So this is just the proposal that's out there right now that the governor is supporting as well, that we can get some certainty in the short-term and down the road we can change it if that's the will of those serving at that time," he said.

UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITIES: The committee also approved a bill (SB 292) that would require the governor to include statements of annual required employer contributions toward total unfunded retiree health care and pension legacy costs for each department, and for the legislative and judicial branches as well, at the time the budget is provided to the Legislature and fiscal agencies.

Sen. John Proos (R-St. Joseph), sponsor of the bill, said he recognized that that has been provided already by the governor in at least the past two budget cycles, but wanted to put the requirement into statute for future governors.

"This governor has been great to put it in the budget. We'd like to see that going forward," he said of his bill. "I think this is responsible budgeting (and) will ensure future legislators have full knowledge about post-employment benefits and how we're going to pay those down."

The bill saw unanimous approval from the committee.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS: Also seeing unanimous approval from the committee was HB 4095 to appropriate $400 for four $100 planning authorizations.

The governor's fiscal year 2014-15 capital outlay budget recommendation for the State Building Authority-financed projects include new capital outlay planning authorizations for Ferris State University (Swan Building annex renovations), Lake Michigan College (Napier Academic Building renovation and upgrade) and West Shore Community College (technical center renovation and addition).

On March 11, 2015, the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee approved fiscal year 2014-15 planning authorizations as recommended by the governor, but the House passed this bill earlier this month to change them to a supplemental appropriation for fiscal year 2015-16.

House Continues Work On Switch Tax Bills

The House continues to work with its members to get the votes needed to pass legislation that would provide sales, use and property tax exemptions for data centers in the state, something inspired by Switch, a Nevada-based center looking to move into West Michigan.

The House Tax Policy Committee on Wednesday reported the Senate bills (SB 616, SB 617 and SB 618) to join the House bills (HB 4074, HB 4075 and HB 4076) on the floor.

Changes to the Senate bills include extending the sunset to 2035 like the House bills, and other more technical changes. The first two bills were reported 8-5 with Rep. Pat Somerville (R-New

Boston), Rep. Martin Howrylak (R-Troy), Rep. Gary Glenn (R-Midland), Rep. Lee Chatfield (R-Levering) and Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak) voting no.

On the final bill, the same five members voted no, and Rep. Brandt Iden (R-Oshtemo Township) abstained.

The bills have not yet come up on the House floor and Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica), chair of the Tax Policy Committee, said there are a variety of different issues for members. Those include making the bills "fair" for all data centers and answering whether the tax changes are a "carve-out" for one industry.

"My take on it is it is new tax policy for an industry that didn't exist 15 years ago," Mr. Farrington said. "And there's been discussion on why would you change this for one industry? And I retort back banks are taxed differently, service companies are taxed different, we have a complex tax code that makes a lot of changes based on what a company does."

Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said he is still waiting to see the hit to the General Fund the bills could create.

"I am hearing a number of $25 million, it gets my attention," he said. "Anything more than that and I start to get a little worried."

Mr. Pscholka said there are General Fund hits in other bills as well, like the aviation fuel legislation (SB 418, SB 425, SB 426, SB 612, SB 613 and SB 614) sitting on the House floor. Though he said that should have been done "years ago."

Still, "We've got to be careful," he said.

Mr. Farrington said he expects changes on the House floor to the bills.

The Michigan Data Center Alliance has been lobbying for a "fairness" amendment that would keep all current data centers in the state paying the same taxes as they are now, but allow new data centers going forward to get the exemptions.

Under the bills, to get the property tax exemptions, a local community would have to approve the center.

Mr. Farrington said the amendment is not bad policy, but local governments and the data centers are not coming to a compromise.

"At the end of the day, this isn't the state's money, this is the local's money," he said. "When we did PPT reform a couple of years ago, we reimbursed it all. We are not in this case. I think the best and more fair way to do it is to leave it up to the locals to decide if they want those jobs in their community or not."

But the alliance is calling for the House not to act on the property tax piece (SB 618 and HB 4076).

"We are deeply dismayed that members appear willing to give special treatment to an out of state company over those that have been paying taxes, creating jobs and playing by the rules here in Michigan for years," Yan Ness, spokesperson for the alliance, said in a statement. "We urge lawmakers in both parties to delay action on a flawed personal property tax bill that creates an uneven playing field. Lawmakers must recognize that ramming through bad policy in the frenzy to bring one company to Michigan could drive many other existing businesses out of our state."

Rep. Andy Schor (D-Lansing), sponsor of the personal property tax bill in the House, said the data center group is looking to strip the bill of the local control piece so the date centers won't have to pay property taxes on new investments. And, he said, the amendment they want to see would actually reimburse local governments for their property taxes through a formula.

"I think the personal property tax bill is going to be held back because there is more work that needs to be done on it to make everybody comfortable. You've got the locals, you've got the data centers, there's just a variety of questions," he said.

Mr. Schor said he is disappointed it is his bill that will not pass. But noted he is not in the majority so does not know for sure.

Bill Would Revise Sinking Fund Millages For Schools, Likely To Move In '16

The House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday discussed a bill that would allow local sinking fund millages to be used for security and technology purposes, and revise the amount of mills and time it could be authorized.

Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), the chair of the committee, said he won't move HB 4388 this year, but it will likely move out of the committee in early 2016.

Currently schools are able to use sinking fund millages for school construction and repairs and to purchase real estate. Under current law, sinking fund millages can be authorized for 5 mills and a duration of 20 years.

Under HB 4388, sinking fund millages would also be able to cover security improvements and technology, and the fund could be authorized for up to 3 mills and 10 years.

Rep. Michael McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills), sponsor of the bill, said the legislation provides a needed update to the law.

Mr. Pscholka said the change fits with the spirit of Proposal A of 1994, and said the business community has come on board with the changes because it is good for property tax payers.

"As you look at the numbers, this is actually good for property tax payers, whether you are business payers or residential payers," he said. "What we are doing here by changing the terms, reducing the millage rate, but allowing for a couple of other uses, is actually good for property taxes."

Mr. McCready also said the change in the time frame of sinking funds would simply require schools to make the case to voters more frequently that the funds are needed.

The Detroit Regional Chamber supports the bill and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce is neutral.

Rep. Pam Faris (D-Clio) asked why buses, or transportation, are not a part of the expanded uses of sinking funds.

Mr. Pscholka said, practically, the bill would not pass if that were included.

"If you start adding a laundry list of items, you will lose votes and we won't be able to pass the bill," he said.

Chris Glass with the West Michigan Talent Triangle, representing Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon Intermediate School Districts, said there has been an increase in technology needs among school

districts, and when using bonds to fund short term capital, like technology, schools and taxpayers end up paying more with interest and other fees.

Those opposed to the bill include the Great Lakes Education Project and the Michigan Association of Public School Academies. Charter schools do not have the authority to create sinking funds.

A House Fiscal Agency analysis shows currently 170 districts levy sinking funds, and 12 of those districts levy more than 3 mills. The analysis says if the revised cap were in effect now, it would have reduced revenue for those 12 districts by $2.8 million.

The analysis also says the reduction in the duration of the sinking fund would likely just make districts put the question on the ballot every 10 years instead of 20, instead of resulting in any real revenue reduction.

Senate Panel Hears No-Fault Proposal To Require Health Insurance To Pay First

Legislation that would require health insurance coverage to pay an injured motorist first before automotive no-fault insurance would pay was presented to the Senate Insurance Committee Wednesday and failed to get much support.

Also considered was legislation that would have the Department of State collect the fees paid to the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association, which also got little support.

The committee took testimony only on SB 313, SB 412 and SB 413, all sponsored by Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy). The bills are the latest in an ongoing series of efforts to find some way to change Michigan's automotive no-fault insurance to reduce premium costs.

Mr. Knollenberg told the committee that, while most complaints on no-fault have focused on the MCCA, the real problem the system has is with personal injury protection coverage. When compared to PIP costs in other states, Mr. Knollenberg said, PIP in Michigan is two times to 10 times higher than those states.

SB 313 would require essentially a type of coordination of benefits, with an injured motorist having to have his or her health insurance pay for care before the PIP coverage pays for it. Mr. Knollenberg acknowledged the bill could cause some cost increases for health insurance, but said it would save money overall.

The legislation would not affect those whose health insurance is through Medicare or Medicaid, and it would not affect persons whose health insurance comes through self-insured plans.

Aside from auto insurance companies, however, the bill was opposed by most of the people attending the meeting, including automotive companies, consumers groups trying to preserve no-fault and health insurance companies.

Steve Sinas, legal counsel for the Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault, said the bill would take away the option motorists now have to purchase coordinated coverage - which does require use first of health insurance before PIP covers an injury - or uncoordinated coverage, which draws from PIP for automotive injuries. That would rob customers of a choice they now have, he said.

Plus, for those legislators critical of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the legislation would in fact make the state more dependent on the controversial health care system, he said.

That brought a sharp retort from Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage), who said consumers cannot now effectively choose to use their health insurance, and that any attempt to tie the legislation to the ACA was "hypocritical."

Margaret Kroese with the Michigan Brain Injury Providers Council said the bill opens too many pitfalls to patients seeing interruptions in coverage they need. A health insurance company could decide to stop covering for an injury because in its view the treatment is no longer medically needed, but the auto insurance company could refuse to pick up coverage because not all the medical benefits have been used up.

And Mark Cook, vice president at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, said the bill could force a huge increase in the cost of health insurance that would be borne largely by companies.

But a large number of companies and individuals wouldn't even be affected if they are on self-insured plans or government-provided coverage. Mr. Cook said "north of 60 percent" of the more than 4.5 million people who have BCBSM insurance participate through self-insured plans.

Dominick Pallone with the Michigan Association of Health Plans also said the bill would force a big increase in health insurance premiums, but how large was unknown because the health insurance companies did not know what the actual costs of covering automotive injuries would be.

In terms of SB 412 and SB 413, Pete Kuhnmuench of the Insurance Institute of Michigan said his group opposed the bills because even if the payments are shifted, the insurance companies retain all the liability for a specific insurance claim.

The Department of State opposed the bills because of the difficulty of managing them. Registrations on some vehicles, particularly historic vehicles, are in place for 10 years. And some persons, such as disabled veterans, pay nothing for their registrations, the committee was told.

Conforme: EAA Has Made Changes Needed To Improve

The Education Achievement Authority has already moved three of its 15 schools out of the bottom 5 percent, and changes are in place to move the rest over the next five years, Chancellor Veronica Conforme told the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday.

Ms. Conforme acknowledged there were substantial problems with both academics and fiscal controls when the entity intended to be a statewide reform district launched in 2012, but she told the committee she has spent the last year implementing changes to correct those problems.

"There's no doubt the EAA has had its share of challenges since its inception," she said.

"Our mission is to turn the lowest performing schools into the highest performing schools," she said. "By working with the EAA, we expect them to be over the 50 percent line in five years."

To questions particularly from Sen. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights), Ms. Conforme acknowledged the district had lost students and had a substantial turnover of teachers and principals.

The loss of teachers and principals, she said, was a function of the locale.

All of Detroit's public schools have been losing students, she said. In addition to trying to improve educational outcomes to keep students, she said the district is working to improve safety at its schools. And a recent survey showed that effort was paying off.

"Retention is a challenge in all of Detroit and we have to continue to focus on that," she said of the struggle to keep teachers. In addition to offering a higher starting salary than Detroit Public Schools and many other districts in the region, she said the district is implementing programs to develop teacher leadership to make the job more attractive.

The efforts are starting to pay off, she said, with retention rates up to about 70 percent, a 10-point increase.

"So we have to think of more ways of supporting and rewarding them," she said.

But she said the principal changes were in part by design.

"Leaders we're hiring for a particular standard," she said. The district has been seeking new principals with experience turning a school around.

"This work is incredibly hard and learning on the job is really hard to do," she said.

Administrators also face more stringent standards under the district's evaluation system, she said. For teachers, 50 percent of their evaluation is based on student growth, but for administrators, it is 60 percent. The latter, she said, have more control over the environment that leads to education improvement.

Among other differences, principals in the district have full personnel control in their buildings, she said.

Ms. Confrome said the district was also taking efforts to reverse the trend Mr. Knezek pointed out that many of the EAA schools are showing little academic improvement.

Part of the problem, she said, was the computer system that had been the initial focus of the reform effort in the district.

The system had been designed to allow students to advance at their own pace, and original Chancellor John Covington had said the program was the key to pulling the schools out of the academic hole.

But Ms. Conforme said Mr. Covington had overstated its abilities and that the system, as implemented, actually detracted from education.

"There was an over reliance on technology, technology that was not properly set up," she said. "More focus should have been spent on developing and implementing a curriculum so the technology could have been used well."

Ms. Conforme said she has made those changes.

The district, she said, has been looking at best practices around the country and, to the extent possible, implementing those ideas.

For high school students, the district is also working to develop better career and technical education programs, she said.

"One of the things we need is a metric that tells us whether they're workforce ready and what does that mean," she said.

The district is working with a variety of partners, and looking for more, to develop both the programs and the measures, she said.

The district is working on a variety of efforts to get parents more involved, she said. Among those is having students run parent-teacher conferences, which she said gives the students more ownership over their progress.

Ms. Conforme also acknowledged the fiscal questions and allegations of criminal misconduct that are dogging the district.

"It is appalling that anyone entrusted with educating our children would use these resources for personal gain," she said.

In addition to cooperating with a FBI investigation into some former leaders at the district, Ms. Conforme said the district had implemented new purchasing processes, as well as controls over credit card use and travel, designed to reduce opportunities for impropriety.

"It's nice to see that we're trying to move forward in a productive way," Mr. Knezek said.

Senate OKs Independent Expenditure Committee Bill Amid Criticism

Senate Democrats slammed majority Republicans for their support of a bill that Republicans say merely codifies the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on First Amendment rights in its *Citizens United* decision in 2010, but Democrats said the bill goes further than even the high court intended.

Citizens United essentially asserted government could not restrict independent political expenditures by a nonprofit corporation, which has also been extended to for-profit corporations, labor unions and other associations. The bill by Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), SB 638[redacted], creates independent expenditure committees within the Michigan Campaign Finance Act and allows those committees to make unlimited contributions to other such committees.

In doing so, the legislation merely codifies existing practice, some legal experts and supporters of the bill have both said (See Gongwer Michigan Report, December 8, 2015). But Senate Democrats on Wednesday said such a characterization was being disingenuous.

"Let's be very clear here. This has nothing to do with speech and everything to do with power, specifically the power of those who have it and are rigging the system against those who don't," Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said in a no-vote explanation on the floor. "This legislation can be compared to seeing a building on fire and deciding that dousing it in gasoline is the best way to put it out.

"Everyday, regular folks already don't believe their government works for them. This bill will not help change that perception," he said.

Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren), in an impassioned speech against the bill, said codifying and expanding the reach of *Citizens United* "flies in the face of what Michigan citizens actually want."

"Michiganders do not want more money in politics. Michiganders do not want corporations interfering with elections. What they do want is something better than an F when it comes to transparency," Mr. Bieda said. "This bill firmly points Michigan in the wrong direction towards a future of dark money and convoluted electoral processes."

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) said the bill would expand the loopholes of Michigan's already dated campaign finance laws, allowing Super PACs to get involved with referendums and ballot initiatives.

"No one outside of this chamber, and I mean no one, believes we need more special interest money in politics. Only those that are sitting here and benefit from it believe that is the case," Mr. Hertel said. "We talk a lot about accountability and metrics in this chamber. We talk a lot about reviewing things. We were ranked dead last in accountability. We're just going to make it worse with this bill."

Still, the bill was passed on a 25-13 vote and given immediate effect, the latter of which the Senate has largely refrained from doing this term in an effort to help state departments and agencies have time to prepare for any pending changes resulting from legislation.

Sen. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) was the only Democrat to support the bill's passage while Sen. Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights), Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) and Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) split from the majority of their party to oppose the bill's passage.

"It is not a power play by Republicans. It's a codification of free speech as defined by the Supreme Court," Amber McCann, spokesperson for Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) responded to a question on such after session. "Democrats benefit from it just as much as we do ... It has been recognized as a form of free speech and participation in the democratic process. It's something that political parties both engage in, so why not make sure it's clear in state law so we don't have any issue going forward?"

The bill now heads to the House for consideration.

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION: The Senate also passed a bill, SB 581, revising the definition of loitering when it comes to sex offender registration. The bill came after a federal judge ruled that sex offenders could go back on school grounds because the state's previous language regarding the "1000-foot rule wasn't clear," Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), sponsor of the bill, explained.

Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) said he would vote for the bill (which passed on a 37-1 vote with Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) voting in opposition) on the floor just as he had in the Senate Judiciary Committee, but he still had several concerns on some language in the bill. He said a potentially "detrimental" change to the bill is its very premise of revising the definition of loitering, noting that the definition lacks any standard of mens rea, or the intention or knowledge of wrongdoing that is part of a crime.

"I think it's something the House needs to take a look at," Mr. Bieda cautioned.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: The Senate also passed a bill originally by Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville) that would protect individuals under 21 years of age from facing certain prescription drug-related legal charges when reporting a medical emergency.

HB 4843 saw unanimous approval from the Senate.

"Our laws exist to protect and preserve the public well-being," Mr. Pscholka said in a statement. "That translates, ultimately, to providing safety, health, and a bright future for all. If this bill saves even one young life, it's a success."

MOVEABLE BRIDGE FUND: Legislation that would assist communities in the cost of operating and maintaining movable bridges by creating a Moveable Bridge Fund (SB 105) cleared the Senate on a 33-5 vote on Wednesday. Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township), Sen. Mike Shirkey (R-

Clarklake), Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor), Sen. Coleman Young II (D-Detroit) and Senate Minority Floor Leader Morris Hood III (D-Detroit) voted in opposition.

"Taxpayers and local communities around the state are being shortchanged because of the presence of these bridges," Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville), sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "By assisting local governments with operating costs, we will actually save tax dollars, allowing dollars to be directed toward local roads."

MILLIONAIRE PARTIES: The Senate also passed SB 187 providing general amendments to bingo and charitable gaming millionaire parties. Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) won an amendment to the bill that would add the spouse of a "bona fide member" of a qualified organization and require a millionaire party licensee to file a financial statement containing a list of the qualified members of the licensee who were present for each event and all related receipts and expenses.

The bill passed 34-4. Senate Minority Floor Leader Morris Hood III (D-Detroit), Sen. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit), Sen. Coleman Young II (D-Detroit) and Sen. Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park) voted in opposition.

Commerce Begins Conversation On 'Alternative Project Delivery Act'

The Senate Commerce Committee on Wednesday began taking testimony on a pair of bills that would authorize a public authority to enter into a public-private agreement to develop certain projects, especially those related to infrastructure.

The primary bill, SB 627, creates the Michigan Alternative Project Delivery Act to make such an authorization and require a public authority consider and compare various methods for developing a project, as well as identify the proposed delivery method. Any lawful source of public and private funding could be used for such projects, and the public authority would have to submit a proposed project summary to the Senate and House Appropriations committees for review if the state or an agency of it intended to be a party to such an agreement.

Officials with the governor's office were early supporters of the legislation, saying an alternative project delivery proposal is important to the continued reinvention of the state. The package as drafted would provide a permissive and flexible avenue for an alternative project delivery project, as well as ensure the state has a wider array of tools available to it that also ensures projects are cost-effective, said Joe Pavona, director of Michigan's Office for Public-Private Partnerships.

Mr. Pavona pointed to legislation in Governor Rick Snyder's first term that essentially approved a public-private partnership to help the city of Detroit fund the repair of many of its highway lights that prior to such help were often not working.

"The state has received positive feedback from the private sector and other states keen on advancing similar projects," Mr. Pavona said. "Investors at project companies are now closely following Michigan's project pipeline looking to invest in long-term projects."

The Detroit lighting project is just one example the state can point to when investors, who seek risk-adverse ventures, inquire about the state's commitment to its infrastructure and "alternative project delivery projects," he said.

More than 30 other states have similar legislation on alternative project delivery, Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township), sponsor of the package, told the committee.

The other bill in the package, SB 628, requires the secretary of state to suspend a person's license upon receiving evidence the person was subject to a final decision or order for the nonpayment of a user fee and associated costs. It also provides that failure to pay such fees would be a civil violation punishable by a fine of three times the amount of the user fee in addition to the fee itself.

The National Motorists Association took issue with this portion of the package, saying it would create a third category of traffic ticket whose purpose was to "do an end-run around existing Michigan law that requires traffic tickets to be delivered in person by a police officer witness the violation," said James Walker, speaking for the organization.

"Michigan is free of automated traffic enforcement except at railroad crossings, and it must stay that way," he said.

The group also took issue with the authorization of toll roads that could result from the legislation, specifically SB 627.

"The bill allows state or local authorities to create (public-private partnerships) to do almost anything including exercising eminent domain with no legislative oversight, control, or right of veto," Mr. Walker said. "Michigan is blessedly free of toll roads and most other tolled facilities, and it must stay that way unless each individual project is approved by the Legislature after open public hearings."

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) raised a similar concern with a project in Colorado where the agreement included a provision that the roads around the particular zoned property could not be improved, forcing more people to use the toll road or else drive on unsafe roads. He asked if there was any way to protect from something like that, to which Mr. Kowall said he "whole-heartedly" agreed with Mr. Hertel's concern and would continue to work on the legislation to prevent such a thing from happening if possible.

The bills were not reported from committee.

Poll: Majority Backs Presumptive Parole

A majority of Michigan voters supports the concept of paroling inmates found to be low-risk once they serve their minimum sentence, according to a poll released Wednesday.

The survey, conducted by Denno Research for Public Sector Consultants and Michigan Radio, showed 53 percent were somewhat or very supportive of presumptive parole. Thirty-eight percent said they were somewhat or very opposed to the idea.

The poll comes as the Senate has all but quashed the presumptive parole bill, HB 4138, sitting in the Senate Government Operations Committee. Opposition among Senate Republicans appears strong.

Voters were divided on the question of whether juveniles serving life sentences should be eligible for parole. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled automatic sentences to life without parole are unconstitutional, but that a judge should still have the discretion to issue such a sentence. Forty-one percent said juveniles convicted of a life sentence should be eligible for parole while 39 percent said they should not.

And voters had an extremely negative view of how the Legislature handled road funding. Some 78.5 percent of those surveyed rated its performance as bad or terrible with 16.3 percent rating it good. Just 0.3 percent said excellent.

The survey of 600 likely November 2016 general election voters was conducted November 3-5 with an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Oakland Executive Election Change Clears House Committee

Legislation that would likely lead to Oakland County voters electing the county executive in midterm election years, no longer presidential ones, won approval from the House Elections Committee on Wednesday.

The party-line vote to report SB 110 comes amid speculation about when longtime County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, a Republican, will eventually decide not to seek re-election. Mr. Patterson has said he intends to run, and he has proven invincible on the ballot, winning election six times even as Democratic presidential candidates carried his county in all six of those elections.

But with Oakland County's changing demographics and tendency to go for Democrats in the presidential cycle (Democrats now control the clerk, prosecutor, treasurer and water resources commissioner posts), Republican concern about a Democrat succeeding Mr. Patterson is real. And Oakland County still tends a bit Republican in midterm cycles.

So if Mr. Patterson did win a final term in 2016, the bill, if it becomes law, would make it a two-year term with the next election taking place in 2018.

The one potential benefit to the Democrats of the bill is that it would allow their current countywide officers, who would be their strongest candidates for executive, to run for the post without having to give up their current office.

Officially, supporters of the bill have said it makes sense because Macomb and Wayne counties also elect their executives in the midterm election year and other countywide offices in the presidential year.

The bill would not automatically change the timing of the election, instead giving the Oakland County Board of Commissioners the power to switch if it wishes. With the board's Republican majority, there is little doubt it would do so.

Discussion of the bill in the committee was brief. All five Republicans voted yes and all three Democrats voted no. The committee made no changes to the bill.

PAC DONATIONS: The committee unanimously reported SB 571, which would make clear that organizations can include a request for a donation to their political action committee on the same form they request dues payments from members.

The Department of State had signaled a combined form could violate the Michigan Campaign Finance Act if the member submitted one check and the funds first went to the organization's general treasury before the portion for the PAC was then paid.

The bill would allow the organization to receive the funds and then pay out the funds to the group's PAC.

The bill also would end the existing requirement that employees participating in an organization's automatic payment or payroll deduction plan to the organization's PAC affirmatively assent annually to participate. Individuals would still have to provide their permission, but the annual requirement would cease.

House OKs Credit Union Act Revisions

Legislation that makes a variety of changes to credit union regulations passed the House overwhelmingly on Wednesday.

HB 5017 passed 104-2, HB 5018, HB 5020 and HB 5021 passed 105-1, HB 5022 passed 104-1 and HB 5019 passed 89-17.

The bills would establish the Credit Union Regulatory Fund and make numerous changes to the regulation of credit unions, as well as modernizing definitions of terms; address the supervision of domestic credit unions and bylaws and the authority to organize or invest in service organizations that provide trust and other services; revise the examination process by the Department of Insurance and Financial Services; deal with credit union mergers; and allow loan and savings promotional raffles.

Court Rules 'Knock/Talk' Not Illegal Search

A divided Court of Appeals on Wednesday ruled that the police technique of "knock and talk" to a suspect, particularly when they ask to speak to a suspect inside the person's residence, does not amount to an illegal search.

The court ruled in *People v. Frederick* and *People v. Van Doorne* (COA docket No. 323642) on remand from the Supreme Court, which had the court consider whether the "knock and talk" technique was an illegal search in light of a U.S. Supreme Court decision in a case, *Florida v. Jardines*.

In the Florida case, police had been tipped off that the suspect had been growing marijuana in his house. They approached the house with a drug-sniffing dog, which reacted to the scent of marijuana as they approached the front entrance. The police then obtained a search warrant for the house.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled use of drug sniffing dog amounted to an illegal search. But the court also held that a police officer could "knock and talk" at the door because that is what people do at a house.

In the two cases, Michael Frederick and Todd Van Doorne were Kent County corrections officers who also were medical marijuana patients. The police were told each had quantities of marijuana butter. The police came to each man's house in the pre-dawn hours, knocked, conversed briefly with each man, were invited into their house, then asked if he had marijuana butter. The individuals said they did and showed the police the butter. They also signed forms waiving their rights under the *Miranda* rule.

Judge Michael Talbot, joined by Judge Kristin Frank Kelly, rejected the defendants' arguments that the searches violated the scope of what was allowable in the *Jardines* case. But Mr. Talbot said the *Jardines* case did not turn a "knock and talk" situation into an unlawful search.

Before the *Jardines* case, the court had held "knock and talk" situations were constitutional.

But the *Jardines* case makes it plain, the court said, that approaching a residence, knocking at the door, talking to a suspect, even for the purpose of gleaning information that could lead to the person's arrest, does not violate the constitutional line. Just showing up at the house to conduct a search without a warrant would do so, the court said.

Judge Deborah Servitto said the totality of the situation - the early morning hours, no one being awake in the houses, the police officers having higher rank than the corrections officers, the suggestion they may have committed a crime - put the instance into a framework where the defendants were unlikely to deny the officers access or accede to their requests. When balanced in totality, she said, the "knock and talk" searches did violate the two defendants' Fourth Amendment rights.

Cyber Squadron Assigned To Battle Creek

The Battle Creek Air National Guard base will see 70 new jobs with the assignment of a cyber operations squadron to the base.

Battle Creek will house one of the four new squadrons intended to defend the nation against computer-based attacks.

The base has housed a cyber range hub, part of the state's system to experiment with defenses against various types of online attacks, since 2014.

"Cyber-attacks are an unfortunate reality of a world that is becoming increasingly more dependent on technology," Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement announcing the squadron assignment. "I'm proud of the work we've done to establish Michigan as a national leader in this field. The new cyber unit will help ensure we remain on the forefront of this mission and provide new and future opportunities for growth."

Canvassers To Consider Snyder, Schmidt Recall Petitions

The Board of State Canvassers will meet next week to consider yet another attempt to recall Governor Rick Snyder as well as a recall petition against Sen. Wayne Schmidt.

The board will also review its procedure for determining whether a signature is still valid where a petition drive goes past 180 days.

Detroit pastor Angelo Scott Brown has filed a fourth recall petition against Ms. Snyder for his handling of the Flint drinking water crisis.

"The people of Flint City did not have the basic service of clean water for nine months," Mr. Brown said as part of his argument for recalling the governor.

Two of his prior petitions have been rejected by the board and he withdrew a third.

William Bailey is seeking to launch a recall effort against Mr. Schmidt (R-Traverse City) for his November 3 votes on the transportation package.

And in the final matter, Jeffrey Hank, a proponent of one of the marijuana legalization measures, had asked the board at its last meeting to change how it determines whether signers of a petition that goes past 180 days were properly registered at the time they signed to checking them against the qualified voter file from the current method of obtaining affidavits from the signer and the local clerk.

Legislative Black Caucus Invites Knollenberg To Meeting

In a letter to Sen. Marty Knollenberg, the Legislative Black Caucus invited him to attend a special meeting of the lawmakers on Thursday "to have to have a more open dialogue" following comments Mr. Knollenberg made last week at a Senate committee meeting.

Mr. Knollenberg (R-Troy), responding to a presentation that said many of the failing schools are in economically struggling communities and held mostly minority students, said: "We can't make an African American white. We can't fix that."

He later apologized and said it was a poor choice of words.

In the letter, the caucus wrote Mr. Knollenberg's comments were concerning and his "misinformed perspective" receives a great deal of legislative backing.

"Your views of a nonwhite deficit are deeply problematic, and speak to the Republican perception of blackness as a dysfunction or deformity, something that you 'cannot fix,' the implication being that issues in nonwhite urban communities are inherently unsolvable, thereby absolving our government of its responsibility to take care of its people," the letter said. "The perpetuation of this stigma by a democratically elected official is disheartening, particularly when many of your constituents commute to work and are deeply invested in the growth and vibrancy of urban areas."

The caucus wrote, if Mr. Knollenberg attends their meeting, they hope "to have a more open dialogue on what is necessary to move both your opinion, and urban education in Michigan, toward positive progress in this next year."

Capital Notebook

SURPLUS SALE: The state surplus store has announced special Saturday hours for December 12. The store, at 3111 West St. Joseph Street, Lansing, will be open 8 a.m. to noon.

The store traditionally is only open during weekday business hours, and many of its items are available on the MiBid website.

CASINO REVENUE: All three of the Detroit casinos saw revenue decline in November from October, and two of the three saw it fall from November 2014, the Gaming Control Board reported Wednesday.

MGM Grand Detroit saw a substantial jump in revenue from November 2014, up 7.3 percent to $46.71 million. But that was down 1.6 percent from October. MotorCity Casino, at $36.24 million in November, was down 1.6 percent from November 2014 and down 4 percent from October. Greektown Casino, with $25.73 million, was down 2.5 percent and 6.8 percent over the respective periods.

RECYCLING COUNCIL: The Governor's Recycling Council is taking public testimony at a meeting January 12 at Lansing Community College's West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. The council meets from noon until 2 p.m. and is taking comment from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Those wanting to participate in the meeting, either in person or via the webcast, have to fill out the request form on the council's website.

STATE OF THE STATE: Governor Rick Snyder will deliver his sixth State of the State speech to a joint session of the Legislature at 7 p.m. on January 19.

CONSENT AGREEMENT ENDS IN RIVER ROUGE: The Department of Treasury has released the city of River Rouge from the consent agreement under which it has operated since 2009 because of financial problems. Treasury officials will continue to meet with city officials quarterly.

"The city has made significant progress over the last few years to address the financial emergency in River Rouge," Treasurer Nick Khouri said in a statement. "Local officials have made numerous critical decisions and taken important steps forward to ensure continued fiscal stability. As a result, the city has complied with terms of the consent agreement, therefore a release from the agreement is justified."

FENTON BUSINESS EXPANSION: The Michigan Strategic Fund has approved a $150,000 grant to Performance Fabricating, LLC, headquartered in Fenton, for the company to construct a new corporate headquarters and manufacturing facility in the township, investing more than $9 million and creating 52 jobs.

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN FLAT ROCK OVERFLOWS: Attorney General Bill Schuette and the Department of Environmental Quality have reached a settlement with the Flat Rock owners of Arbor Americana Manufactured Housing Community. The residents of the community had been subjected to repeated exposure of untreated raw sewage, as well as partly treated sewage, because the owners would not repair or replace a dilapidated wastewater treatment system.

As part of the settlement, the owners are to replace the system and certify it meets state law by April 15, 2016, and pay a civil fine of $300,000 as well as $15,000 to the state's General Fund.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Thursday, December 10

House Fiscal Agency Board of Governors **(Chr. Pscholka, 373-8080), House Appropriations Room, Capitol, 8:30 a.m.**

- **Quarterly report presented by Mary Ann Cleary, Director of the House Fiscal Agency**

Senate Transportation (Committee Record) **(Chr. Casperson, 373-5323), Room 210, Farnum Building, 8:30 a.m.**

HB 4459 **DRIVER LICENSE** (Lucido) Allows for encoding emergency contact information in driver's license.

HB 4460 **STATE IDENTIFICATION** (Lucido) Allows for encoding emergency contact information in identification cards.

SB 595 **MEDICAL CONDITION DRIVABILITY** (Casperson) Revises and clarifies examination regarding existence of certain medical conditions affecting applicant's ability to operate safely.

Senate Finance (Committee Record) **(Chr. Brandenburg, 373-5312), Room 100, Farnum Building, 9:15 a.m.**

HB 4462 **REFUND INTEREST** (Clemente) Aligns interest claims on city income tax with Revenue Act.

House Oversight and Ethics (Committee Record) **(Chr. McBroom, 373-8474), Room 326, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.**

HB 4540 **CIVIL RIGHTS** (Heise) Exempts public body records, documents or information disclosable under the Freedom of Information Act.

Tuesday, December 15

Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security (Committee Record) **(Chr. O'Brien, 373-5314), 110, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.**

HCR 7 **VETERANS HEALTH CARE** (Hughes) Urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Congress to create a pilot program in Michigan instituting a flexible Veterans Choice Card system structured similar to a traditional health care program for all veterans in Michigan.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 9:15 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips
Attachments: g 1210.doc

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 8:57 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For December 11, 2015

News

Flint taking step to ensure safe water after problems (Associated Press, 12/11/2015)

Far from Flint, lead remains an irreversible scourge (Bridge Magazine, 12/11/2015)

Former Flint mayor wants feds to probe lead in water (Detroit Free Press, 12/11/2015)

GOP members of Congress from Michigan reject Trump plan (Detroit Free Press, 12/11/2015)

Flint will pay for independent water tests, added phosphate treatment (Flint Journal, 12/11/2015)

More lead in plumbing found at Flint's Brownell school, state report says (Flint Journal, 12/11/2015)

Troubled DHHS software improves (Lansing State Journal, 12/11/2015)

Black students struggling more in Michigan than other states, according to report (MLive, 12/11/2015)

Michigan marijuana legalization group extending petition drive, challenging 180-day policy (MLive, 12/11/2015)

Switch data center tax break bills delayed -- not dead -- in Michigan House (MLive, 12/11/2015)

Why school leaders say energy bill will take $15M out of classrooms a year (MLive, 12/11/2015)

Obama calls Troy-bound Syrian refugee an 'inspiration' (The Detroit News, 12/11/2015)

Editorials

Detroit school 'sickouts' measure system's dysfunction (Detroit Free Press, 12/11/2015)

For state's GOP reps, gun rights trump war on terrorism (Detroit Free Press, 12/11/2015)

Snyder can do the right thing on LGBT rights and endorse Fair Michigan (MLive, 12/11/2015)

Civil Rights commissioners: Stand up to hate (The Detroit News, 12/11/2015)

Editorial: Facts should inform gun debate (The Detroit News, 12/11/2015)

Szymanski: Juvenile court best answer for 17-year-olds (The Detroit News, 12/11/2015)

Detroit needs to unleash laws on humans to settle 'pit bull' issue (Toledo Blade, 12/11/2015)

Blogs

A Thought , A Gloomy Thought, About Roads (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 12/10/2015)

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Volume #54, Report #243 -- Friday, December 11, 2015

Newsmaker Friday: Maturen Works 'Dark Stores' Issue

Rep. David Maturen is bringing his 40 years of work in real estate appraisal and assessing to bear in heading up a workgroup examining what, if anything, to do about how the assessment of large commercial real estate properties works, and Mr. Maturen said Friday in an interview there is clearly a problem.

The workgroup has held two meetings with a third planned for next week. It is the last one scheduled at this point. Mr. Maturen (R-Vicksburg) said he expects to submit legislation for introduction in early 2016.

Even as the issue of energy continues to consume considerable oxygen in the Capitol, the topic of "dark stores," the phenomenon in which large big box stores see lower than expected property valuations because the property is valued based on comparable sales of other properties instead of true cash value, looms as perhaps the biggest issue in 2016.

Cities, counties, villages and townships have mounted a campaign to change state law on how local assessors value those properties following Michigan Tax Tribunal decisions requiring the comparable sale method to be used. Local governments say the reduced valuations are spreading to the point where revenues are falling everywhere.

But business groups are mounting a furious defense of existing law and policy.

The workgroup includes all the major players - local assessors and equalization officers, the Department of Treasury, the State Tax Commission, legislators with heavy interest in the issue as well as some expert background, retailers, manufacturers, business organizations and realtors.

"I'm trying to see what kind of consensus we can get, if possible. I think everybody will probably not be on board," Mr. Maturen said. "I'd rather address the arguments up front than put something out there and have it shot full of holes."

Mr. Maturen owns his own real estate appraisal firm. In the 1970s and 1980s, he was a level three assessor in the Property Tax Division of the Department of Treasury.

It was this background that prompted both Mr. Maturen and Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica), the chair of the House Tax Policy Committee, which has held two hearings on the issue so far, to agree Mr. Maturen should helm the workgroup.

"I almost felt an obligation when I heard about this to get involved," he said.

The workgroup has gone into greater nuance than the committee, Mr. Maturen said, delving deeper into the arcana of the General Property Tax Act and the Tax Tribunal rules.

"I think the way the Tribunal has approached valuation of these big box retail stores, in my opinion, doesn't represent sound appraisal principles," he said. "They're down a pathway that I would like to change. I think lots of folks recognize that."

Mr. Maturen said a new Costco in Kalamazoo County is a case in point. It is on a prime piece of real estate and is a primary entryway into the Kalamazoo area. Between what Costco paid for the land and listed on its building permit, it spent $17.5 million to build the store. Assessors, using the true cash value standard valued it at $8.5 million, and Costco immediately countered by claiming it was worth $4 million under the comparable value standard.

"I tell people this and they scratch their head and say 'you're kidding me,'" Mr. Maturen said. "That's the extension of the theory that the Tax Tribunal has accepted for the valuing of these large retail facilities. Most people would think that's not the type of property tax system we would want in this state."

Mr. Maturen said his goal is equal treatment among properties.

There is a bill now in the Senate requiring the use of true cash value as the assessing model, but Mr. Maturen said he had some concerns about it specifying when property could be used for comparable purposes. He said that is an inappropriate role for the Legislature.

Mr. Maturen also mostly dismissed questions that business groups have raised about the constitutionality of the Legislature changing the standard. He said there is sufficient permission in the law for the Legislature to change the definition of true cash value.

Bills Ending DHHS Vaccination Rule Will See Hearing

Rep. Thomas Hooker introduced legislation this week that would end the Department of Health and Human Service's new rule requiring parents planning to enroll their children in public schools to meet with local health department staff before acquiring a nonmedical waiver not to vaccinate their children, and Rep. Mike Callton, chair of the House Health Policy Committee, plans to give the bills a hearing.

The bills, HB 5126 and HB 5127, would prohibit DHHS from promulgating rules more stringent than state law and would bar local health departments from stopping unimmunized students from attending school as a disease control measure unless there is an epidemic.

The new rule, promulgated this year, requires those wanting nonmedical vaccination waivers for children entering a licensed child care facility, kindergarten, or the 7th grade, or moving into a new school district, to first receive education on the benefits of vaccination and the risks of disease from their local health department.

On the second part of the bill, Mr. Hooker (R-Byron Center) said health departments would be able to prevent students who were not vaccinated from going to school if even just one student had measles or a similar disease.

Mr. Hooker said the department wanted to make it harder for parents to receive a nonmedical waiver. He said those parents have a right to the waiver, and in some cases, like in Kent County, parents had difficulty making an appointment, were harassed and were asked to bring their children with them so they could hear from a nurse their parents were putting them at risk.

Mr. Hooker said those instances have since stopped.

"Some statistics indicated more children had died from immunization than died from measles," Mr. Hooker said. "There are health reasons why people don't do it."

Jennifer Eisner, spokesperson for DHHS, said the department is responsible for promoting the health of residents, and it takes that very seriously, especially when it comes to children and vulnerable populations.

"High immunization rates help protect individuals in the community who cannot be vaccinated because they are too young or have complicating health factors. While parents maintain the ability to opt out of vaccinations with a waiver from their local health department, we stand behind the

importance of immunizations and know that they work best when everyone who can be vaccinated is vaccinated," she said. "The current rules are based on sound public health practice and we believe they are in the best interest of schools and communities in Michigan. We look forward to discussing the outcomes of the new waiver rule with our legislative partners as that data and information becomes available."

Mr. Hooker said he had not yet talked to any families with medical waivers, but said his colleague Rep. Joseph Graves (R-Linden) cannot receive vaccinations because of medical conditions, and he supports the bill.

Amy Zaagman, executive director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health, said those who choose not to vaccinate their children for philosophical reasons are a small, but vocal, minority. Ms. Zaagman said early data she has seen shows the DHHS rule is working.

"What the lower waiver rate says to us is parents were not fully educated or were exercising waivers out of convenience," she said.

But Mr. Callton (R-Nashville) said parents choosing philosophical waivers are educated.

He said it is a parent's right to decide what to put in their child's body. He said parents are being "talked down to" at local health departments.

"Is that insulting or what? That a parent can't exercise their right to their child's education or health," he said. "And they have to talk to a counselor before they can have a waiver. Most of these parents are not ignorant. A lot of these parents are very well educated."

Ms. Zaagman said the officials with whom she has spoken said they were trying to give balanced information.

Mr. Hooker said he met with local health officials in Kent County who told him they were seeing more cases of preventable diseases than they had seen in a long time. He said he asked the nurse if undocumented immigrants in the state could have been "a little bit of the problem."

"She said she didn't think so," he said, noting others in the room indicated they could look at that as a potential cause.

Mr. Hooker said he was vaccinated and he knows others on either side of the vaccination debate. He said he's not introducing legislation to take a side, but rather because he thinks parents should have a right to choose.

Mr. Callton said there could possibly be a compromise with the department to have parents read the information online rather than having to go to a health department.

"Why can't you make it so they can read the information online easily at their home. ... some of these people it is really difficult to get an appointment, go down to the health department, get talked down to by a health department worker, and then go all the way back home," he said. "To exercise your right and make your own decision about what goes into your child's body. So I am open to the idea."

Ms. Zaagman said if the information was being read online, a parent would not be able to ask questions of a professional if they had any.

On how concerned she was about the bills potentially moving through the Legislature, Ms. Zaagman said those with medical waivers, children who cannot receive vaccinations because of medical

conditions, were not being heard from enough. She also said parents not seeking waivers are not being considered.

"I think we are very concerned that legislators haven't really heard from the 'pro-vaccine' parents," she said. "Ninety percent of parents choose to vaccinate. ... We are reasonably concerned that legislators only hear from the small minority."

New Federal Education Law Sees Praise, Questions

There was general support among Michigan education groups the day after the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act was reauthorized, but most were also still trying to pick out the details of what will now be known as the Every Student Succeeds Act.

The new act, which replaces the oft-maligned No Child Left Behind Act, still requires states to focus on the bottom 5 percent of schools and on the poorest-performing groups within each school, but otherwise gives more flexibility to states to set standards and measurement systems. States also would have more authority over the sanctions schools and districts might face for not reaching the standards.

"The Michigan Department of Education is excited about the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act and the opportunity to craft a meaningful assessment, accountability and support system that we can align with our goals to make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years," Superintendent of Public Instruction Brian Whiston said in a statement. "This new law is very complex and we will need time to unfold its layers and see what this will look like for our state, our schools, our educators and our children. This will be a process involving multiple stakeholders, and require more than MDE's input. We look forward to developing and implementing a high quality system over the coming months and years."

"For the first time in many years, states will have significantly more ability to set their own policies, without constant fear of federal intrusion and repercussions," Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, said in a statement. "It will be important to remain vigilant about the state agencies that will now hold much more power."

And Brad Biladeau with the Michigan Association of School Administrators said, "The bill wasn't necessarily perfect, but it got more right than it did wrong."

Mr. Biladeau said he did not expect much change, at least in standards.

"Our standards still remain high," he said. "The reality is our standards are firmly in place and we don't expect those to change."

There have been some concerns raised as the bill made its way through Congress that the move back to state-led standards would also mean a move back to differential standards where some states lower the bar to improve proficiency numbers.

The new law could, though, mean more teaching time during the school year, David Crim with the Michigan Education Association said.

"The reduction in the amount of standardized testing is huge," Mr. Crim said. "They recognized that there's been far too much emphasis and proliferation of standardized testing."

The teacher union is also praising the inclusion of teachers in decision making at all levels.

A key win for schools appears to be the move away from the waiver system that had dominated NCLB compliance in recent years.

"We're happy we finally have a reauthorization," Jennifer Smith with the Michigan Association of School Boards said. "I think it's going to stop some of these piecemeal waivers."

"School districts needed to be free from the conditional limits of the current waiver process," Mr. Biladeau said.

He said districts will continue under the current waiver process for the next year (the law calls for the waivers to expire in August 2016), then begin "trial" implementation of the new state and district improvement plans for the 2016-17 school year.

The new law officially takes effect for the 2017-18 school year.

A win for conservatives was prohibition against the U.S. Department of Education requiring or even promoting any particular standards. The measure was a swipe against the Common Core State Standards that many conservatives have argued were developed and then imposed by federal officials.

Michigan is among the states that have adopted the standards developed by a consortium of states but then promoted through the federal Race to the Top grant programs.

Sandra Kahn, president of the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan, said in an open letter that the law did not go far enough to eliminate Common Core or federal control over education.

"The mechanism for government control of education was not removed from this bill," Ms. Kahn said. "In fact, it has expanded its tentacles into pre-school. Race to the Top has been replaced by Race for the Tots. Government, it seems, cannot get its hands on our children early enough."

While the law does prohibit the federal department from imposing standards, she said there is no enforcement mechanism for that prohibition.

Mr. Biladeau also noted in an analysis for his organization that there is an early education component in the law that would create a program in addition to Head Start.

It was unclear Friday what, if any, effect the new law might have on funding for schools.

Mr. Biladeau said he is still reviewing that, but in his analysis said school improvement grants had been melded into Title I for at-risk youth, with the added requirement that schools cut no more than 10 percent of their prior year spending to continue to receive the federal funds.

Education Week, in an analysis before the bill was enacted, said it combines most of the federal education programs into a block grant but puts some strings on those grants for districts that receive more than $30,000 in a school year.

But too much of the funding will go to support charter schools, Mr. Crim said.

"We're a little concerned," he said. "The ESSA includes authorization of hundreds of millions of federal tax dollars to support the increased growth of charter schools."

Attorney For Allard, Graham Plans To Call Cotter To Stand In Case

Sarah Riley Howard, the attorney for fired former House staffers Keith Allard and Ben Graham, said she will call House Speaker Kevin Cotter to testify in their whistleblower lawsuit against the House.

The two former staffers lost their jobs after their former bosses, ex-Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, initiated their firing, which was signed off on by Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) and his top staff. They claim Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat fired them for reporting their misconduct to Mr. Cotter and his staff, and that Mr. Cotter and his staff allowed the firing to take place.

Ms. Howard, appearing on Michigan Public Television's "Off the Record," said she is not sure whether Mr. Cotter actually will testify. During settlement negotiations, attorneys representing the House raised the issue of legislators having immunity from testifying. Ms. Howard said there is some case law giving precedent for a legislator having immunity from being deposed. She said that topic has been significantly litigated and she suspected it would be litigated more in this case.

"Our position is this is a sort of we win either way," she said. "We either get him on the stand, we get him deposed, or he takes legislative immunity and says I'm not talking about it. That kind of says what we need to know, I think, at that point."

Ms. Howard said there is no question that if Mr. Cotter refuses to testify it will help Mr. Allard's and Mr. Graham's case.

Cotter spokesperson Gideon D'Assandro said there have been no discussions about whether Mr. Cotter or any other legislator might invoke immunity from testifying in the case.

Settlement discussions took place prior to Mr. Allard and Mr. Graham filing their lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids on Monday, Ms. Howard said. She said court rules bar her from disclosing details of those talks.

As to how close the two sides were to a settlement, however, she said, "I wouldn't classify it as being all that close." Mr. D'Assandro said the House could not comment on the subject.

Mr. Allard and Mr. Graham "wanted nothing more than to settle and resolve this and put it behind them," Ms. Howard said. "We tried hard to settle this case, and in the end we couldn't get fairness for our clients."

The next step in this case will be for the House to file a formal response to the lawsuit. Then the House surely will make a motion to dismiss the case, and Judge Gordon Quist will have to decide whether to grant the motion or let it proceed to trial. Ms. Howard said she was confident the case would easily survive a motion to dismiss. She would not disclose how much Mr. Allard and Mr. Graham are seeking in damages, but said what they unearth in discovery would affect the that amount.

Ms. Howard was the Democratic candidate in the 30th Senate District in 2014 against Sen. Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), and she is an active Democrat.

Monday, news of the lawsuit's filing was broken by Democratic groups. On the program, Ms. Howard was asked if she tipped off Democratic groups that the lawsuit would be filed to give them the chance to jump on it. Democratic groups spent much of Monday teeing off on Mr. Cotter and the House Republicans.

Ms. Howard said she made no calls to Democratic groups, but she did meet with media strategists to prepare her and her clients for how to handle the ensuing media storm after the lawsuit was filed.

How the information about the pending lawsuit traveled from that point on, Ms. Howard said she did not know.

"I know a lot of people have talked to a variety of people who know about it, so I don't know exactly," she said.

But Ms. Howard said no one should think the case is about anything other than obtaining compensation for her clients.

"It is absolutely not about inflicting political damage. I did not want to file this suit because it's not in my clients' best interest," she said. "It's outrageous to me what's been done to these two."

And as to Mr. Allard and Mr. Graham, both deeply conservative Republicans, hiring an active Democrat to lead their case, Ms. Howard retorted, "There isn't really such a thing as a Republican who's a plaintiffs' lawyer doing plaintiffs' employment and civil rights, so if they wanted to go to someone in their own party, I don't think would have been able to."

Presuming the case survives the motion to dismiss, Ms. Howard said it could take one to two years before it gets resolved.

UAW Local 6000 Ratifies New State Contract

The last of the five unions representing state employees has approved a proposed new contract with the state.

With the overwhelming 91 percent yes vote from United Auto Workers Local 6000, the largest state employee union, the final step is approval from the Civil Service Commission, which meets Wednesday.

Under the tentative agreement the state reached with unions in October, there would be a one-year contract for wages and health care starting October 1, 2016, providing a 1 percent base wage increase and 1.5 percent lump sum payment for employees in October 2016.

Other portions of the contracts would last the traditional three years. However, the Office of State Employer pushed for a one-year deal on the wages and health care components out of concern about what will happen with the federal excise tax on premium health care plans, one union said in an October bulletin to its members.

Feds: 24 Michigan Hospitals Have Too High Rates Of Hospital-Acquired Infections

As part of an ongoing program by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to improve performance in controlling infections and other illnesses patients can get in hospitals, 24 Michigan hospitals will see their Medicare payments cut by 1 percent in 2016.

A spokesperson for the Michigan Health and Hospital Association said the program is unfairly designed because it is required to find 25 percent of a state's hospitals out of compliance, and it targets larger, teaching hospitals which generally treat the sickest patients.

But the president of the Economic Alliance of Michigan said the study shows that hospitals have to do more to control for these conditions. Bret Jackson also said patients should look at data to determine which hospitals are the safest for them to seek treatment at.

The findings were the second annual set of findings released by the federal CMS on the issue. Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, beginning in 2014 the CMS had to issue the findings nationwide in an effort to push hospitals to improve their efforts to lower the incidence of patients acquiring infections and other conditions in the hospital.

Nationwide, the CMS said this week that 750 hospitals would see their Medicare payments reduced because of scores showing they had too high incidents of hospital acquired conditions.

In 2014, Michigan had 21 hospitals on the list. This year eight hospitals that were listed in 2014 made it off the list, but 11 hospitals not listed in 2014 were added.

Many of the hospitals were smaller and in more rural areas. But the list included such well-known names as Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, Sinai Grace in Detroit, Spectrum Health Butterworth in Grand Rapids, and both McLaren and Hurley hospitals in Flint.

Laura Wotruba, spokesperson for the MHA, said the act requires the CMS to find 25 percent of hospitals in the lowest percentage and subject to the fine, no matter how much the hospital may have improved its incidences of hospital acquired conditions.

And Michigan hospitals are engaged in a series of efforts, including partnering with Illinois hospitals, to reduce hospital-acquired conditions, she said.

But Mr. Jackson said every time a patient on Medicare or Medicaid gets a hospital-acquired condition, that ends up costing the taxpayers more money for additional treatments and therapy.

DTE Electric Rates To Increase

The Public Service Commission and DTE Electric Company reached an agreement to allow the utility to hike its electric rates by $238.2 million annually.

That will result in an increase of $8.22 monthly for residential customers using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month. The last rate case for DTE was in October 2011.

The increase is 36 percent below what the utility had initially requested (case U-17767), the commission was quick to point out in a statement about the rate hike (the company originally sought a rate increase of $370 million).

"Customers will benefit from improvements in the reliability and safety of DTE Electric Company's electric distribution system and the acquisition of two natural gas-fired plants to generate electricity," PSC Chair John Quackenbush said in a statement. "The rates approved today are 36 percent below what the utility requested and will result in a more reliable system, a cleaner environment and rates that reflect the ongoing effort toward affordability."

Commercial customers will also see a rate increase of 3.4 percent as a result of the agreement, and industrial customers will see a rate decrease of 2.4 percent.

The new rates are effective December 17, and the total amount approved on Friday represents an increase of 5.3 percent over the rates set in its previous electric rate case (case U-16472).

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY: The PSC also approved a settlement agreement authorizing Indiana Michigan Power Company to implement its 2016-17 energy optimization plan that will result in an increase of 5 cents on the monthly bills of residential customers using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month beginning with the January 2016 billing month (case U-17773).

The PSC and the utility also approved a settlement reconciling the company's 2014 renewable energy plan surcharge revenues, as well as to amend its plan and revise the charges. That will add another 43 cents on the monthly bills of residential customers effective with the January 2016 billing cycle (case U-17794 and U-17805).

SEMCO ENERGY COMPANY: SEMCO Energy Gas Company will implement its 2016-17 energy optimization plan effective January 1, 2016, which will result in residential customers using 100 ccf of natural gas a month seeing an increase of 16 cents on their monthly bills (case U-17790).

MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION: The utility has been authorized to increase its base rates by $3.4 million annually resulting in an increase of $1.72 on the monthly bills of residential customers using 100 ccf of natural gas, effective January 1, 2016 (case U-17880).

PRESQUE ISLE ELECTRIC & GAS CO-OP: The company and the PSC approved an agreement to revise its monthly regulatory cost charge resulting in a decrease of 80 cents on the monthly bills of residential customers in the Hillman Village and Allis Township effective with the January billing month (case U-17848).

Chronic Wasting Disease Found Spreading

Chronic wasting disease has now been found in wild deer in two counties, the Department of Natural Resources announced Friday.

Officials confirmed a deer taken by a hunter in DeWitt Township in Clinton County had the fatal prion-based disease.

The prior three confirmed positives for the disease had been found in Ingham County, but officials said DeWitt Township was still within the core monitoring area for the infection. They have, though, asked hunters in Eaton County to also bring all deer to DNR check stations for testing.

Officials were not planning any regulatory changes before the end of the current deer season but said they would be reviewing regulations for 2016.

Supreme Court Rejects Arguments In Wrongful Entry Case

The Supreme Court rejected a call on Friday for full arguments on whether a police officer wrongly entered a house to arrest a suspect, but Justice Bridget McCormack said attorneys and the trial court were wrong in their beliefs that a police officer had an automatic right to enter a house if a suspect's name is listed on the Law Enforcement Information Network.

The court unanimously decided not to hear full arguments in the case, *People v. White* (SC docket No. 150661), after hearing arguments in October on whether to take the case. In its order rejecting the case, the court said it was unpersuaded the questions raised should be reviewed.

But Ms. McCormack, joined by Justice Richard Bernstein, said while she agreed with the court's decision on hearing the arguments, Stephanie White's lawyer did not fully understand the legal concept that permitted a police officer entry into a home without a warrant.

In the case, Ms. White's son, Stephen, was wanted. A police officer came to her house. Mr. White initially came to the back door when the officer knocked, but then moved to the front of the house when he saw it was a police officer. The back door was not completely shut and the officer entered the house. Ms. White then confronted the officer, saying her son did not live there and that the officer needed a warrant to search her house.

The officer said he did not need a warrant because he had just seen Mr. White. When she attempted to stop him from searching the house, he handcuffed her and put her in his patrol car.

Courts have held that an officer has the right to enter a house that a suspect lives in if the officer has reasonable belief the suspect is there. But Ms. McCormack said in this case the trial judge, prosecutor and defense lawyer mistakenly said the officer had the authority to enter the house based on information from the LEIN system.

Ms. McCormack said that was not correct. Determining whether a police officer has the authority to enter a house is a question for a jury, and in this case, she said, the issue to be resolved is whether the officer had a reasonable belief that Ms. White's residence was also her son's residence.

The Supreme Court refusing to hear full arguments in the case still permits Ms. White to seek further proceedings on that question, Ms. McCormack said.

Kivela Attorneys Working With Prosecutor

A pretrial hearing scheduled for Rep. John Kivela was waived on Friday as his attorneys continue to work with the Clinton County prosecutor.

Mr. Kivela (D-Marquette) is facing charges for operating while intoxicated with high blood alcohol content and for having an open intoxicant in the vehicle. Josh Pugh, a spokesperson for Mr. Kivela, said his attorneys have been working "productively" with the prosecutor's office.

"John had a great week of session and is grateful to all of his colleagues, constituents and friends who have offered support and encouragement," Mr. Pugh said.

After being pulled over while driving drunk last month, Mr. Kivela said he has been struggling with alcoholism for most of his adult life. He has since received treatment.

Mr. Kivela is scheduled for a plea hearing at the 65A District Court at 8:30 a.m. December 18.

Audit: School Retirement Plan Needs Better Controls To Monitor Some Assets

Michigan's Public School Employees Retirement System needs to improve its oversight of the allocations of net pension liabilities between universities and non-universities, an audit report from Auditor General Doug Ringler said.

Because the system had not adequately controlled for transfers, the university allocation was overstated by $21 million, and the non-university section was understated by the same amount.

Since 1996, new university employees have not been permitted to join MPSERS, and the seven universities that were part of the system had to take care of any unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities.

But the audit said the system did not have sufficient controls in place to ensure allocations of those assets were performed correctly.

That failure did not materially affect the actual allocations of pension benefits, the audit said, but improved system would make following the asset allocations better overall.

The system concurred with the findings and said it has made the changes needed.

Capital Notebook

FLINT LEAD REPORT: The latest report on lead testing in Flint, released Friday by the Department of Health and Human Services, showed that 39 adults and children out of 1,836 tested had elevated blood lead levels since October 1.

The first report, issued earlier this month, showed 30 adults and children out of slightly fewer than 1,400 people tested had elevated blood lead levels.

The tests and reports are part of the effort of the state to monitor and reduce blood lead levels that were discovered after Flint had its city water system use Flint River water. The system has since been reconnected to the Detroit water and sewer system until a new Flint system drawing water from Lake Huron is completed.

MAPPER: The Department of Environmental Quality announced Friday it had released the latest version of its Michigan Environmental Mapper.

In addition to updating locations of contaminated properties and well heads, the program also now includes a layer to show property where brownfield funds have been used to incent redevelopment.

MASON RETIRING: Marylou Mason, executive director of the Michigan Hispanic/Latino Commission, is retiring at the end of the month, the Department of Civil Right announced Friday.

Ms. Mason has been with the commission, and its predecessors, since March 1986 when she became assistant director of the Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs. She became director of that commission in August 1986.

Among the highlights of her time in office was initiating the Michigan Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

"Marylou Mason has spent her career working with Michigan's Hispanic-Latino community," Civil Rights Director Agustin Arbulu said in a statement. "We are grateful for her many years of service to the state, and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, December 14

Health Professional Recovery Committee, Conference Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 9 a.m. (Agenda)
Governor's Talent Investment Board, Training Center, Operating Engineers Local 324, 1550 Howard Street, Detroit, 10 a.m. (Meeting Materials)
Pipeline Safety Advisory Board, Con Con Conference Room, Atrium Level, Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 1:30 p.m. (Agenda)
9-1-1 Committee, 1917/Millennium Room, State Police Headquarters, 333 South Grand Avenue, Lansing, 2 p.m. (Agenda)

Tuesday, December 15

Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Agenda)

Wednesday, December 16

Tax Commission, Holiday Inn Express and Okemos Conference Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos, 9 a.m. (Agenda)
Veterans' Facilities Board of Managers, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, 3000 Monroe Avenue Northeast, Grand Rapids, 9 a.m. (Agenda)

Canceled: ~~Manufactured Housing Commission, Conference Room 3, First Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 10 a.m.~~

Board of Veterinary Medicine, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 1:30 p.m. (Disciplinary Subcommittee Agenda)

Thursday, December 17

Board of Psychology, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 9:30 a.m. (Agenda; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following (Agenda))

Canceled: ~~Health Information Technology Commission, Rooms B/C, First Floor Conference Center, Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, 1 p.m.~~

Friday, December 18

Board of Audiology, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

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Banks Pushing Auto Insurance Reform Bills

The Coalition Protecting Auto No Fault and the Insurance Institute of Michigan are at odds in regards to Rep. Brian Banks' new legislation reforming the state's auto insurance laws to provide rate rollbacks and tax credits for insurance companies, among other changes.

The bills (HB 5134 and HB 5135) were introduced last week and sit in the House Insurance Committee.

The bills, modeled after a Texas program, propose a 12 percent rate reduction of the average annual premium for consumers, those who are eligible would:

- Reside in an area with a population of 500,000 or more;
- Live in rural or urban municipalities bordering the areas that meet the population criteria;
- Live in an city, township or village where 35 percent of drivers are uninsured; or
- Live in a designated zip code or a community bordering a designated ZIP code.

Insurance companies that participate in the reduced rate auto insurance plans would receive a $500 tax credit for every previously uninsured household that signs up under the program, though Mr. Banks said this might have to decrease to $300.

The legislation also would allow Michigan auto insurers to require a co-pay for Personal Injury Protection benefits.

While CPAN said the bills are worth a discussion, Pete Kuhnmuench, with the Insurance Institute of Michigan, said the group opposes the bills, as they are anti-insurance industry.

But CPAN said it will urge lawmakers to view the legislation as a potential compromise.

"Michigan has been in need of comprehensive no-fault reform that reduces medical costs to insurers, addresses fraud in a balanced way and offers real savings to drivers," CPAN President John Cornack said in a statement. "CPAN has not had the opportunity to review Rep. Banks' proposals in full detail, but his legislation hits on all of those notes - and it maintains quality injury protection for catastrophic accident victims."

The bills would also create a fraud authority to investigate both consumer fraud and the accusations of unfair claims practices by auto insurers, and limit hospital reimbursement rates by auto insurers to no more than 80 percent of their standard charges. This limitation would apply only to licensed hospital facilities and not to independent medical practitioners or post-acute rehabilitation facilities.

Mr. Banks said currently the votes are not there for SB 248 and SB 249, which passed the Senate in April and have sat on the House floor since then.

"We are trying to work with all stakeholders to get to a place where we can get something comprehensive done," he said.

Mr. Banks said he will continue to meet with stakeholders, including insurance companies, to try to come to an agreement.

Rep. Tom Leonard III (R-DeWitt Township) chair the House Insurance Committee, did not return a call for comment on if the bills would see a hearing.

Mr. Banks said he believes the bills can be the solution stakeholders are seeking.

"Michigan citizens are required to buy auto insurance, and yet we all know that there are thousands of uninsured drivers on the road because, based on where they live and not on their driving record, their policy is simply unaffordable," he said in a statement. "My bill would encourage insurance companies to participate in this plan and lower rates by also giving the company a tax credit for each household that signs up.

""This is the best kind of tax credit because it actually puts money back into the hands of consumers, in the form of lower rates, so that they have more to spend in their local shops and stores. This is a win for everyone," he said.

Washington: Presumptive Parole Bill A Narrow Change

For all the intense debate surrounding legislation that would enhance the ability of prisoners deemed likely to succeed to be released at their earliest release date, the Department of Corrections already releases most such inmates at that point and the Parole Board would retain some discretion not to release them under the bill, Corrections Director Heidi Washington said Monday.

In an interview with Gongwer News Service, Ms. Washington said already the Parole Board grants parole to 75 percent of those prisoners at their earliest release date judged to have a high probability of success outside of prison. Inmates are judged as having a high, average or low probability of success.

"There's a lot of emotion inserted into the discussion which tends to take away from how really narrow this piece of legislation is," she said.

HB 4138 passed the House, but has stalled in the Senate, where the bulk of the Republican majority is fiercely resisting the change. Attorney General Bill Schuette and a bipartisan group of local law enforcement leaders also have sharply attacked the legislation.

Mr. Schuette and the bill's critics have called the proposal "autopilot parole," removing any discretion the Parole Board now has to stop the parole of a prisoner.

Ms. Washington said, however, the bill specifically lists exceptions - there are six - that would allow the Parole Board to prevent the parole of an inmate judged as having a high probability of success outside of prison.

"What this legislation does is simply says for the 25 percent of cases that fall in the high (probability) range that aren't getting paroled now, that the board will articulate one of the stated reasons as the reason for the parole denial," she said. "That's all it says. So I think the important point is those decisions are already being made."

Since Governor Rick Snyder promoted her to director in July, Ms. Washington has had several major issues to address in addition to the presumptive parole question.

Trinity Services Group is now fully in control of prison food services after the state and Aramark parted ways.

Overall, Ms. Washington said she is pleased with how Trinity is handling the contract.

"I think there's always room for improvement. We're at the beginning of this relationship. We are making progress with Trinity," she said. "They are making progress, and we will continue to move in the right direction with them. They've been very accommodating, very responsive, very willing to move with us, to find ways of doing things, correcting problems. Things are going well so far. It's something that we will work on every day to strengthen our position."

One of Ms. Washington's early priorities was to set up a new contract monitoring unit for the department and that is now in place. Three staffers each oversee specific contracts with analysts working underneath them on the day-to-day monitoring duties.

"It's an important step to making sure that we are consistently monitoring all of our contracts, that we are using the same tools within a contract among our different monitors and that we are doing it in an efficient manner and bringing timely information and communication to the vendor and to the administration, our administration, to make sure we all stay on the same page and address issues as they arise."

Another key item is the rebidding of the contract for health, mental health and pharmacy services for the department. Outside vendors already handle those services, but the department is looking for one vendor to handle them all.

Bids had been due last Friday, but that deadline has been extended to December 21.

The 2015-16 fiscal year budget assumed $15 million in savings as a result of the new contract. Already the department has said that is unlikely given that a new contract would not be in place until near the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Washington said she did not know how short of the $15 million the new contract would fall until the bids are in and a vendor chosen. And she said she could not say as of yet whether the department could find savings internally or would need a supplemental appropriation.

"We will do our best, as I think we do in all areas of this department, to be very wise stewards of the taxpayers' money, and if there are savings to be realized, we will do that," she said. "That's our job."

Ms. Washington was a top aide to several previous Corrections directors and was later a warden, so she said there have been no surprises in the job now that she is director.

"I sort of came at this position with a lot of history and knowledge, that when I finally got here as director, a lot of things that might have surprised other people didn't surprise me because I had spent so many years working side by side, hand in hand with all the previous directors," she said.

House Dems Fundraise On 'Ejecting' Speaker Cotter

House Democrats on Monday sent a fundraising email to supporters calling for House Speaker Kevin Cotter to resign.

The email says it is time to turn the "heat" on Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant).

The call cites the lawsuit from former staffers to ex-Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat against the House, charging it violated their First Amendment rights and the Michigan Whistleblower Protection Act as well as invading their privacy.

"Speaker Cotter failed to protect House employees who exposed the abuse of power among members of his own party. His actions have tarnished the House, and the Office of the Speaker," the

email said. "That's why we're launching the Eject Cotter Project to expose Speaker Cotter's cover-up and tell him it's time to resign. And we need you to help get this project off the ground."

Katie Carey, spokesperson for House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills), when asked if Mr. Greimel was calling for Mr. Cotter to resign, said: "Speaker Cotter has been clear on behavior of House members. We should hold all members accountable to that level of behavior and it should be applied to everyone."

Keith Allard and Ben Graham, the staffers, released audio of Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat in August, which began the investigation that eventually led to Ms. Gamrat being expelled and Mr. Courser resigning.

At the time, Mr. Cotter had called for the two lawmakers to resign in the wake of their extramarital affair and asking Mr. Graham to send a bizarre cover up email.

The Democrats are charging Mr. Cotter should also resign using that logic.

"Throughout this entire investigation, Speaker Cotter has said that if any reports of misused tax dollars and other ethical or legal violations were true, then those representatives should resign," the email said. "Speaker Cotter should make good on his own words and resign."

Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for Mr. Cotter, said the Democrats are supporting Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat.

"So it isn't that surprising that they would support these two as well," Mr. D'Assandro said of Mr. Allard and Mr. Graham.

Board Planning For Alternatives, Risk Analysis For Straits Pipeline

The Pipeline Safety Advisory Board put most of the final touches Monday on its plan to hire contractors for risk and alternatives analyses on the Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac.

The board is hoping to issue requests for a proposal in February, said Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant, who co-chairs the board. The board's next meeting is in March.

Based on discussions from the board, the alternatives that contract would explore would range from leaving the pipeline as it is, to further limiting what it could carry, to shuttering it and moving the oil and gas it currently carries to other pipelines, trucks or barges.

But board members also urged language in the contract that would limit the exploration of some options.

The risk assessment contractor would have to look at a worst-case spill from the line, determining how long it would take and what it would cost to clean up the spill and what short- and long-term economic and environmental damage it might cause.

There was some discussion among board members what might constitute a worst case.

Chris Kelenske with the Department of State Police emergency management services said a worst case had to look at both full ice cover and open water.

Jeff Pillon with the National Association of State Energy Officials said the risk analysis should also look at some possibilities that, while less than worst case, might be more likely and so more hazardous. "In risk analysis, that's always part of the equation," he said of those lesser events.

Jennifer McKay with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council urged for pushing the contractor beyond events for which Enbridge Energy, the owner of the pipeline, might have planned. "Typically what we see is not foreseeable," she said of major spills.

Michael Shriberg with the National Wildlife Federation noted, for instance, that some recent training scenarios have looked at containing a spill where the line breaks and the automatic shutoffs engage. He said the worst case should look at situations where those fail-safes fail.

On the alternatives assessment, Mr. Pillon urged the board to limit exploration of some of the options. "Do we really want to go from a pipeline to barges on the Great Lakes?" he said, adding replacing the pipeline with trucks would be economically unviable.

But Mr. Shriberg said the board should look at some additional alternatives. "One of the options we have to look at is decommissioning without making it up through alternative methods," he said, noting a proposal to that effect submitted to the board (see below).

He said it might also be reasonable to limit the pipeline to natural gas, which he said would cause less environmental damage if the line leaked.

Guy Meadows with Michigan Technological University questioned the role for public universities in the process.

"It would be hard to imagine a contractor being able to do the kind of modeling the federal government or the universities would be able to do," he said.

Mr. Wyant said the process would be open for universities either to bid on the project or to act as subcontractors to the bidder.

There was also some interest among board members to conduct a pre-bid conference and for board members to be involved in that to allow them to interact with potential bidders and clarify some of the questions raised Monday.

Some board members also appeared interested in increasing the meeting schedule from the current quarterly dates rather than developing subcommittees and potentially losing some member's expertise on an issue.

Carol Isaacs, chief deputy attorney general, urged the board members to submit any studies or reports on the issues they felt might contribute to the discussions.

"We are going to need a body of credible evidence," Ms. Isaacs said.

ALTERNATIVE PLAN: The environmental group For the Love of Water released its own report Monday arguing that the best alternative was to close the pipeline under the Straits. The oil that flowed through Line 5 could be shunted to Line 6B, which runs through Wisconsin to Chicago and then east to Detroit, the group said.

The western line was rebuilt since it burst and spilled oil into the Kalamazoo River and can carry substantially more product, the group said.

"Decommissioning Line 5 in the Great Lakes would not disrupt Michigan's oil and propane supply," Liz Kirkwood, executive director of FLOW, said at a media roundtable before the board meeting. "Enbridge effectively built its own version of the now-rejected Keystone Pipeline."

The group's report said Enbridge could still use the portion of Line 5 remaining in the Upper Peninsula to deliver the natural gas to the propane refinery in Rapid River.

The group urged the board to recommend that the line be closed under the Straits until the board makes its final recommendations, likely sometime next year.

Enbridge spokesperson Jason Manshum said he had not seen the FLOW report, but said it was, at this point, just that group's opinion.

Mr. Manshum said the company's focus is on helping the board find the right contractors to assess potential options and risks.

"We wouldn't operate Line 5 if we didn't think it was safe and reliable," he said.

Supreme Court Refuses To Hear Grand Rapids Marijuana Case

A divided Supreme Court ruled against hearing an appeal that challenged a Grand Rapids voter-approved city charter amendment decriminalizing possession and use of marijuana.

The decision on a 5-2 vote lets stand a decision by the Court of Appeals that held the charter amendment did not violate either the Michigan Constitution or law.

The order was issued on Friday, released to the public on Saturday and has not yet generated much response. However, the court's action could help spur more cities to adopt charter amendments decriminalizing marijuana.

So far 20 cities, including Grand Rapids, have decriminalized marijuana - subjecting its use and possession to civil fines, with no incarceration - and the decision comes as organizations are trying to raise signatures to put an initiative on the ballot legalizing or decriminalizing marijuana statewide.

In its order, the Supreme Court said it was not persuaded the questions raised needed to be reviewed.

Justice Stephen Markman and Justice David Viviano dissented, and each wrote separately they believed the case should have been heard.

Grand Rapids voters approved the charter amendment in 2012, making a first offense of possession and use of marijuana a $25 fine. Subsequent offenses can lead to fines as high as $100, but nothing higher, with no incarceration. The amendment also prohibits Grand Rapids police officers and the city attorney from referring any offense under the charter to another law enforcement agency.

The amendment does not restrict county sheriff's deputies, State Police or federal authorities in the city.

Michigan's statewide statute says possession and use of marijuana - unless under the medical marijuana statute it is possessed and used by a registered patient or caregiver - can lead to imprisonment for up to one year and $2,000 in fines.

The Kent County prosecutor filed suit against the city, charging the decriminalization amendment was at variance with state law that prohibits a city provision from conflicting or contravening a general state law.

The Court of Appeals, in a non-published decision issued this past January, said the charter amendment in fact does not contravene the state law, it creates separate provisions.

If the city had passed an ordinance decriminalizing marijuana, that would have violated the law, but a charter amendment falls outside the state law's enforcement, it said.

Mr. Viviano, in his dissent, said the case presented, "an important constitutional question concerning whether a home rule city may, through its charter, encroach upon a county prosecutor's broad power to enforce state law."

The prosecutor is the proper person to decide whether to charge a person with violating state laws, not local police or city officials, Mr. Viviano said.

And since the court was not hearing the case, Mr. Viviano called on the Legislature to clarify the rights of police officers and prosecutor should they make an arrest under the state marijuana statute. Or, he called for the Legislature to amend the state's Home Rule City Act to include a charter action along with an ordinance as a provision that cannot contravene state law.

Mr. Markman wrote separately to say the case should be looked at to see if the charter amendment in fact both contravenes and conflict's with the state law.

Along with Grand Rapids, other cities that have decriminalized marijuana include Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Lansing, Ann Arbor, East Lansing and most recently Portage and Keego Harbor.

House Retains Dickinson Wright For Whistleblower Lawsuit

The House is retaining Dickinson Wright to handle the whistleblower lawsuit filed by the former staffers of Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat.

Since the Department of the Attorney General is still investigating the matter criminally, the House retained outside counsel, said Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House Republicans.

The cost of hiring the firm is unknown at this point, with the length of the proceedings being the main factor, Mr. D'Assandro said.

Ben Graham and Keith Allard, who worked for former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat and provided the evidence that led to Mr. Courser's resignation and Ms. Gamrat's expulsion, are suing the House for violating their First Amendment rights and the Michigan Whistleblower Protection Act, and for invading their privacy.

Canvassers Continue Consideration Of Rebutting Signature Petitions

The Board of State Canvassers on Monday rejected two recall petitions and continued discussion on a request that the board revise its policy on how to rebut the presumption that a signature on a petition proposing a constitutional amendment or initiative legislation is stale and void if made more than 180 days after the petition was filed.

At the request of Elections Director Christopher Thomas, the board took no action on the request submitted by Jeffrey Hank in verifying signatures on petitions where signatures begin expiring. Mr.

Hank is an attorney representing one of the marijuana legalization efforts who is urging the board to instead use the Qualified Voter File as a check on registrations.

Discussion on the request began earlier this month, and Mr. Thomas said Monday his staff has begun work on a draft policy. Among its provisions are to separate and identify all of the sheets that include signatures gathered earlier than 180 days prior to the date of filing from the remainder of the filing, and to attach a copy of each signer's QVF record to those sheets.

He also suggested submitting an affidavit by the individual who reviewed the signers' voter file records to assert review and that evidence had or had not been submitted to rebut the statutory presumption of expiration.

"What we're bringing forward essentially tracks what was attempted to be done in 1986," he said, referencing the year in which the policy in question was adopted.

Signatures in question would be able to be released to the board but not to the general public, Mr. Thomas noted.

Mr. Hank urged the board to consider tweaking the policy that currently prohibits address history from being available to the general public. And he said it might be difficult to attach a QVF to every petition sheet.

But he said the suggestions were still "a good step forward."

"I think this would go a long way to the purity of elections," Mr. Hank said.

But any changes would likely have to be made statutorily through the Legislature, to which attorney John Pirich say he was unsure "what the haste is" to resolve the issue.

"The Legislature has a lot of authority, and what I'm hearing is a system that's going to be a hybrid of a system," Mr. Pirich said. "I think we have to be careful when we come up with issues of this nature that we don't react to a single issue or a single component and have a clear understanding of the impact a proposal like this could have."

Mr. Pirich said he also had faith that this issue would be something the Legislature would be looking at very closely next year.

Board member Julie Matuzak said she would be interested in a way to solicit comments for the next meeting from those who work in the field or are involved with petition gathering, and Mr. Thomas said he had planned to already.

RECALLS DENIED: A petition to recall Sen. Wayne Schmidt (R-Traverse City) for "his votes on November 3, 2015 increasing fuel taxes and licensing fees," according to the petition, was rejected after its language was determined to insufficiently state factually and clearly - as is required by law - the reason for the petition.

William Bailey, the man who filed the petition, included Senate roll call votes on the road funding package that was passed that day in the Senate, but because Mr. Schmidt's specific votes on specific legislation was not included in the petition language, it was rejected.

Yet another recall petition by Detroit Pastor Angelo Brown against Governor Rick Snyder was rejected for the same reason. Mr. Brown was not at the meeting on Monday.

The petition, citing Mr. Snyder's failure to provide the city of Flint with safe drinking water in 2015, was Mr. Brown's second of three attempts to recall the governor (another attempt by Mr. Brown failed earlier this month, and yet another attempt will likely be heard at the board's next meeting).

CALIFORNIAN FILES TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT: San Diego businessman Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente has filed to run as a Democratic presidential nominee in Michigan by way of submitting nominating or qualifying petitions. Mr. De La Fuente submitted 20,166 signatures at the end of last week, according to his affidavit.

Mr. Thomas said his office is in the process of canvassing those petitions.

Campaign Notes: Trump Returning To Michigan

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump will make his second appearance in Michigan as a presidential candidate next week, visiting Grand Rapids.

Mr. Trump will speak at the Deltaplex Arena and Conference Center at 7:30 p.m., December 21.

CLEMENTS VIDEO: Paul Clements, the Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph) in the 6th U.S. House District, released a new video Monday discussing his positions on the economy.

"Here in Southwest Michigan, we've been seeing declining wages," Mr. Clements said in the video. "It's because the deck is stacked in favor of the big corporations and against the small and medium sized businesses because it's the big corporations that are buying the politicians."

He called for a tax structure that would favor small business.

He also urged more participation in the Peace Corps. "The Peace Corps is a way for Americans to go and provide service in developing countries and work together to figure out what the challenge is and how we overcome that and how we work together," he said. "And that's the same spirit of cooperation and working together that we need for our broader economy."

MICHIGAN NOW ENDORSES ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BALLOT PROPOSAL: The Michigan National Organization for Women said Monday it is backing the proposal from Fair Michigan expanding the state's anti-discrimination protections by extending the existing constitutional prohibition on the denial of civil or political rights based on race, religion, color or national origin to sexual orientation, gender and gender identity.

"People just assume that women's rights are guaranteed and that discrimination is illegal," said Michigan NOW President Danielle Troia. "Unfortunately, that's not the case. I firmly believe that the people of Michigan want women to be treated fairly and that they will vote for the Fair Michigan ballot initiative."

While most of the focus on the proposal has centered on its expansion of protections for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons, it also would extend to gender.

Capital Notebook

HOUSE MEETING EARLIER WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY: The House has changed its schedule this week and will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.

LIBRARY HOURS: The Library of Michigan is expanding its hours effective January 9, the Department of Education announced Monday.

The main library will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Currently, the library is open only the second Saturday of the month.

ROADS PLAN: The Department of Transportation is seeking public comment on its 2016-20 transportation plan.

The updates to the plan are posted at www.michigan.gov/mdot5yearplan.

Comments are being accepted through January 9 to Geralyn Ayers, Department of Transportation, Environmental Services Section, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909, ayersg@michigan.gov, (517) 373-2227 or (517) 335- 5696 (FAX).

ROAD WATCHERS: The department is also looking for people to tell it how the roads look in the northern Lower Peninsula this winter.

Essentially, the volunteers would call in between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. to report on road conditions of major thoroughfares in the regions north of M-55. Department officials said the information would help them more effectively deploy resources.

Those interested can get more information at www.michigan.gov/roadwatchers.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, December 15

Administrative Board/Finance and Claims Committee, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Special Meeting)
Indigent Defense Commission, Third floor, 200 North Washington Square, Lansing, 1 p.m. (Agenda)

Wednesday, January 6

Criminal Justice Policy Commission, Senate Appropriations Room, Third Floor, Capitol, Lansing, 9 a.m.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, December 15

Senate Local Government (Committee Record) **(Chr. Zorn, 373-5323), 100, Farnum Building, 9:30 a.m.**

HB 4563 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** (Leutheuser) Authorizes contracting for services to assist victims of domestic violence.

SB 399 **COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY** (Schmidt) Clarifies limits on permit fee for a government entity or telecommunication provider working within a county right-of-way, and clarifies bonding and insurance requirements for telecommunication providers working within a county right-of-way.

Senate Banking and Financial Institutions (Committee Record) **(Chr. Booher, 373-5323), 100, Farnum Building, 11 a.m.**

SB 599 **RECORDING DOCUMENTS** (MacGregor) Revises fees for recording documents.

SB 600 **LIENS FOR LABOR ON OIL AND GAS WELLS** (MacGregor) Clarifies fee for recording and indexing a statement claiming a lien.

SB 601 **FEDERAL TAX LIENS** (Zorn) Modifies fee for filing and indexing liens and notices.

SB 602 **STATE TAX LIENS** (Zorn) Modifies fee for recording or filing and indexing liens and notices.

SB 603 **MICHIGAN EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACT** (Booher) Modifies fee for recording or discharging lien in the Michigan employment security act.

SB 604 **SECURED TRANSACTIONS** (Hertel) Clarifies recording fees for mortgages that are effective as financing statements.

Wednesday, December 16

House Session **(Chr. Cotter, 373-1789), House Chamber, 10 a.m.,** Webcast

- Calendar

Thursday, December 17

House Session **(Chr. Cotter, 373-1789), House Chamber, 10 a.m.,** Webcast

- Calendar

Volume #54, Report #246 -- Wednesday, December 16, 2015

GOP Muscles Through End To Straight Ticket Option

The Republican legislative majorities, in one of the more relentless legislative steamrollers seen in some time, powered to passage Wednesday a bill that would end the ability of voters to choose a party's entire slate of candidates with a single selection.

With final passage in the House about 10:30 p.m., SB 13 will soon land on Governor Rick Snyder's desk, and while the governor has insisted he has made no decision on whether to sign the bill, it would be an enormous shock if he did not.

It marked the last voting session of 2015 for the House and Senate, which called for the sine die adjournment to occur swiftly, at 11:45 a.m. Friday in both houses. Formal sessions will recommence starting January 13.

Two significant issues saw no action this week and will wait until 2016. In the House, there had been some talk of work on major energy legislation, but that petered out, and in the Senate, a bill to extend the sunset on the Health Insurance Claims Assessment remains pending on the floor.

Presuming Mr. Snyder signs the elimination of the straight-ticket option, it will end a mechanism that on the whole has helped Democrats more than Republicans, especially on the races for the statewide education boards.

And a Republican source said in addition to ending a key Democratic tool, it also would provide some defense to House Republicans, seeking to defend their majority this year, in the event Donald Trump or U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas wins the Republican Party presidential nomination. This source said voter recoil at the Republican candidate could prompt heavier than usual straight Democratic voting and cost the GOP its House majority.

Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) labeled the legislation "the Donald Trump is going to be your nominee and you're terrified bill."

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) said, no, Mr. Trump's potential nomination was not behind the legislation.

"That was a pretty funny line, but I don't think it had anything to do with it," he said. "In fact, I'm going to call him and tell him that was pretty funny."

Mr. Meekhof said the bill is "a very progressive idea" that puts Michigan in sync with 40 other states that do not offer a straight-ticket option.

"We did a fair amount of checking on (the effect on voting lines)," he said of other states. "There was minimal to no effect on voting lines and things like that, so we thought it was the right thing to do. More and more people don't identify by party, so not having a party label on it was probably a good idea as well."

Left in the dust was a separate bill, HB 4724, which would have allowed voters to vote via absentee ballot for any reason, provided they picked up the ballot in-person at a clerk's office and with photo identification, and its champion, Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto). Ms. Lyons, the House Elections Committee chair, had insisted on the bill to alleviate longer lines and convinced her House Republican colleagues to tie-bar it to the elimination of straight-ticket voting.

That upset the chair of the Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee, Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), a staunch opponent of no-reason absentee voting. The question going into this week was who would prevail, and there was no doubt Wednesday night that Mr. Robertson was the victor.

House Republicans cast aside Ms. Lyons' insistence on tying the two bills together and concurred in the version of the bill without the tie-bar on a 54-52 vote, the minimum needed for passage. But that was merely the capper on about five hours of wild action.

For much of the day, it appeared an effort by local clerks, who fear longer lines with voters having to pick candidates individually in each race, had succeeded in bottling up the bill in the Senate unless it contained the tie-bar to no-reason absentee voting.

Just before 5:30 p.m., Mr. Meekhof's spokesperson sent word to reporters on the Senate floor that the Senate would adjourn for the year in a matter of moments. The Senate moved on to Statements, usually a precursor to adjournment. Cheery Merry Christmas and Happy New Year speeches took place. Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township) took to the microphone, with all expectations he would move to adjourn.

But then he moved for a "very brief recess." The recess was not brief. Sources said House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) decided he did not want the issue lingering into 2016, and decided to round up the votes for the bill without the tie-bar despite Ms. Lyons' position. On the House floor, as the inevitable vote neared, she looked displeased.

Senate Republicans, with their enormous 27-11 majority - which is functionally 28-10 given that Sen. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) is so estranged from his caucus that he routinely votes with the GOP on key tactical matters - were at no risk of not passing the bill once they got rolling.

But they unleashed a fury of parliamentary tactics to minimize the Democrats' ability to attack the legislation. The biggest surprise, and one not seen in some time, was the move to clear the Senate floor of all staff, except Mr. Meekhof's. That left Democrats with no staff on the floor, and the Senate Democratic Caucus was furious (see separate story).

Democrats said the bill would lengthen voting lines.

"Straight-ticket voting has its place in our state," Mr. Bieda said. "We have a long ballot. People have the convenience of voting the way they'd like to vote. You shouldn't be going in there micro-managing how they're going to vote."

No Republican spoke to the bill in either chamber.

"Reforms have done away with political machines and party bosses. Likewise, we should open up the voting process and do away with their broken, archaic method of rubber stamping candidate slates with a single vote," said Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy), the bill sponsor, in a statement.

Two top Republican strategists, Greg McNeilly and Stu Sandler, congratulated Republicans on passing the bills and said Democrats had overblown the issue and been hypocritical. Overblown because 40 other states have no straight-ticket option and hypocritical because House Democrats criticized the GOP for breaking the tie-bar to no-reason absentee voting, which they voted against earlier this month.

In the House, all Democrats also voted no and were joined by Ms. Lyons as well as five other Republicans - Rep. John Bizon of Battle Creek, Rep. Ben Glardon of Owosso, Rep. Dave Maturen of Vicksburg, Rep. Martin Howrylak of Troy and Rep. Philip Potvin of Cadillac.

Mr. Maturen originally voted yes on the bill when it passed last week. Rep. Dave Pagel (R-Berrien Springs) voted yes on Wednesday but voted no last week.

Ms. Lyons said in a statement she has supported eliminating straight-ticket voting because she thinks voters should choose candidates based on who they are, not parties.

"I have consistently cautioned that we need to be mindful of the impact this will have on Election Day, and that we need to provide tools - like offering Michigan voters secure no-reason absentee voting- to mitigate longer lines at the polls," she said in a statement. "Because this bill falls short of addressing very legitimate concerns, in the end I could not support it. I do not believe this policy alone is in the best interest of Michigan's voters, and it is unfortunate that the Legislature squandered the opportunity to enact good election reform that is not pro-Republican or pro-Democrat, but pro-voter."

Mr. Cotter did not speak to reporters following Wednesday's lengthy session. But his spokesperson said Ms. Lyons did not get "rolled" in the process of passing SB 13.

"When we put bills up, we ask if the House supports them or not, the House supported a tie-barred version and the House supported a version of SB 13 that stood on its own so we went ahead and supported the bill," Gideon D'Assandro said.

Rep. Pam Faris (D-Clio) said the bill was a bad bill when it cleared the House last week, and its only saving grave was its link to HB 4724, "secure" no-reason absentee voting.

"If we want to be responsible legislators the answer is clear, we have to vote against Senate changes to SB 13," she said.

House Minority Floor Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) said many Republicans told him when the bill originally passed last week, linked to no-reason absentee, that at least they tie-barred it.

"Where is that conviction my friends? I don't see that here today," he said. "I ask you and my colleagues from across the aisle to stand with your original conviction and vote this down."

Snyder: Inaction Could Leave DPS In Judge's Hands

If the state is unable to restructure the Detroit Public Schools in the early part of 2016, the possibility exists that one or more school district creditors could take DPS to court over unpaid bills, Governor Rick Snyder said Wednesday.

Mr. Snyder has announced two plans for the district this year, one in April and one in the fall, both containing the same core principles - breaking the district into two, with an old district carrying the debt and a new one to run educational operations. The 18-mill property tax applied to non-principal residences in the city would, instead of going to the School Aid Fund for all school districts, become dedicated to paying down DPS's $715 million debt.

But both landed with a thud in the Legislature. Republicans recoiled at the use of $715 million over 10 years from the School Aid Fund, and Democrats said the plan needs to return power to an elected school board sooner. Despite several projections the bills would be introduced "soon," that has yet to happen.

"This is a case where, with a school district if you have major creditors, creditors could take them to court and you can end up in a situation where then a judge could potentially even appoint a receiver or do other solutions that would move from a proactive solution to a reactive solution that could have negative financial consequences beyond the school district," Mr. Snyder said in an interview with Gongwer News Service.

Exactly when the district could face such a scenario is unclear, Mr. Snyder said, because there is no telling when a creditor might decide to go to court. Mr. Snyder said he believes several legislators understand the risks of inaction. But "it would be really helpful" to complete legislation by March, he said.

Asked if he was confident the Legislature would act, Mr. Snyder said, "The goal is clearly to take legislative action, and I think there's a reasonable opportunity to see that get done."

GOVERNOR NONCOMMITTAL ON DATA CENTERS: Mr. Snyder said he has not decided whether to sign legislation (SB 616 and SB 617) soon to land on his desk that would exempt collocated data centers from the sales and use taxes.

Lt. Governor Brian Calley, sources have said, was heavily involved in the negotiations on the bill, but Mr. Snyder said until he gets a chance to see what the final bill looks like, he cannot commit to a decision on legislation.

Mr. Snyder did say of the legislation that "a lot of discussion and progress (was) made." But he also pushed back for the first time against criticism that signing the bills would be hypocritical because he has strongly opposed targeted tax breaks.

"I do emphasize to people this is not a tax credit because I've had people say, 'Well governor we know you don't like tax credits,'" he said. "Well this is not a tax credit situation. This is an exemption for a category just like there are a number of exemptions for sales and use tax."

Mr. Snyder said he is researching whether data centers are a cyber equivalent of the industrial processing exemption when customers pay sales tax on the finished good.

"Is this an expansion of something that already exists reflecting the new world versus saying this is fundamentally like an outlier?" he said.

SNYDER URGES DISTRICTS TO PLAN LONG-TERM ON ENROLLMENT: The slow boil continues among K-12 public school leaders for a serious effort to overhaul school finance given that enrollment is declining statewide and, with funding following students under Proposal A of 1994, less money will flow into the School Aid Fund as a result.

Even as the state has put more money into K-12 schools overall in recent years, many districts with relatively flat or declining enrollments are hurting financially. Mr. Snyder said it is indeed challenging.

But he put the issue back on the school districts to an extent and said they should plan years in advance on enrollment.

"I don't want to oversimplify, but assuming you get (the students) when they're 5 years old or so, you had potentially four or five years to help figure out what's going on in your community to help you plan," he said. "And so that's one of the questions, how many school districts actually have an effective planning model to look out that many years because if you have a longer time horizon you can more effectively manage?"

Mr. Snyder said much the same as he always has on the topic of school finance: "At some point we could get into the broader questions of school finance, but I'm not teeing that up at this time."

FAIR MICHIGAN PROPOSAL: Mr. Snyder offered no opinion on the ballot proposal to expand the state's anti-discrimination protections by extending the existing constitutional prohibition on the denial of civil or political rights based on race, religion, color or national origin to sexual orientation, gender and gender identity.

Mr. Snyder said he would reiterate his call to the Legislature "to do Elliott-Larsen," referring to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, the statute that prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, religion, age and other classes in housing, employment and public accommodations. Efforts to broaden that law to sexual orientation and gender identity have gone nowhere in the conservative Legislature.

"I've got enough issues and priorities I'm going to stay focused in on and people are free to do what they deem best in terms of their own efforts to do ballot initiatives," he said.

As to how he might vote on the proposal from Fair Michigan if it makes the November 2016 ballot, the governor said, "That's the beauty about going into a ballot box where you can just sort of make your decisions about how you're going to vote as an individual."

UNIVERSITY FUNDING: In less than two months, Mr. Snyder will deliver his budget recommendation for the 2016-17 fiscal year to the Legislature. The governor said it is "too soon to say" whether he will propose bringing all public universities back to the funding level they had before a 15 percent cut in the 2011-12 fiscal year, Mr. Snyder's first budget.

"I'm quite clear that, relative priorities, I would like to see it brought back up at least to what it was," he said.

MEDICAID EXPANSION/HEALTHY MICHIGAN: Mr. Snyder said he sees "reasonable progress" in the state's efforts to win a waiver from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services enabling the state's Medicaid expansion program to proceed. A decision is due by the end of the year.

As to what the state might have to consider regarding concerns that it will bump up against the trigger ending the program if it costs the state more money than it saves, Mr. Snyder said only that the concern would be it would create more pressure on the General Fund.

Of his original proposal to set aside savings from the expansion to pay for the state's share of the program, which will start in the coming years, Mr. Snyder said it was a "good idea," but "didn't work." Those savings were instead directed to other spending priorities.

FLINT WATER: Mr. Snyder would not say whether there was anything he has learned from the Flint water crisis, saying he does not want to prejudge the report being assembled by a group of environmental experts about what went wrong that resulted in levels of lead in the city's water requiring remediation and elevating blood lead levels in the city's children.

While the crisis "clearly is one of the biggest problems" his administration has faced, Mr. Snyder said his administration was proactive, providing free water tests, filters, blood testing and follow up care; returning the city to the Detroit water system; and encouraging overall lead awareness.

Meekhof, Jones At Odds On Medical Marijuana

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof is not at a point where he is willing to discharge legislation from the Senate Judiciary Committee that would create a tiered system of regulation for medical

marijuana because "then it becomes my problem to fix whatever people want to do or not to do," he told Gongwer News Service in a recent interview.

"I'd prefer that agreement be made before it comes to the floor. I wouldn't be their greatest champion," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) said.

And he said he "may or may not" vote on the bills even if they are reported from committee.

"It's a really difficult issue for me personally," he said. "Not discounting the fact that medical marijuana has some medical properties and does do some things for people, but if it's medicine, how do we regulate and control it like medicine so it doesn't become recreational and other things that aren't beneficial to our communities?"

The revelation comes on the heels of a statement by Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) just one day before that he was hoping the majority leader would discharge the bills (HB 4209 and HB 4210) before the calendar year, but given the limited number of session days remaining, was hoping to see movement on the bills after the first of the year.

Mr. Jones on Wednesday said he was surprised by the majority leader's position.

"I can only repeat what he said, that there were too many issues this year, that he would look at discharging them next year and he's not necessarily supportive of the marijuana bills, but he would consider letting the Senate decide," Mr. Jones said.

The bills have not been able to come out of his committee because the votes are not there on all bills relating to medical marijuana regulation, but he believes he can get the votes on the floor, he said.

"There's no bills that I have the votes for at this time," he said. "I do think I have the votes on the Senate floor."

Mr. Meekhof said in his interview with Gongwer that legislation permitting the use of marijuana-infused products - the other medical marijuana regulation legislation Mr. Jones was perhaps referencing - may have even more of an uphill battle. Legislation to that effect in the Senate, SB 140, has been sitting in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and House legislation, HB 4210, passed the House in October and is also in the Judiciary Committee.

"Once it's baked into something, how do you measure the potency of it? If it's sitting around in somebody's house, how does a kid know that's a brownie he can't have?" he said. "Again, not saying it isn't effective, but when you put it in that form, is it really medicine? Could it be construed as something else?"

Mr. Meekhof said there hasn't really been a "wide caucus discussion" on the tiered regulation bills. Mr. Jones has talked a little bit about them to leadership to give the basics and allow people to start forming opinions and questions, but that's it, he said.

Senate Erupts In Straight-Ticket Voting Fury

Senate Democrats accused majority Republicans on Wednesday of trampling over Senate protocols in an effort to limit debate on controversial legislation to end the straight ticket voting option.

Sen. Steve Bieda and several other Senate Democrats were especially heated with their colleagues across the aisle on when, after hours of recessing and no voting, Republicans decided to vote on a bill eliminating straight-ticket voting at the eleventh hour.

The day in the Senate began as running through, rather quickly, its tentative agenda that had been sent out on Tuesday night after another 12-hour-plus session. By noon on Wednesday, the chamber had whizzed through that agenda and recessed until 2 p.m.

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) after session on Tuesday had already indicated his caucus would follow the lead of Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee Chair Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), who was adamantly opposed to the tie bar included by the House of the elimination bill, SB 13, with HB 4724, providing for "secure" no-reason absentee voting, as bill sponsor Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto) has referred to it. The tie-bar was allegedly critical for the House GOP - it eventually reversed course and assented to dropping it - but never settled well in the Senate.

Several hours passed when the Senate returned from recess in mid-afternoon, and by roughly 5:30 p.m., Mr. Meekhof's spokesperson, Amber McCann, indicated to the press that the caucus would be waiting on another bill, SB 571, to come from the House, but would not do straight-ticket voting elimination that day. She also said the Senate would adjourn for the year, meaning the issue would not be taken up again for about a month while the Legislature was on break for the holiday.

And all seemed to continue heading in that direction too, as Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township) made a motion for statements shortly thereafter. The statements from both sides of the aisle were generally jolly in nature, wishing best wishes to colleagues and complimenting one another on the professional tone of the Senate for its first year of most of the senators' second terms.

Mr. Meekhof, in his speech, even noted how the Senate had passed more than 400 bills together in 2015, many in a bipartisan fashion. Then just as it seemed the Senate would adjourn, Mr. Kowall asked for a "very brief recess."

The tone changed dramatically over the next three hours, and with it came creeping insecurities from straight-ticket voting elimination opponents that the bill would still come up.

First, Mr. Robertson called for a Senate Republican caucus. Upon emerging from it, Mr. Kowall then made a motion to concur in the House substitute on SB 13, and proposed amendments lit up the list of actions that would need to be fulfilled before taking a concurrence vote. Among those amendments was one by Mr. Robertson that, as Mr. Meekhof suggested the night before, broke the tie-bar with HB 4724.

But first came an amendment by Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) to remove the $5 million appropriation contained within the bill (an increase the House included from the Senate first including $1 million), as well as an amendment by Sen. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights) to tie-bar the bill to HB 5114 making Election Day a state holiday. In the five minutes Mr. Knezek had to speak about his amendment, he spoke very, very slowly so as to ensure he would use up all of his permitted time (and delay further action on the bill).

PROCEDURALLY SPEAKING: Both amendments were defeated, and for at least an hour after that, Senate Republicans and Democrats dusted off their procedural rules books. Mr. Kowall had earlier excused Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) from the balance of session, which opened a can of worms when he then decided after Mr. Knezek's amendment to make a motion for a call of the Senate - which locks the doors of the chamber and forbids senators from leaving the chamber - and ordered that all Senate staff "except for the Senate majority" be removed from the floor.

That was a rarely, if ever, seen move that deprived minority Democrats of any staff on the floor. And that, as much as anything, triggered the furious Democratic response that ensued.

Under that call of the Senate, the sergeants "may arrest any or all of the senators absent without leave," which would seem to have included Mr. Green, and Senate Minority Floor Leader Morris Hood III (D-Detroit) fought for his inclusion in the call of the Senate and to be present on the Senate floor. But the rule does note that those senators allowed leave do not have to attend, and ultimately, Mr. Green was granted an excuse despite Mr. Hood's objections.

But Mr. Hood continued objections and "point of order" calls for removing staff from the floor and the eventual decision by Lt. Governor Brian Calley, presiding as the president of the Senate, to cease all further debate on SB 13. Democrats had about seven more amendments after the chamber adopted Mr. Robertson's amendment breaking the tie-bar that Mr. Kowall moved to be considered en bloc, forcing one single vote to wipe out all the amendments and prevent further debate on them, for or against.

And Democrats, especially Mr. Bieda (D-Warren), were fired up, especially when they requested to give a no-vote explanation prior to voting on concurrence and Mr. Calley told them they could "provide it to the secretary at any time." Mr. Calley would later explain that once the question on concurrence has been called, the no vote explanation has to be offered after the vote.

"This episode today is so embarrassing on how the Senate is handling itself and how the majority party is handling itself that you really truly should be ashamed," the normally mild-mannered Mr. Bieda said in his no vote explanation. "This is really disgusting. You restrict the ability of people to speak on amendment - it wouldn't have cost you much to stay another half hour or so to at least listen to some debate!

"But no, you decided to cut it off. You decided to cut it off, and it's a big disregard to each of the voters that sent each one of us up here. And they'd be ashamed to see this tonight. I'm sure they would be, because you have to be honest when you're dealing in this Legislature. You have to be transparent. We're fighting that. You're doing all the worst that you see in these banana republic(s). You're seeing fascist dictatorship. This is not something you do in a constitutional, representative democracy," he continued.

Mr. Bieda said he had never seen such an infringement on the right of elected officials to speak to an issue.

Mr. Hertel also spoke in ardent opposition to the vote and how it was handled.

"Well, I guess my colleagues on the other side of the aisle really enjoy irony, because the reason we were told this bill was important was so people wouldn't make strong, partisan decisions, and that's what everybody in this room just did," Mr. Hertel said. "We were told people should take the time to go line by line and consider each vote. And then you, in the idea of expediency, threw all of our amendments to one vote for yourselves. So I guess you guys get a straight ticket. So that's fun. Merry Christmas to the rest of us in this state."

Mr. Hertel ripped Republicans for talking just hours before about bipartisanship, the Christmas spirit, "and the strong work we've done together" that was "ripped apart in one night."

"I hope the people are listening. I hope the people get to see how you guys did this tonight. I hope they see that you forced us, all these amendments into one vote, and you won't give them that same opportunity," he said. "Everyone in this room should be embarrassed. You should be ashamed. I thought a lot of us had better relationships than this, but I guess I was wrong."

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) spoke to reporters after session about the ordeal, saying "it's extremely egregious when they rig the rules in order to rig the system," and that "that's really telling and unfortunate," he said.

MEEKHOF RESPONSE: Speaking with reporters after session, Mr. Meekhof defended the tactics his caucus took in discussion of SB 13.

"That was to focus everybody down on the task at hand, because people were tired and getting a little sloppy, so we just put people in their desk, make them focus on the task at hand, bring the noise down a little bit and get the work done," he said.

As to putting all the Democratic amendments together, he said, "Procedurally, we just thought that was the best thing to do, to move things on."

Campaign Finance Bill Clears Legislature Amid Confusion

Legislation establishing various campaign finance changes and codifying Department of State practices heads to Governor Rick Snyder Wednesday after both chambers approved the bill that quickly became 41 pages longer through a floor substitute, causing Democrats to mostly oppose the issue.

The House adopted a floor substitute to a campaign finance bill that took the legislation from 12 pages long to 53 pages at the end of a nearly 12-hour session on Wednesday, causing Democrats to challenge the changes as not germane to the original bill.

SB 571 eventually passed the House 58-48 and then the Senate 25-12, sending the bill to Governor Rick Snyder.

According to House and Senate Republicans, the bill would prohibit public bodies from using public resources for communications referencing local ballot questions by radio, television, mass mailing or prerecorded telephone message 60 days prior to an election. That could have a major impact on the ability of local governments and school districts to say anything about local millage and bond questions.

It would also codify existing Department of State interpretations that identification and disclaimer are two separate requirements. The bill says the identification requirement includes the words "paid for by" and a disclaimer is in the same form but contains "not authorized by" or "authorized by."

The bill would also allow a candidate committee to use a contribution that is not designated for a particular election cycle to pay outstanding debts and obligations from a previous election cycle; eliminate February filing deadlines for independent committees or political committees; clarify campaign statement filing deadlines in the bill apply to candidate committees; and require a committee's statement of organization include an email address.

The bill would also require the Department of State to post on its website all "dispositive" materials regarding a complaint for violations and alleged violations within 45 days instead of 60 days.

And amendments from Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto) that were adopted to the bill outline that the treasurer of an incumbent judge or justice following their election or appointment is not required to file a written statement indicating the committee does not expect to receive or expend an amount more than $1,000.

The bill also clarifies an organization can include a request for a donation to their political action committee on the same form they request dues payments from members. And ends the existing requirement that employees participating in an organization's automatic payment or payroll deduction plan to the organization's PAC affirmatively assent annually to participate. Individuals would still have to provide their permission but the annual report would end

Those last components were the original content of the bill.

House Minority Floor Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) had originally challenged the floor substitute as not germane. The Democrats scored a win in a roll call vote on the ruling of the chair that it was indeed germane, which passed on a party-line vote.

Mr. Singh said the Democrats were not able to offer amendments because the substitute was not made available to them, rendering their original amendments useless.

"You are making changes. You are making changes to the way disclaimers are done. You are making changes to in-kind dollars and resources. These are important issues to the public," he said. "This could have been a bipartisan bill. As it was started in the process."

Geiss, Love 'Disappointed' In Caucus Punishment

Rep. Erika Geiss and Rep. Leslie Love are disappointed they were stripped of Democratic Caucus leadership positions in retaliation for voting on a bill other Democrats had opposed last week, the pair said in a statement issued Wednesday.

The statement came through Rep. Harvey Santana (D-Detroit), himself an estranged House Democrat. Ms. Geiss (D-Taylor) and Ms. Love (D-Detroit) said they were stripped of their caucus titles and caucus staff support after voting yes on HB 4686 - sponsored by Mr. Santana. The bill, which would make it harder for individuals to sue municipalities over defective sidewalks, would have been a vote short of passage had the two lawmakers voted no.

"I am extremely disappointed with how this situation has played out," Ms. Love, who was caucus vice chair, said in a statement. "The caucus put me in the position of having to choose between the interests of my colleagues or the needs of my district. With this bill Detroit could save $6 million a year. That is money that could be returned to the taxpayers or used to put a few more police officers on the streets."

Ms. Geiss, who was the assistant caucus whip, said she never imagined she would be punished for voting her district instead of a caucus position.

"The Democratic Party is often compared to a big tent, where everyone is welcomed, but apparently the tent is shrinking," she said. "I find it distressing that the Democratic Caucus, led by Leader Greimel, would insist I choose following a caucus position over the needs of my constituency. I was elected to office by the people of the 12th District - (and) will vote in accordance with their needs. "

The bill would allow municipalities to use the "open and obvious" defense when being sued over defective sidewalks, likely making it more difficult for individuals to sue.

Large Democratic cities - Detroit, Dearborn, Lansing and Taylor - voiced support. However, a major Democratic player - the Michigan Association for Justice, the association of trial lawyers - opposes the bill.

Mr. Santana questioned if the motivation to oppose the bill came from his sponsoring the legislation. Mr. Santana was kicked out of caucus earlier this year and was appointed the minority vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee by House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant). He accepted the position with House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) hoping another Democrat would get the position.

"I think the overwhelming problem in my opinion is this: this is the fourth person of color who has been kicked out of the Democratic Caucus either in the Senate or over here," he said, citing himself, Ms. Geiss, Ms. Love and Sen. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit).

"And (these are) two African-American women, one of them is of Hispanic descent, who are being punished for doing (their) job," he said.

Mr. Santana also criticized the caucus for not taking any punitive action against Rep. John Kivela (D-Marquette), who is being charged under the state's "super-drunk" law after driving while intoxicated. He also said caucus members looked for reasons not to vote to expel former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat.

"If it was so difficult to do that to these two people who openly admitted to breaking all of these rules, then why was it so easy for you to remove (Ms. Geiss and Ms. Love) because they voted for a bill that directly benefits their districts," he said. "It's bizarre."

A spokesperson for Mr. Greimel has not officially commented on the incident other than to say the caucus does not comment on what happens within the caucus.

Gongwer News Service has attempted to interview several House Democratic members about the incident. All have refused to comment.

Sen. Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park) was seen discussing the situation with Mr. Greimel late Tuesday night at the Capitol.

Wednesday, Mr. Johnson said he did not think punishment was warranted. That Mr. Santana sponsored the bill probably made it a "touchy subject" for the House Democrats otherwise the bill is innocuous, Mr. Johnson said. And Ms. Geiss and Ms. Love were voting for a bill with direct benefit to their districts, he said.

"But I think there's a bigger lesson here - they're freshmen lawmakers and if there is a protocol that they failed to adopt or abide by, I think it's a teachable moment for the Democratic leader, and I told him that, so I'm not talking behind his back," he said. "I think it's probably one of those moments he should probably take the opportunity to have an honest discourse with those members, but I don't think punishments are in order. Around here, you got to do something pretty egregious to be punished, per se, so I think you have to be careful with that, probably as much as you're careful with caucus positions because they can be prohibitive in some ways."

Mr. Johnson said he stands with the two lawmakers.

"I am supportive of both women and I think it's an issue that should be put to bed," he said. "The city of Detroit is asking for it and I think it would probably save us a lot of money in lawsuits and whatnot. And I want to be there for freshman members who are looking to earn their keep but to find their way in a Legislature that sometimes doesn't have enough mentors in it, and that's what I expressed to the minority leader."

Republicans are teeing off on Democrats on the controversy.

The Michigan Republican Party said in a statement representatives are elected to serve their constituents, "not trial lawyers."

"This kind of punitive action by House Democratic leadership against lawmakers who voted in the best interests of their districts is preposterous," said Sarah Anderson, communications director for MRP. "They are representing their districts and penalizing them for not voting in lock-step with their caucus demonstrates the House Democratic Leadership's willingness to put politics before people. This is another example of the lack of leadership from House Democrats."

And the conservative Michigan Freedom Fund said in a statement that Mr. Greimel has not taken seriously bribery allegations against Rep. Alberta Tinsley-Talabi (D-Detroit) and sexual harassment complaints from a former staffer of Rep. Brian Banks (D-Detroit). A lawsuit was filed against Mr. Banks. No charges have been issued against Ms. Tinsley-Talabi though the U.S. attorney in Detroit has filed paperwork involving others in the case implicating her with accepting a bribe.

"Michigan would be a lot better off if Tim Greimel took sexual harassment and bribery as seriously as he takes his own ego," said Terri Reid, president of the group. "While we may not often agree with Representatives Love and Geiss, we respect their willingness to put their constituents above the feelings of political party bosses. Voters can only wish Greimel took his responsibility to the state half as seriously."

Civil Service Commission Approves New State Contracts

State employees will see a 1 percent pay increase and a 1.5 percent lump sum payment with little changes in their health care coverage for the 2016-17 fiscal year under the contract that received final approval this morning from the Civil Service Commission.

The commission made no changes to the contract that had been approved earlier in the month by the five state employee unions.

The overall contract lasts the traditional three years, with non-economic provisions effective January 1, but the parties will be back at the bargaining table next fall on wages and health care once the implications of the so-called "Cadillac tax" under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are determined.

The commission approved essentially the same pay package for non-union employees and allowed unclassified employees up to a 1 percent increase and 1.5 percent lump sum.

Commissioner Robert Swanson (D-Lansing) praised the two sides for reaching agreements. The prior contract cycle saw a number of items sent to the impasse panel that issued recommendations shifting health care costs to state employees. The unions had vowed this year to block such changes.

NURSES: The commission rejected a request from nurses at state psychiatric hospitals for a larger raise, but urged them to come back in 2016 with more proof for the need for higher pay.

The nurses had asked for a 4 percent raise as part of an effort to recruit and retain staff at the hospitals.

"You can't really pay enough to deal with some of the things we see," Cassandra Craig, registered nurse manager at the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital said.

But she said the difference in pay between the state facilities and private hospitals, combined with the work, makes it difficult to keep sufficient staff.

Carol Madding, director of nursing at the Hawthorn Center, said she needs 24 people each day to properly staff the facility. She said she currently has 20 actually on staff, which means 18 available to work on a given day.

Commission Chair Thomas Wardrop (I-Grand Rapids) questioned why the nurses, members of the Michigan Association of Governmental Employees and not represented by a union, are seeing shortages but the department is not.

He asked MAGE to work with its members to collect data to prove the shortage. "It would help me to have that data in front of me," he said.

Board member Janet McClelland (I-Lansing) urged the group to also conduct a wage survey of the area around the hospitals to show the nursing shortage is limited to the state facilities and that wages are contributing.

Al Quatrin, president of MAGE, said he would work to gather the requested information, but said much of it should be provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, which he said has not been tracking the issue.

"They don't want to know about this problem," he said. "They know it's going to take money to solve this problem."

Mr. Swanson urged both sides to provide the data the commission requested, but also noted that, should the board approve the raises, the state has to include those funds in its budget.

CLASS DUTIES: The commission unanimously approved rules changes designed to reduce the number of prohibited subject of bargaining complaints, but that union officials said would undermine some provisions of their contracts.

The changes to Rule 6-3.2 now include, "A collective bargaining agreement cannot confer exclusive authority to perform specific duties to a classification or bargaining unit."

The most recent dispute related to the change had been over positions in the Department of Transportation, where department officials had added a provision that some members of a unit covered by Service Employees International Union obtain commercial driver's licenses and potentially be trained to drive snow plows, a task assigned exclusively to a Michigan State Employees Association unit.

The move led to a complaint that included arguments by the department that assigning the task was a prohibited subject of bargaining.

Union officials said the rule change would leave it to the department management, and the commission, to decide what work fell to a classification.

"It might seem like an inconsequential rule, but to us in the bargaining unit, it's very significant," George Heath with SEIU said. "It appears that we are creating a patchwork, and it's not by the arbitrators, it's by the management of MDOT."

"We are not trying to undermine the authority of this commission," Peter Clark with MSEA said. "Our contract is meant to uphold those classifications."

Mr. Wardrop said in any case, it ultimately falls to the commission to decide who does what. "If it's in your classification to do a job or duty, shouldn't that be for us to decide?" he said.

GRANDCHILDREN: As part of the coordinated contribution plan adopted for non-union employees, family leave time is expanded to include caring for grandchildren. The commission Wednesday also released proposed rules that would expand that definition of family leave time for all state employees. The change is proposed to be effective January 3.

Franchise Bills Clear House

The House on Wednesday passed Legislation specifying that in franchise operations in the state employer responsibilities belong to the franchisees rather than the franchisors.

The bills (HB 5070, HB 5071, HB 5072, HB 5073, SB 492 and SB 493) would distinguish Michigan from a ruling made last summer by the National Labor Relations Board that franchisees and the franchising companies are joint employers of a franchisee's workers.

The first two bills passed 59-47, the second two passed 6046 and the final two Passed 59-46 and 60-45, respectively.

The ruling is one of the controversial business related issues nationally, and business lobbyists have been working on members of Congress to get them to include language in a required national spending bill that would block or at least delay the effectiveness of the ruling.

The ruling was issued in August, and under it a parent company could be responsible for ensuring the franchisee meets pay and safety requirements. It could also make a franchisor responsible for negotiating with any unions that might organize with the franchisees.

Court Rules For State In Issue Of Test Vehicles

Ford Motor Company could not claim test vehicles used in the 1990s were not subject to the state's sales and use taxes, the Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday, reversing a finding the Court of Claims made against the state.

The court held that, under the law in existence at the time, test vehicles were considered licensed for use on public highways and were therefore taxable.

The state changed the sales and use tax laws in 1999 to make test vehicles exempt from the tax, but Judge Michael Gadola, joined by Judge Kristen Frank Kelly and Judge Karen Fort Hood, ruling in *Ford v. Treasury* (COA docket No. 322673), rejected Ford's argument that the 1999 act should be applied retroactively.

The case stems from an audit the state conducted of Ford that covered 1993 to 2001.

Ford filed its action against the state in 2009. In 2010, the Court of Claims found for Ford and ordered the state to refund more than $1.6 million when interest was added.

The two entities argued then over attorney fees, with the Court of Claims holding that the state had to pay Ford more than $112,000 in attorney fees.

But the appeals panel held the Court of Claims was wrong to agree with Ford that the test vehicles were not to be taxed.

While property used for industrial processing was not subject to the tax, before 1999 that exemption did not include test vehicles, the court said. Ford also argued the manufacturer plates only permitted the company to test the vehicles, but the court said the law did permit a vehicle with manufacturer's plates to drive on public roads.

Ford then argued it could not sell the vehicles to the public, therefore they should not be taxed. But the court held the tax law applied to any power or right the manufacturer had over the property, so using the test vehicles still subjected them to the tax.

In terms of the attorneys' fees, the court rejected many of the state's arguments against paying the fees and remanded the case for proceedings in line with its findings.

Michigan's November Unemployment Rate Ticks Up To 5.1%

With more people entering Michigan's workforce during November, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly to 5.1 percent.

The October rate was 5 percent, and the national November unemployment rate remained at 5 percent.

Despite the uptick, November's jobless rate was still below the 2015 average jobless rate of 5.4 percent. The 2015 jobless average rate is nearly 2 full percentage points lower than the 2014 rate of 7.3 percent.

And the November 2015 unemployment rate at 5.1 percent is significantly lower than the 6.5 percent November 2014 rate.

During the month, 21,000 more people joined the state's workforce. The total number of 4.764 million people is the highest number recorded in 2015 and marks the fourth consecutive month the state's total labor force has grown.

The number of people working also increased by 15,000 in November, according to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget. That brings the total number of people working during the month to 4.520 million, which is 81,000 more people than were working in November 2014.

However, the number of unemployed people increased by 6,000 to 119,000. That is still 38,000 fewer people than were unemployed in November 2014.

The unemployment rate also increased in the Detroit-Warren-Dearborn labor market to 5.9 percent, compared to 5.7 percent in October. However, the November 2014 rate stood at 7.8 percent.

Plus, 6,000 more people joined the Detroit area workforce, putting the total to just over 2 million, with 1.884 million people working. The workforce was still 17,000 people fewer than in November 2014, but the number of people working was 22,000 more.

The state said job gains were fairly well spread out across industry sectors during the month. Construction saw gains of 3,000, and manufacturing, education and health services along with leisure and hospitality services all saw gains of 2,000. Professional and business services did see declines of 5,000 people and government jobs were cut by 2,000 people.

Snyder Signs Bill Allowing Retired Teachers To Substitute

A bill that again allows retired teachers with a background in subject areas seeing a critical shortage of teachers to serve as substitutes was signed into law Wednesday by Governor Rick Snyder.

Years ago, the state enacted a law prohibiting retired school employees from returning to work on a contract or part-time basis. Some superintendents had come under suspicion of double-dipping by retiring, receiving their pension and then being hired back for essentially the same job on a contract basis.

But the law swept up teachers and that limited the pool of substitute teachers.

"Retired educators are a valuable resource," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "Having them back in the classroom will assist schools in filling critical shortage areas where their knowledge will greatly benefit today's students."

HB 4059 (PA 219) was filed with immediate effect.

Mr. Snyder also signed HB 4843 (PA 220) to protect individuals under 21 years of age from facing certain prescription drug-related legal charges when reporting a medical emergency. That law mirrors a similar existing statute regarding minors suffering from alcohol intoxication and takes effect March 15.

Capital Notebook: Colleen Pero Appointed Civil Rights Deputy

Colleen Pero has been named deputy director for the Department of Civil Rights.

Ms. Pero, of Laingsburg, has been a long-time top Republican voice in the state. In addition to currently serving on the Board of State Canvassers, she spent several years on the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Board and has worked several Republican campaigns, including her own run for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. She also served under Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Ms. Pero officially took the post November 2, but it was not publicized until this week.

RECREATION GRANTS: The Department of Natural Resources announced Wednesday it had awarded $1.3 million in grants to local recreation programs from recreation passport revenue.

The department issued 33 grants for a variety of projects around the state. Twenty-five of the grants were for the $45,000 maximum the department awarded.

Among the projects was replacement of the glass and boards at the Calumet Colosseum, the oldest hockey rink in the nation; updating a mini-golf course in Ludington; improvements to the Equestrian Center at the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds, including addition of an information center for the trail starting at the building; and completion of segments of the Iron Belle/North Country Trail in Luce, Marquette and Ontonagon counties.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Friday, December 18

House Session **(Chr. Cotter, 373-1789), House Chamber, Capitol Building, 11:45 a.m.**

- **Sine die adjournment**

Senate Session (Committee Record) **(Chr. Meekhof, 373-6920), Senate Chamber, Capitol Building, 11:45 a.m.**

- **Sine die adjournment**

Subscribers Please Note

A story in the Monday Michigan Report should have said the Department of Transportation, in its road watchers program, would be emailing participants a survey on their experience commuting along the designated routes during the morning hours. Changes to snow clearing and other winter maintenance would be based on the results of the surveys.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 3:00 PM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 8:41 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For December 17, 2015

News

Michigan letting school retirees return with pension (Associated Press, 12/17/2015)

Legislation to fix Detroit schools stalled until 2016 (Detroit Free Press, 12/17/2015)

MDOC restricts access to day rooms at women's prison (Detroit Free Press, 12/17/2015)

Michigan Senate, House OK end to straight ticket voting (Detroit Free Press, 12/17/2015)

Read Flint mayor's state of emergency declaration on water crisis (Flint Journal, 12/17/2015)

Public defender reform to get tougher (Lansing State Journal, 12/17/2015)

Michigan bills would ease vaccination waiver process, undermine new health rules (MLive, 12/17/2015)

Michigan Legislature caps 2015 with flurry of election bill action (MLive, 12/17/2015)

New contracts approved: State employees to get 1% raise, 1.5fixpercent lump sum payment (MLive, 12/17/2015)

New way to measure student growth for teacher evaluations in the works (MLive, 12/17/2015)

Mich. lawmakers vote to end straight-party voting (The Detroit News, 12/17/2015)

New law exempts young adults if they report drug abuse (The Detroit News, 12/17/2015)

Spending bill aids Great Lakes cleanup, MSU facility (The Detroit News, 12/17/2015)

Editorials

When it comes to talent, Michigan needs more of everything (Bridge Magazine, 12/17/2015)

For Detroit students, don't go back to status quo (Detroit Free Press, 12/17/2015)

When did state know kids in Flint were lead poisoned? (Detroit Free Press, 12/17/2015)

Reading bill focuses on advancing students to proficiency (MLive, 12/17/2015)

Senate absentee-voting bill takes away more than it gives (MLive, 12/17/2015)

Without guidelines for Michigan teacher evaluations, everyone is awesome (MLive, 12/17/2015)

Durant: Give Michigan schools more freedom to innovate (The Detroit News, 12/17/2015)

Editorial: Deal to cap GM should be public (The Detroit News, 12/17/2015)

Letter: Time, dollars needed for juvenile justice (The Detroit News, 12/17/2015)

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Volume #54, Report #247 -- Thursday, December 17, 2015

Feds OK Healthy Michigan Waiver

Michigan government got a Christmas present from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on Thursday when the agency approved a waiver that will allow the Healthy Michigan Medicaid expansion program to continue to operate for years to come.

Had the state not gotten the waiver from CMS by December 31, the program that provides health insurance for some 600,000 people in Michigan with incomes between 100 to 133 percent of the federal poverty level would have ended on April 1.

The waiver permits the state on April 1, 2018, to require Healthy Michigan recipients who have been in the program for four years to elect to either get coverage through the federal health care exchange or remain with Healthy Michigan and by following healthy behavior requirements have lower cost sharing. The cost sharing on Healthy Michigan for recipients could be as much as 7 percent of their income, but state officials said Thursday it is unlikely most people would pay more than 5 percent of their income.

Earlier this week officials, including Governor Rick Snyder and Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon, said they were confident the state would get the waiver, though as the days wore on state officials were clearly getting a bit antsy for the federal government to issue a statement.

The state received a letter Thursday notifying it that CMS had approved the waiver.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said the federal agency was pleased "we have an agreement with Michigan that will allow nearly 600,000 low-income citizens to continue to have access to quality health services. This agreement is consistent with Michigan's proposal and ensures important beneficiary protections guaranteed" under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

In a statement, Mr. Snyder said Healthy Michigan - which was approved by the Legislature after an extensive political battle in 2013 and which then took effect on April 1, 2014 - had given Michiganders "the opportunity to improve their health and wellness by enrolling in health care coverage."

In passing the legislation in 2013, the Legislature required the state to get two waivers from the federal government, with the second waiver setting up the cost-sharing system in Healthy Michigan.

The 7 percent figure caused some concerns with the federal government and was subject to a number of discussions.

Mr. Lyon, in talking with reporters, said the second option will allow the state to focus more on encouraging healthy behaviors of recipients and following those behaviors will help ensure those recipients pay lower cost sharing rates.

Participating in the healthy behaviors means the cost sharing a client will face will not exceed 5 percent, he said.

And, under the waiver, if a person - unless one is considered medically frail - chose not to participate in the healthy behaviors, they will take part in the health care exchange where their total cost sharing is also to be 5 percent.

It would be very rare, Mr. Lyon said, that a person would pay more than 5 percent.

This will only affect recipients on April 1, 2018, who have been participating in Healthy Michigan for four years.

The news of the waiver resulted in enthusiastic responses from a variety of groups.

Rick Murdock with the Michigan Association of Health Plans called the announcement, "good news" for the state and said it brings the state closer to his group's goal of ensuring all persons have health care coverage.

Brian Peters, CEO of the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, said the Healthy Michigan plan has helped residents who were previously uninsured "to access the care they need in the right place, at the right time and at an affordable price."

And Gilda Jacobs, president of the Michigan League for Public Policy said the group was "thrilled" at the news of the waiver. "This is tremendous news for our entire state," she said.

Snyder Appoints Hollins To Oversee Flint Water Efforts

Governor Rick Snyder, in response to preliminary recommendations from the Flint Water Advisory Task Force, appointed Harvey Hollins, the director of his Office of Urban Initiatives, to oversee efforts to resolve the water issues in the city.

But Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said the issue needed stronger oversight than Mr. Hollins could provide.

"Harvey is well-versed in the issues and the challenges faced by our cities and will be effective in this role," Mr. Snyder said.

He said his administration would also work on an Internet dashboard to display progress made on the water issue.

The task force is still working on its final recommendations, but members said they issued the preliminary recommendations - in a letter dated December 7 but released Thursday - to get some of the changes in place more quickly.

"We felt it was imperative to make these initial recommendations to help address the water crisis in Flint instead of waiting until our final report is submitted," Task Force Co-Chair Chris Kolb said. "We appreciate the prompt acceptance of our request for action by the governor and see it as a step forward."

Co-Chair Ken Sikkema also said the initial review presented "a distributing situation."

"While the Task Force is far from done with our work, the initial review has presented a very disturbing situation that will require many actions to help those that have suffered," Mr. Sikkema said. "We saw no reason to wait until the final report to make these initial recommendations. We also anticipate that we will made additional recommendations prior to the final report."

Mr. Ananich urged the Department of State Police, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to take charge of water testing, distribution of water filters and other efforts to control lead exposure in the city.

"Political appointees and public relations people are what got us into this mess, and they aren't who we need leading us out of it," Mr. Ananich said. "Anything less than a professional trained in emergency management or public health will not suffice."

In the letter, the task force said the governor's 10-point action plan was being implemented, but without measures to determine success.

"One primary concern we have at this point is that the current efforts appear to be taking place in the absence of a larger project coordination framework that measures results and clearly delineates responsibilities for continuing actions to protect public health," the task force said in the letter.

Task force members said the departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services needed to set goals for the various efforts underway in the city as well as contingency plans if those goals are not being met.

The task force called for a single person or entity to coordinate the efforts.

Mr. Snyder acceded to that request for a coordinator in a letter back to the task force dated December 12. That also was released Thursday.

HICA, DPS, Energy Remain In Senate For '16

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof said late Wednesday he expects to take up an extension on the Health Insurance Claims Assessment as soon as his caucus comes back in January, but two other huge policy goals will be competing for legislators' time before they dive head-first into the next budget cycle.

The House extended HICA into 2025 via HB 5105, but some senators have "some other ideas" on the tax that helps the state receive federal Medicaid matching funds, "so we weren't in a place where we could vote for it yet," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) told reporters.

Asked about the urgency given the current HICA tax does not expire until 2017, Mr. Meekhof said, "That's when we have the time. If we can pick those things up now, before DPS and energy debates start, I think that's wise."

But those last two items cannot be left on an island either. House members will be running for re-election next year, so as the year goes on, it will get increasingly harder to pass such major legislation in the Senate and expect to see the same in the House. And Mr. Meekhof conceded as much.

"It being an election year next year, it's probably less than half of the year that we have for things to work on," he said, acknowledging also that the process becomes further complicated by budget discussions beginning around February. "But we do have time in January that we generally don't have a lot on our plate and ... let's try to get the understanding of everybody what the policy issue is and what we could be doing, because most of it has still been in committee up until this point."

DPS: The struggle in providing funding for Detroit Public Schools to the tune of $715 million over 10 years was expected to see some more clarity with bills introduced before the Legislature left for the year, but that too saw too many hiccups to be made possible. Sen. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart), who is leading that discussion in the Senate (and in the Legislature generally), has been tight-lipped about any kind of details on the policy in an effort to prevent it from falling apart before it starts, and that hasn't seemed to bother most people.

But Sen. Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park) said that legislation can't fall by the wayside either.

"They're not ready because there's an issue with discerning where you're going to get the money from to pay this $715 million and a new situation called new public schools Detroit, or whatever it's going to be called," Mr. Johnson told Gongwer News Service in an interview. "That's the big issue.

"What cannot happen is we allow the clock to run out, and people, because of political aspirations in the next year, or just sheer reticence to support Detroit issues say 'well, we're just not going to do anything.' Then it gets to be blamed on Detroit, which is not going to happen, not on my watch," he said.

He said there is not just one version of the bills at this point either.

"We've had a lot of compromise discussions between ourselves and Senator Hansen, the governor's office. Everybody has been committed to trying to drive the same message, but then there's been some hiccups where we've seen some things maybe being done behind the scenes with EAA and DPS perhaps looking to charter a number of schools without us understanding that, and that created a problem for us as well," Mr. Johnson said.

"It's a fluid process, and this is sausage-making, and it's ugly, and it's going to take us some more time," he said. "We'll have some conversations during the break and see if we can come back with a package people can get behind."

ENERGY: One area where the House is seemingly slightly ahead of the Senate is in the area of energy policy. As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency collects plan-of-action reports from the state on its federal Clean Power Plan to reduce emissions, the question is how Michigan will respond.

The House Energy Policy Committee reported its version of how that future will look in November, but was unable to move those bills off the floor this week.

The Senate has been a bit slower to move. Despite advertising boasting a "Nofs-Nesbitt energy plan," Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) has been adamant about proposing his own plan separate of what House Majority Floor Leader Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) is pushing in his chamber, and despite the two do have some similarities in certain sectors of the debate.

Some utilities like Consumers Energy will be shutting down numerous plants in 2016, but even so, the Midcontinent Independent Systems Operator - which oversees the energy market for certain states, including Michigan - insists Michigan should not have to worry about a shortage of energy in 2016 (though there is some question as to how much sooner Michigan should worry after that). And Attorney General Bill Schuette is litigating the pressure from the EPA to conform to its Clean Power Plan.

Even so, both sides of the energy debate say Michigan needs to act sooner rather than later.

And while just about every member of legislative leadership will mark energy as a priority for next year, the question still remains where this major policy initiative will be able to fit legislation, debate and voting on that legislation into the big picture of 2016.

Schuette Bets On Bush; Talks Parole Changes, Statewide School Gun Option

In a wide-ranging discussion, Attorney General Bill Schuette on Thursday expressed confidence former Florida Governor Jeb Bush would win the 2016 Republican nomination and said he would be

willing to look at a system that allows for easier parole so long as persons convicted of major felonies were not included and would back a consistent statewide approach letting people with concealed weapons permits carry in so-called "gun-free zones."

Mr. Schuette also said that he would think it reasonable for legislators to insist Detroit schools show academic progress if the state agreed to help fix its debt.

And when asked about what he had learned about the same-sex marriage court fight that led the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold that same-sex marriage is constitutional, Mr. Schuette said he was right to fight to protect Michigan's Constitution.

He also was coy when asked about fundraising activities.

Mr. Schuette met with reporters on Thursday to review the year and said besides the thousands of cases his office works on, he had been especially touched by an individual effort to help a woman who was victimized by sex trafficking. Mr. Schuette has played an active role with the state in changing its human trafficking laws.

He also said his office had helped collect more than $22 million in unpaid child support payments, bringing the total to more than $120 million since taking office.

And he and officials from his office also held 1,000 meetings at schools to talk about bullying and threats posed by students against others in the "Okay2Say" program, he said.

Mr. Schuette is one of the most prominent supporters of Mr. Bush for the 2016 GOP nomination for president, and despite Mr. Bush polling well below Donald Trump, Texas U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, Mr. Schuette expressed total confidence that Mr. Bush would hang on to win the nomination.

"For Jeb there is only one way, and that is up," he said. "There is no quit" in the Bush family in a campaign.

There is no one more skilled or qualified to be president, Mr. Schuette said of Mr. Bush. Mr. Trump is now riding a wave of support because there is genuine fear and worry in the U.S. because of the foreign and economic policies of President Barack Obama, he said.

But Mr. Schuette said he is anxious for the presidential primaries to begin to allow for the winnowing out process of Republican candidates. "They can't come soon enough," he said.

PRESUMPTIVE PAROLE: Mr. Schuette has also led opposition to proposals in the Legislature to allow for a system that would give many prisoners a better opportunity for parole upon reaching their earliest release date. The proposals are backed by a number of people seeking both to reduce the cost of corrections and help individuals get back into normal life.

Joined by numerous county prosecutors and sheriffs, Mr. Schuette has attacked what he calls "auto-pilot parole" as a threat to public safety.

However, in the round table, Mr. Schuette said he and his allies "would be open to a discussion about excluding violent crimes" from the types of offenses that could be considered for automatic parole. Mr. Schuette did not commit to supporting the proposal, but said he could be open to discussing changes.

CONCEALED CARRY: In terms of changing the state's gun laws to allow individuals with concealed weapons permits to go into schools and other areas now off limits, Mr. Schuette said he is an "NRA attorney general. I make no bones about it."

The proposal made by Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) in SB 442 would work best, Mr. Schuette said, because it would provide "a consistent approach across the state" as well as back up the Second Amendment.

Governor Rick Snyder has said he is opposed to the bill, a position he repeated to Gongwer News Service during an interview on Wednesday. Mr. Snyder said there has to be room for each district to make up its own mind on whether to allow for individuals with concealed weapons access to schools.

Mr. Schuette said that sometimes he and the governor have differences, but he still believes a consistent, statewide approach is best on the issue.

DPS: With Mr. Snyder hoping the Legislature will act on a proposal to help Detroit schools deal with its debt and restructure itself, Mr. Schuette said the focus should be on a school system that has continually failed its students.

If the Legislature votes to have the state help pay off the Detroit Public Schools debt, then there has to be assurance on what new outcomes will be had for the district, Mr. Schuette said.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: During 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, ruled against arguments Mr. Schuette brought defending the Michigan Constitution's provision banning same-sex marriage and any of its equivalent. The nation's highest court held that same-sex couples had a constitutional right to marry.

Mr. Schuette repeated, as he had throughout the years the issue was litigated, that his duty was to defend the Constitution, all sections of it. Asked if he had learned anything from the decision, Mr. Schuette said what he learned was, "I did the right thing" in fighting for the Michigan ban.

FURTHER CAMPAIGNS: Mr. Schuette also was asked about fundraising he had done in Washington D.C. Some of that, he said, was for the Republican Attorney Generals Association, and some was for him.

Mr. Schuette cannot run for re-election but he is seen as a sure candidate to run for governor in 2018. Asked why he would raise money for himself, he said only that "I still got the itch." What he was itching to do politically, he would not say.

In other topics:

- Mr. Schuette said the investigation into former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat is ongoing, but that it should be completed relatively soon;

- He stuck to his prediction that the "days are numbered" for Enbridge line 5 under the Mackinac Straits, but he could not say when the pipeline would be closed or what would be a safer option to move oil and natural gas products. He did say there are ongoing discussions on matters such as increasing the insurance on the pipeline; and

- He did not indicate there would be any charges brought against anyone in regards to the Flint water situation, but his office would defend the state against any suits brought against it.

Snyder Says He Will Not Take Cabinet Job Just To Set Up Calley For Governor

If a Republican wins the White House in 2016, Governor Rick Snyder said in an interview this week he would not accept a job in the Cabinet to enhance Lt. Governor Brian Calley's chances of winning the governorship in 2018.

Speaking to Michigan Public Television for its annual "Evening with the Governor" program, Mr. Snyder showed little to no interest in joining the Cabinet of a Republican administration, but also made it clear he would never leave as part of a strategic move to let Mr. Calley ascend to the governorship to raise his chances of winning in 2018.

Mr. Calley has not said he is running, but expectations are high that he will.

"I'm not going to simply leave office to help with that issue because it's too important being governor," Mr. Snyder said.

And Mr. Snyder signaled a Cabinet post is not of much interest to him personally, saying he is aware every day that he has one less day in office.

"I have a responsibility to the citizens of Michigan," he said.

First Lady Sue Snyder also shed some light on the circumstances under which Mr. Snyder ruptured his Achilles' tendon in early January and how frightening the ensuing blood clot, which led to the governor spending several days in the hospital, was.

"It was a very scary time for all of us," she said, even saying at one point the possibility of Mr. Snyder dying crossed her mind.

The actual injury occurred after Mr. Snyder had concluded a jog on the beach and was walking. Mr. Snyder said he took too long a stride and heard a pop. Ms. Snyder, who had earlier advised him to ease back on his jogging, which he had just taken up, had been by a pool.

"All of a sudden I see him hobbling back. I said, 'What is going on?'" she said.

Mr. Snyder told her, "'I don't know, I think I ripped something.'" Ms. Snyder said she retorted, "I told you."

In the aftermath of the injury, Mr. Snyder, while at work, told Ms. Snyder his leg was swelling. Ms. Snyder said it became so swollen that his pant leg was taut around his leg.

"He says, 'I think I better go to the hospital, to the emergency room,'" she said.

Mr. Snyder during the interview said, when asked whether term limits should change, that the topic is "fair question." He said term limits could be made more flexible instead of limiting members to six years in the House and eight years in the Senate. For years, there has been discussion about a 14-year limit on total legislative service, but it has gone nowhere.

The governor, however, said the eight year limit on constitutional officers is appropriate.

Audit Cites DTMB For Lax Server Security

Auditors have found that most of the state's UNIX servers had not been properly secured, an audit released Thursday said.

The performance audit of statewide UNIX security controls, for the period October 1, 2012, through August 31, 2015, found that of 63 servers tested, 59 had vulnerable security configurations. And 47 of the servers had not had a vulnerability scan conducted in more than a month.

But auditors found the department was moderately effective at both implementing security and access controls on the servers and establishing governance structures over the servers.

The state operates about 950 UNIX servers, the report said.

The department agreed with the findings and said it had purchased software to automate security settings and regular security scans on the servers. It said it is also developing a process to ensure vulnerability remediation is assigned to the correct division.

Auditors also cited the state for not consistently using supported versions of the operating system and not timely applying patches. The department also gave too much control over the servers to the Agency Services Division, allowing the possibility that security measures could be circumvented, the report said.

On the operating systems, the department said it is implementing policies to require all agencies to upgrade to supported versions as well as automated patch management.

It also said it is working to better segregate duties among the various groups overseeing the servers.

Snyder Signs Epi-Pen Bills

Anyone operating an activity where anaphylaxis-causing allergens may be present has the ability under a bill signed into law Thursday by Governor Rick Snyder to make available auto-injectable epinephrine devices, commonly known as Epi-Pens.

The bill, HB 4438 (PA 221), specifically mentions recreation camps, youth sports leagues, amusement parks, nonpublic schools, religious institutions or sports arenas, but does not limit the law's applicability just to them. The law, which takes effect March 16, broadens previous law that limited access to school districts.

The bill enables those entities that stock Epi-Pens to have their employees administer the injections, provided they have undergone training, without risk of liability.

"Making Epi-Pens more readily available is a common sense way to protect those who have severe allergies," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "With this new law, parents can be more confident sending their kids to camp or on field trips without constant worry of a severe allergic reaction that could threaten their health."

Activists working to protect children with food allergies praised Mr. Snyder's signature of the bill.

"Kids and adults with life threatening food allergies will soon be a lot safer thanks to Governor Snyder and the state legislature," Lisa Rutter, the mother of a child with food allergies and founder of the Michigan-based No Nuts Moms Group, said in a statement. "Many parents know that their children suffer from food allergies, but for the thousands of parents in Michigan who have no idea their children are at risk, this new law could make all the difference in the world."

Mr. Snyder also signed:

HB 4594, SCHOOL AID (McBroom) Expands shared time participation and reimbursement to

PA 222 kindergarten.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: March 16, 2016

HB 4790, PA 223 SCHOOL AID (McBroom) Expands counting of nonresident shared time pupils in membership to include kindergarten.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: March 16, 2016

SB 400, PA 224 HAZARDOUS WASTE (Schmidt) Modifies liquid industrial waste programs.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: March 16, 2016

SB 401, PA 225 HAZARDOUS WASTE (Stamas) Changes references to liquid industrial waste to liquid industrial by-product in hazardous materials transportation act.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: March 16, 2016

SB 402, PA 226 HAZARDOUS WASTE (Schuitmaker) Modifies description affected document of false statement concerning liquid industrial by-product.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: March 16, 2016

SB 529, PA 227 RELATIVE GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE ACT (Emmons) Modifies relative guardianship assistance act to include a successor guardian provision.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: December 17, 2015

SB 530, PA 228 FOSTER CARE (Emmons) Modifies definition of relative and adds definition of sibling.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: December 17, 2015

SB 151, PA 229 DNA EVIDENCE (Bieda) Removes filing deadline for petition seeking review of DNA evidence.

Signed: December 17, 2015; Effective: December 17, 2015

Garcia Bills Aim To Give Schools Autonomy In Calendar Setting

Rep. Daniela Garcia on Thursday introduced two bills that would establish criteria for school calendar waivers to be automatically granted and prohibiting calendar items as subjects of collective bargaining.

The bills, HB 5193 and HB 5194, were sent to the House Education Committee.

"I've had the opportunity to speak with school superintendents and administrators throughout Michigan who have asked for increased flexibility at the local level," Ms. Garcia (R-Holland) said in a

statement. "As the number of days of pupil instruction increases to 180 in the 2016-2017 school year, we must remove barriers for our schools to meet this new threshold."

The first bill would establish criteria for school calendar waivers to be automatically granted and require school districts to hold a public hearing prior to applying for a start date waiver.

"Parents, families and the entire community should be engaged in this conversation," Ms. Garcia said. "The ultimate goal is to ensure that our students are getting a quality education so that they are prepared to be successful and productive members of society."

The second bill includes calendar and scheduling items as prohibited subjects of bargaining and would provide local school districts autonomy in determining the calendar and schedule.

"I have faith in school boards and their superintendents to adopt a calendar and schedule that is in the best interests of students and parents, respects the time and talents of staff and adheres to state law," she said. "This discussion should be centered around our children's education and not be used as a bargaining chip by adults."

Runestad Wants President To Treat ISIS Attacks As Genocide

State Rep. Jim Runestad is asking President Barack Obama to declare ISIS terrorism as an act of genocide against Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East.

Mr. Runestad (R-White Lake) said Thursday the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham's violent terrorist attacks against religious minorities must be considered genocide, which would enable governments and the United Nations to intervene more directly with more resources.

"A resolution was introduced in Congress urging the president to declare the atrocities to be a genocide," he said in a statement. "Southfield resident Bishop Francis Kalabat, head of the Chaldean Catholic Diocese of the United States, testified before a U.S. House Subcommittee on Human Rights, and is working to encourage states to introduce their own resolutions calling for a genocide to be declared. He fully supports my legislative resolution."

Mr. Runestad introduced a similar resolution in the House on Thursday.

"Christians have existed as a cultural group in the Middle East and have lived in peace with their neighbors for 2,000 years until now," he said. "Christians and other religions are being targeted and slaughtered as a cultural minority and we must declare this to be a genocide for the crisis to be stopped."

Capital Notebook: Smith May Not Go To Trial

Embattled Sen. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) was in court Thursday for a pre-trial hearing on his case involving his alleged assault of his ex-wife and shooting at her Mercedes-Benz in May, and while there was no plea agreement announced, Mr. Smith's attorney told Wayne County Circuit Judge Lawrence Talon it seemed both sides could "work something out."

The Detroit Free Press reported that Mr. Dillard plans to present a proposal to prosecutors before Christmas Day to see if a resolution can be reached before Mr. Smith's trial begins on March 7, 2016 (it was originally scheduled for December 7).

Mr. Talon, the Free Press said, ordered the parties to return to his courtroom on January 15 at 8:30 a.m. so he can be told if an offer to resolve the case had been made and whether Mr. Smith would accept or reject it.

Mr. Smith faces charges of felonious assault, malicious destruction of personal property of $20,000 or more, possessing a firearm during the commission of a felony and a misdemeanor for domestic violence.

RECYCLING CARTS: The Department of Environmental Quality announced Thursday it is accepting applications for grants for local communities to purchase recycling carts.

Department officials said the carts, as opposed to the bins many communities use, increase recycling rates and so would contribute to Governor Rick Snyder's goal of doubling recycling rates.

The DEQ is offering up to $450,000 toward cart purchases. Applications for the grants are posted on the DEQ website and are due March 31.

LATE ELK SEASON: Despite conditions, the late elk season was successful for the vast majority of hunters, the Department of Natural Resources announced Thursday.

The season, which ended Sunday, did not have the usual snow that allows hunters to track and see the elk, but still 46 of the 50 hunters were successful, the department said.

Appointments By The Governor

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PAIN AND SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT: John Mulder of Spring Lake succeeds Steven Roskos, who resigned, to represent the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. The appointment is for the remainder of a term expiring July 1, 2017, and is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

ASPARAGUS MARKETING ADVISORY BOARD: Dwight Fuehring of Mears and Kyle Weber of Watervliet are reappointed for terms expiring November 13, 2018. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS: Kelly Mitchell of Grand Rapids is reappointed for a term expiring September 30, 2019. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

CITY OF PONTIAC RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD: Doug Bernstein of Royal Oak succeeds Lou Schimmel, who resigned, to represent members with relevant professional experience for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

MICHIGAN BOARD OF OPTOMETRY: Sarah Kile of Gladwin succeeds Robert Perino to represent the general public for a term expiring June 30, 2019. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN CARROT COMMISSION: Nathan Karnemaat of Fremont is reappointed for a term expiring October 31, 2018. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION: Travis Weber of Grand Rapids succeeds Sally Durfee to represent the governor. The appointment is for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor and is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 9:25 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

Tuesday, December 29, 2015, 02:53 PM

Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant has resigned in response to the water crisis that erupted three months ago in Flint.

"MDEQ Director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation, and I've determined that it's appropriate to accept it. I'm also making other personnel changes at MDEQ to address problems cited by the task force," Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement.

"But changes in leadership and staff are not enough. I understand there can be disagreements within the scientific community. That is why I have directed both the departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services to invite every external scientist who has worked on this issue to be our partners in helping us improve Flint water," Mr. Snyder said. "Let's share research on water and blood lead level testing so we can arrive at accurate and mutually supported conclusions. Together, we should work to affirm that we're using the very best testing protocols to ensure Flint residents have safe drinking water and that we're taking steps to protect their health over the short and long term."

The DEQ has come under major criticism for how it handled testing for lead in Flint drinking water after the city switched to the Flint River as its water source. The water was not properly treated for corrosion, causing lead to leach from service lines into the drinking water.

"I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this has happened. And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure," Mr. Snyder said. "I know many Flint citizens are angry and want more than an apology. That's why I'm taking the actions today to ensure a culture of openness and trust. We've already allocated $10 million to test the water, distribute water filters, and help in other ways.

Last week, I called Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and we're going to meet soon to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance."

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in today's Michigan Report.

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From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:11 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips
Attachments: g 1230.doc

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:57 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For January 4, 2016

News

Proposed rule would boost ban on pay-or-jail sentences (Associated Press, 1/4/2016)

States diverge on gun, voting laws; minimum wage rises (Associated Press, 1/4/2016)

Auto insurance, energy top Michigan House Speaker Kevin Cotter's agenda (Crain's Detroit Business, 1/4/2016)

Sign or veto? Five years in, Snyder faces another test (Detroit Free Press, 1/4/2016)

Snyder names DNR chief Keith Creagh to head DEQ (Detroit Free Press, 1/4/2016)

Year ends with nearly 270 bills signed into law (Detroit Free Press, 1/4/2016)

Could 2016 be the year of marijuana in Michigan politics? (Michigan Radio, 1/4/2016)

Look up the number of concealed pistol licenses in your Michigan county (MLive, 1/4/2016)

Michigan Minimum wage to increase starting Friday, plus more laws to take effect (MLive, 1/4/2016)

Michigan Minimum wage to increase starting Friday, plus more laws to take effect (MLive, 1/4/2016)

A year of apologies, tax fights and presidential barbs (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

Debt payments set to balloon for Detroit Public Schools (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

DNR fights invasive species, big and small (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

House speaker rejects city school reforms as priority (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

Some Michigan inmates use tablet computers (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

Editorials

Milliken: Seek alternatives to Straits pipeline quickly (Detroit Free Press, 1/4/2016)

WATCH: Survivors of sex-trafficking share heartbreak (Detroit Free Press, 1/4/2016)

Dillon: Whistleblowers bring truth to MI Legislature (Lansing State Journal, 1/4/2016)

Olinyk: Path forward for MI energy policy is clear (Lansing State Journal, 1/4/2016)

Opinion: School privatization survey: Michigan rates increase again (Midland Daily News, 1/4/2016)

Susan J. Demas: The Flint water crisis will cause pain for decades to come (MLive, 1/4/2016)

Lawmakers end oversight of cable TV companies (Port Huron Times Herald, 1/4/2016)

Editorial: Snyder should veto campaign finance bill (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

Jacques: LGBT proposal likely to flop (The Detroit News, 1/4/2016)

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Volume #54, Report #254 -- Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Newsmaker 2015: DeBoer, Rowse, Nessel Topple Marriage Limitation

April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse harbored some hesitation prior to deciding in 2012 to broaden their mostly unknown federal lawsuit against Michigan's prohibition on joint adoption by same-sex couples to challenge the state's prohibition on same-sex marriage.

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman had essentially forced their hand, suggesting they amend their lawsuit to get to the crux of the issue in their bid to jointly adopt their five children. They had 10 days to decide and seriously discussed whether to do it.

"It was a little scary," Ms. DeBoer said in an interview. "It was a little intimidating just because we never expected the focus to be on our relationship or on marriage. So we did have some hesitation in the beginning. But in the long run, the risks we take - angry people - the rewards far outweigh the risks, especially when it comes to protecting the kids and the kids having rights and protections if something were to happen to one of us."

Of course, Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse, a lesbian couple from Hazel Park, did decide to amend their lawsuit. Nearly three years later, their battle ended in victory at the U.S. Supreme Court, which, in a historic 5-4 ruling in the *DeBoer v. Snyder* case, consolidated with others from Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky, held that the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from barring same-sex marriage.

It was this victory, along with the many battles leading up to it, as well as the court case setting up a series of future fights involving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, that led to Gongwer News Service naming Ms. DeBoer, Ms. Rowse and their main attorney, Dana Nessel, as Newsmaker 2015, the top newsmakers in Michigan government and politics.

Not only did the *DeBoer* case topple Michigan's voter-approved 2004 limitation on marriage to one man and one woman, its 1996 statutory prohibition on same sex marriage and end the ban on joint same-sex adoption in the Michigan Adoption Code, it also intensified a raging dispute about whether to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. And it turned up the intensity on discussions about enacting a Religious Freedom Restoration Act in Michigan that would provide some protection to those accused of discriminating against someone in the LGBT community provided the action stemmed from a sincerely held religious belief.

Previous Newsmakers of the year

2014: Rick Snyder

2013: Mike Shirkey

2012: Diane Hathaway, Thaddeus McCotter, Roy Schmidt

2011: Brian Calley

2010 Rick Snyder

2009: Andy Dillon

That two apolitical nurses and an, at the time, solo practitioner attorney, would be the ones to take down the ban on same-sex marriage fits in a year when outsiders shaped most of the significant events involving state government and politics.

Among those incidents: Two fired former House staffers, Keith Allard and Ben Graham, blew the whistle on former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, leading to expulsion proceedings and just the fourth-ever expulsion of a legislator in Ms. Gamrat, with Mr. Courser resigning just before a vote to expel him. A young Flint physician, Doctor Mona Hanna-Attisha, and a Virginia Tech researcher, Marc Edwards, discovered what state scientists failed to realize, that Flint's drinking water had dangerously escalating levels of lead. And a loosely organized opposition produced the fourth most lopsided defeat in Michigan history of a proposed constitutional

amendment, the ill-fated Proposal 15-1 to increase funding for roads, despite almost every major organization supporting it.

A NEAR ACCIDENT STARTS THE CASE: Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse were returning from a vacation at an indoor water park in Ohio with some friends and their three adopted children. While driving on a two-lane road in snowy conditions, they saw a truck barreling toward them in their lane. Just as they had to decide whether to swerve off the road, the truck veered out of the way.

"That near miss is really what started us thinking about what ifs," Ms. Rowse said. "If one of us had been killed, or both of us, what would have happened to the kids? That's when we really started talking about what we could do about this."

Their initial thoughts centered on wills and guardianships. In talking with friends, they received a recommendation to speak with an attorney named Dana Nessel, a former Wayne County assistant prosecuting attorney who had opened a law practice specializing in family law and criminal defense work.

Ms. Nessel told the couple Michigan law meant a judge would not have to abide by their wishes in a will or guardianship agreement.

The timing was uncanny. Ms. Nessel had wanted to challenge the Michigan Adoption Code in federal court. Another case of hers was ending badly in state court for her client, whose same-sex relationship with another woman, the biological mother of the child they were raising, had ended. Michigan courts had held her client had no custodial rights as a non-biological, non-adoptive parent.

She and her law office suitemate, Carole Stanyar, had already been discussing the possibility of a federal court challenge. Then Ms. DeBoer called.

"I think it was just fate," Ms. Nessel recalled.

Ms. Nessel said she immediately told Ms. Stanyar that Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse were the couple.

"What better people could we find to challenge these laws?" she said.

Ms. Nessel said she told Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse a federal court challenge was the only way she could assure them the protections of a parent.

The couple decided to file suit. It was a dramatic step for two people who had steered clear of politics.

In 2004, when Michigan voters approved putting the state's ban on same-sex marriage into the Constitution, and with it a prohibition on health benefits for same-sex partners of government employees, Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse did not pay much mind to it, they said. Other states were enacting similar limitations on marriage.

"We weren't very politically oriented people," Ms. DeBoer said. "We were trying to establish our lives and trying to figure out who we were. We just accepted what came along and what was going to be. There was a little bit of talk about possibly moving out of state at some point in time, but we were establishing ourselves as nurses in Michigan. And pretty much our friends and support group were here in Michigan.

"It was hard to think of leaving, especially for me because I've lived here all my life. It was hard to think about leaving my family," she said.

At the beginning, the couple thought they would quickly win their case. Perhaps the state, which had approved them as foster parents, would even decide not to contest the case, they said they thought.

"We really didn't have any idea what we were getting ourselves into," Ms. DeBoer said. "We thought it was kind of a very simple, cut and dried case."

But the state would not concede and instead vigorously fought the case, which was filed in January 2012.

A DIFFICULT DECISION TO BROADEN THE CASE TO MARRIAGE: In February, the state would file a motion to dismiss the case. Interestingly, a big portion of the state's argument centered on Michigan law making clear that multiple unmarried persons could not adopt, which in hindsight helped push the case toward the broader question of the legality of same-sex marriage.

And the state, in the motion filed by Assistant Attorneys General Joseph Potchen and Tonya Jeter, made clear it saw no validity in the argument the Michigan Adoption Code violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, known as the Equal Protection Clause.

"It will not be enough for plaintiffs to complain that the challenged statute discriminates generally," the state said in its motion. "Simply put, all laws classify; all laws discriminate. 'Classifications' and 'discrimination' are essential to and inherent in the law. Moreover, since all laws necessarily discriminate, a court cannot be suspicious of such laws - i.e., all laws - because classification of some sort is normal, inevitable and necessary. The Equal Protection Clause cannot prohibit all discrimination, and a reasonable interpretation of it must focus only on the worst classifying statutory schemes."

But it would be the Equal Protection Clause, in the end, that would lead to the 5-4 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage.

On August 29, 2012, Mr. Friedman suggested Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse amend their lawsuit to include a challenge to the state's Michigan Marriage Amendment limiting marriage to one man and one woman. Mr. Friedman said that was the crux of the issue.

It was a difficult decision, the couple said.

In a case that would see many ups and downs, Ms. Rowse said Mr. Friedman's suggestion was the bottom.

At the beginning of the case, no one mentioned the idea of challenging Michigan's prohibition on same-sex marriage. The general thinking, Ms. DeBoer said, was it would be a difficult case, but they would win adoption rights and move on with their lives.

"Our original lawsuit was about the kids. It wasn't about our relationship with each other," she said. "It was about our children having two legal parents and protecting them, protecting their rights."

They had 10 days to decide and seriously discussed whether to go forward.

"It's a different exposure. It's more personal," Ms. DeBoer said. "People have more personal feelings about marriage than they would about the sympathetic end of these kids that needed to be adopted. It changed the focus to our relationship."

Ms. Nessel said the biggest surprise to her of the entire case was Mr. Friedman inviting the couple to broaden their lawsuit to marriage. She said she never imagined the case would morph into a marriage case.

"In retrospect, I think it was really a brilliant plan or ploy on behalf of Judge Friedman," she said.

The state had argued two people seeking to adopt should be in a legally committed relationship, and so Mr. Friedman seized on that to enable the broadening of the case, Ms. Nessel said.

Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse decided to go for it. It was the best way to protect their children, they concluded.

Ms. Nessel said several groups encouraged her and the couple to drop the case after Mr. Friedman suggested broadening it to marriage. Some activists said there should be no cases in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals with its majority of conservative judges.

The problem with that line of thinking, as would become clear nine months later, is that the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear appeals of pro-gay marriage rulings in other circuits, letting those rulings stand. That is what set the stage for a consolidated group of cases out of the 6th circuit, including *DeBoer v. Snyder*, to become the decisive moment on the issue.

"I think when these things occur, it's best to fight them and not just hope things will get better," Ms. Nessel said. "I know we're a flyover state, but should we not have the same rights as same-sex couples that reside in New York, California or Massachusetts. Are we lesser people?"

The cases ultimately known as *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which included the *DeBoer* case, all were handled by private practice attorneys in the 6th Circuit, Ms. Nessel said.

"Better to fight and lose than never to have fought at all and just concede people's rights and allow terrible things to happen," she said.

A BIG CASE FOR A SMALL PRACTICE: Ms. Nessel knew she would need help for a case of this magnitude. She and Ms. Stanyar had taken the case on a pro-bono basis. Now they knew they would have to commit to the case full-time and not get paid.

Ms. Nessel would hire another attorney to handle the rest of the firm's caseload and ensure it could continue operating. She drew upon her savings. They also would get help from Wayne State University law professor Robert Sedler and attorney Kenneth Mogill.

The case put a tremendous weight on them, but it also presented a huge opportunity, Ms. Nessel said.

"We were just a small handful of lawyers trying to do the right thing," she said. "We weren't some major organization that had a lot of financial backing."

The attorneys would receive some assistance from GLAAD, a national LGBT group, as well as Leslie Cooper from the national American Civil Liberties Union, who conducted a critical cross-examination at trial of Mark Regnerus, one of the state's witnesses who sought to defend Michigan's reliance on heterosexual parenting.

From the time the case became a marriage case through the initial appeals period, Ms. Nessel said the case became an 18 hours a day, seven days a week commitment.

The case was overwhelming at many points, Ms. Nessel said.

She had started out in the law as a Wayne County assistant prosecuting attorney, hands down the most challenging prosecutor's office in the state with the large, complex caseload. That job, Ms. Nessel said, gave her the experience of walking into the office on a given day, having a superior hand her an armed robbery file and ask her to try a case because the assistant prosecuting attorney assigned to handle it had called in sick.

That built up a tolerance to pressure, she said.

But the live-blogging of the *DeBoer* case brought a new level of intensity, Ms. Nessel said.

"It's literally being sent out all across the nation as you're saying it. That is incredible pressure," she said, recalling getting calls from around the nation about something she said in court that day. "I have a lot more gray hair now."

TWISTS AND TURNS: The case would take a long time to play out. Mr. Friedman heard motion after motion, and the betting money was on the appointee of former President Ronald Reagan, who had issued the decision striking down the University of Michigan Law School's race-conscious admissions policy, ruling for Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse and against the state.

But Mr. Friedman pulled a surprise. Instead of ruling on the case, he ordered a trial.

The move was a letdown, Ms. Rowse said.

Ms. Nessel was livid.

Eventually, they realized the trial worked to their advantage, they said.

"It's funny, as upset as I was with Judge Friedman at the time when we were made to go trial and no other marriage case in the country was there a trial dictated since Prop 8 (in California). At the time, I was like, why? Why us? Why do we have to go to trial? Nobody else has to go to trial," Ms. Nessel said. "But honestly, it was very brilliant on his part. It allowed us to make a record of matters that really needed thorough discussion and thorough cross-examination. What that did is it really laid the foundation for the Supreme Court later to dispose of all bans on same-sex marriage."

The key point of argument at trial was whether the state had a legitimate interest in furthering parents from heterosexual marriages.

Governor Rick Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette made the case that, yes, the state did.

The state presented witnesses and studies questioning the viability of same-sex parents. That did not go well. One of the state's witnesses, under cross-examination, said he believed gays were condemned to Hell unless they repented. Mr. Friedman scoffed, in his ruling, at Mr. Regnerus' work as not credible.

The trial forced the state to make its arguments subject to cross-examination, Ms. Nessel said.

"At the end of the day, at the end of the trial, those arguments did not sustain any credibility with the court, and that's really the same thing the United States Supreme Court found," she said.

On March 21, 2014, after 5 p.m. on a Friday, after intense anticipation, Mr. Friedman issued his ruling. The state's ban on same-sex marriage was illegal, he ruled. He did not stay his ruling.

Some 323 same-sex couples married during the next 24 hours in those counties where clerks opened on Saturday to accommodate those wishing to marry immediately.

But then the 6th circuit would stay the decision. And then the 6th circuit would, eight months later, issue a rare decision among the circuits to uphold a state's one man, one woman marriage law. Mr. Snyder and Mr. Schuette had won a victory.

But Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and it heard the case in April 2015.

That was frightening, Ms. Rowse said.

"It's going to be the final case and the final answer. And it could go either way," she said.

Ms. Rowse said she and Ms. DeBoer were facing, if the ruling went against them, either living with a negative ruling in Michigan or moving to another state.

"We didn't even want to think about uprooting our whole life," she said.

The waiting for the decision was agonizing, Ms. Rowse said.

"That was probably the worst few months while that was being decided," she said. "It was a lot of up and downs and emotions and not just for us but the attorneys, too, and our supporters."

Ms. Nessel said she never allowed herself to envision the possibility of defeat. Legally, the plaintiffs were not advocating novel concepts, she said. And emotionally, she said she could not keep her inner faith in the case had she considered they might lose.

Finally, on June 26, 2015, came the decision. On a 5-4 ruling, with Justice Anthony Kennedy - as expected - proving the decisive vote, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled for the plaintiffs. Same-sex couples could marry in all 50 states, the court held, citing the Fourteenth Amendment.

DEBOER, ROWSE SAY STATE MISSED OPPORTUNITY: Neither Ms. DeBoer nor Ms. Rowse voiced any ill will toward Mr. Snyder or Mr. Schuette.

"I think Governor Snyder was doing what was expected of him, what his party expected," Ms. DeBoer said. "I think Attorney General Schuette was doing his job. I believe there was maybe some personal feelings behind it, possibly. But they did their jobs. We all have a job to do."

But both saw the case as a waste. The state simply could have conceded second-parent adoption in 2012 and avoided a costly three-year battle that resulted in the state paying $1.9 million in legal cost reimbursements to Ms. Nessel, Ms. Stanyar, Mr. Sedler and Mr. Mogill.

"From purely a taxpayer perspective, I thought, 'Why would you waste money on this?'" Ms. Rowse said. "Why would you spend the money and risk losing?"

Pointing to Mr. Snyder's and Mr. Schuette's conservative supporters, Ms. Rowse said, "I think they probably politically didn't have a choice."

Ms. Nessel said, "I've long wondered if I sat down in a room, just me and Bill Schuette, and asked, 'Well, was it worth it?'"

Mr. Schuette has said there is no price on defending the Constitution.

NESSEL LAUNCHES ANTI-DISCRIMINATION PROPOSAL: There were two major pieces of fallout from a public policy standpoint after the Supreme Court ruled.

First, some conservatives began pushing for a Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which as written in the Senate (SB 4[redacted]) would prohibit governments from passing laws and ordinances requiring residents to act against strongly held religious beliefs unless the government can prove there's a compelling public interest and no less restrictive way to accomplish its objective than imposing that burden.

That swiftly faded under a veto threat from Mr. Snyder.

From the other side of the political spectrum, supporters of expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act - which bars discrimination against various classes in employment, housing and public accommodations - to include sexual orientation and gender identity called again for broadening that law. Republican legislative leaders made clear their caucuses had no interest in such a proposal.

There had always been talk of a ballot proposal, but that had fallen quiet. The groups most involved in fighting for the issue in the Legislature, Equality Michigan and the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, had largely ruled it out, preferring to keep battling for a legislative answer rather than risk a voter-led defeat.

Ms. Nessel sprung a big surprise October 30 with the announcement she would co-chair the Fair Michigan proposal to amend Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution - which-prohibits discrimination in the exercise of civil or political rights based on religion, race, color or national origin - to include sexual orientation, gender and gender identity.

Ms. Nessel said the *DeBoer* case emboldened her in pursuing justice and improving the state, and that is why she feels so strongly about the ballot proposal even as it has met resistance from Equality Michigan and the ACLU.

"When you see injustice, it is a good idea to stand up and be the one to say this is wrong and should not be tolerated any longer," she said. "I feel very strongly about pursuing it because I feel so strongly it's the right thing."

Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse said they support Ms. Nessel, but have no plans to get involved in the campaign.

"We stand behind Dana and what Dana's doing, but again, this one isn't our fight," Ms. DeBoer said. "We have a couple of years to make up to our children. We're just returning to be parents now. When the time is right, and if they need us to step up, we'll definitely step up to the best of our ability. But our fight took a lot out of us and a lot out of our children."

LIFE TODAY: Ms. Nessel is back to her regular caseload at her law practice.

After the Supreme Court ruling, she married her now wife, who was a volunteer on the case and eventually rose to project manager

"Not only are my clients married and their children have two parents, but I'm married and my children have two parents, too," she said. "It's been wonderful. The journey has been difficult but rewarding in so many different ways for me."

Ms. DeBoer and Ms. Rowse officially married in August.

Ms. Rowse said the marriage did not "really change their relationship at all." They had, years earlier, had a commitment ceremony

"We had always felt in our hearts that we were married," she said. "Getting the official piece of paper was the next step in this whole process, but getting the final adoption decrees was the ultimate goal and what we finally achieved in November."

Another change has been getting recognized in public. Most people are friendly, Ms. DeBoer said. Those who disagree seem to leave them alone. Ms. DeBoer said there have been two small incidents, one involving a person who objected to the race of their children, the other objecting to their marrying, the latter foe refusing to leave her alone at a grocery to the point where police were called, she said.

"It's been actually really, really positive," she said. "We've had so many people congratulate us or tell us to keep fighting."

Ms. Rowse said for a while, the public attention came in waves. There were many interview requests, but now life has slowed down.

"Overall, it's really mellowed out, and we're back to PTA and taking the kids to school and things like that and just being an everyday, ordinary family," she said.

Creagh To Be Interim Head At DEQ

Effective Monday, Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh will have led all three of the state's resource-based departments as he takes over as interim director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Governor Rick Snyder announced Mr. Creagh's appointment, and named DNR Deputy Director Bill Moritz as interim director in that department, on Wednesday as the administration works to fill the gap left by the resignation Tuesday of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant.

Snyder spokesperson Dave Murray said it was not yet clear what efforts would be undertaken to name a permanent director for the DEQ.

"This has all happened very quickly," Mr. Murray said, adding of Mr. Creagh's appointment, "That allows time for those decisions to be made."

Mr. Snyder praised Mr. Creagh for his work to date.

"Keith has an unparalleled passion for Michigan's environment, working closely with the DEQ during his years with both the DNR and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development," he said in a statement. "I am confident his knowledge and experience will help ensure a seamless transition while we work to identify a long-term director for the DEQ."

Mr. Creagh was one of Mr. Snyder's first appointees when he took over the then-Department of Agriculture in January 2011. The governor pulled Mr. Creagh out of a brief retirement, during which he was director of industry affairs for Lansing-based Neogen Corporation, back to the department where he had been a long-time deputy.

He took the reins of the DNR in July 2012 after then-Director Rodney Stokes was pulled into the Executive Office as an advisor.

Mr. Moritz was named natural resources deputy in the DNR after serving as chief of the Wildlife Division. In addition to his work for the DNR, he has served as executive director for Safari Club international and the Safari Club International Foundation. He holds a doctorate in zoology from Southern Illinois University, a master's degree in fish and wildlife management from Montana State University and a bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife biology from Iowa State University.

Arwood: TED Cohesiveness Aiding In Economic Growth

The creation of the Department of Talent and Economic Development in 2015 has proven successful both in communities and for businesses looking to expand or locate in the state, Michigan Economic Development Corporation CEO Steve Arwood said in a recent interview, and he expects an expansion of those already successful initiatives in 2016.

TED, as it has affectionately been called, is a combination of efforts by the MEDC, the newly created Talent Investment Agency and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

"We're now kind of on the same harness. So three critical parts of economic development that are needed, no matter how you go about this business, are now sister-brother agencies under one rubric," Mr. Arwood said in an interview with Gongwer News Service. "It really gives us an opportunity to leverage our expertise, leverage our resources."

Among the already successful initiatives is the Rising Tide program, Mr. Arwood said, the fruition of a goal Governor Rick Snyder noted in his last State of the State address. The program was officially named in late September and began with 10 pilot communities.

"Rising Tide is where we ... go in some of these communities that are looking for sustainable economic development plans where they might not have the capacity to really pull that together themselves (and) convene that discussion," Mr. Arwood said. "Not come in and say, 'Hey, we're from the state, here's what you need to do,' but come in and say, 'Hey, we're a collection of folks with some expertise in this area, and how can we help you through that?'"

Mr. Arwood said the program has become "quite popular" and that it will likely expand in 2016.

"There's other communities that have expressed interest to become part of that program, and I think continuing to get us out there in a helping way is really important," he said.

And the program is just one example of what TED has been able to accomplish where the separate entities might be more burdensome previously.

"Part of the importance of TED is now you get TED - it's not three different phone calls or trying to chase down the area," Mr. Arwood said. "If you come in through the economic development portal, the MSHDA portal or the TIA portal, you're coming in to a bigger unit that has more assets to respond with."

Another example of efficiency for both the state and businesses is in the Skilled Trades Training Fund, TIA Director Stephanie Comai said in the same interview.

"Those applications that come to employers that come to the state, they've been vetted both by the MEDC staff as well as the local talent staff at Michigan Works!" she said. "So we're making sure that those businesses have developed a business case for why they need training dollars."

There were about 8,700 residents who received training in fiscal year 2015 through the Skilled Trades Training Fund, Ms. Comai said, and TIA is on track to train about 14,000 people with the appropriated funds for 2016.

"That's a really important tool for employers who are growing their businesses who have a talent gap," she said. "We also really want to make sure people understand what opportunities are available to them in the workforce, and that skilled trades is a great choice for people looking for a career. Selling that story and making sure we get the word out is something we're going to be really pursuing in '16."

The third piece of the TED puzzle, MSHDA, has seen positive progress in 2015 and expects similar results in 2016, Executive Director Kevin Elsenheimer said in the interview.

MSHDA has re-focused its efforts towards things the Legislature has asked it to focus on, Mr. Elsenheimer said, including low-income housing and providing "decent, affordable housing for people in Michigan."

"We're focused on making sure we have great home ownership products available for new home buyers and making sure we've got excellent quality multi-family products available for people all around the state, particularly in places where people actually have jobs," he said. "We have found there's growing demand for low-income properties in some of our larger cities which have seen job growth, and we want to make sure we not only provide some development there but also provide development in some of our rural parts of the state."

He said MSHDA saw a roughly 30 percent increase in the number of mortgages for first-time home buyers in 2015, "and we think we're going to see similar numbers next year, maybe in the 25 percent region is what we're shooting for."

MSHDA is especially pleased with the interest in multi-family developments throughout the state, Mr. Elsenheimer said.

"Those are all homes that in many cases are being constructed, which provides additional job growth all throughout the state and obviously provides a decent home for a family that's going to be in Michigan for a long period of time," he said. "We have a lot of developers interested in playing in our markets, so we expect we're going to see large increases in the amount of development that we actually see around the state next year as well."

WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE: One area where Mr. Arwood hopes to continue building relationships is not just with businesses, but the Legislature. In the wake of revelations that the state's financial commitments on the now-defunct Michigan Economic Growth Authority credits could be as much as $9.38 billion, the Legislature came down hard on the MEDC.

Mr. Arwood and his staff have been able to negotiate some certainty into three of those commitments with the Ford Motor Company, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler, but said the rest will be reevaluated in the New Year.

"It's hard to say," he said of renegotiating more credits in 2016. "We'll be looking at that over the course of the next couple weeks into January. We want to have some conversations with the Treasury about that, make sure before we get full into the budget discussion that we know where we're at."

The MEDC also had to make some mid-year cuts to staff after the Legislature completed work on the current fiscal year budget, forcing the MEDC to do more with less.

"The one thing that is unfinished business with me is continuing to translate the importance of a consistent and thoughtful economic development program, including the budgetary support for that. Last year (2015) was an interesting year," Mr. Arwood said.

"I think we made some major strides though in continuing to translate the work we do. I think we had gotten a little aloof on that for a while, but that's something that's top-line for me is to make sure we're able to compete with other states and parts of the globe, and not to get complacent," he said.

Still, Mr. Arwood is optimistic about the future of TED and what it can do for the state.

"I think it's going to really work well on into the future," he said. "We've got it all in place, everything is set to go, and we're looking for a great 2016. I think that's a very significant accomplishment that we've pulled this together; it's not easy creating a new department."

Trails, Invasives See Ongoing Focus For DNR

Expanding and connecting trails has been a hallmark of the natural resources policy under Governor Rick Snyder, but that emphasis is likely to continue under future administrations, Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh said in a recent interview.

Developing and expanding trails is a way to bring natural resources into communities, and vice versa, Mr. Creagh said.

And his assertion that Asian carp making their way into the Great Lakes would come "not on my watch" may come to pass as he transitions, at least temporarily, to head the Department of Environmental Quality (see related story).

Mr. Creagh said the department will continue putting a substantial part of its resources into trail system development.

"We'll continue to pay attention on that through our various funding models and prioritize that, not to the exclusion of other great projects," he said.

And he expected future leaders would continue the effort.

"Whether it's the governor or a local mayor, everyone's talking about trails and connectivity of communities and quality of life," he said. "I think future governors and legislators will support trail systems because it something the citizens of this state will expect."

In addition to expanding the actual trails, particularly to complete development of the Iron Belle Trail that runs across the state, Mr. Creagh said the department is also working to expand the amenities tied to the trails.

A pilot in Marquette is working on the features of "digital trails."

"The next generation wants to be connected," he said.

The project provides, through a mobile site, details about the trail including its route, the difficulty of the path, and features to be found along it.

While the department is working to develop paths for people, it is trying to block paths for invasive species.

The biggest potential invasive continues to be Asian carp, and Mr. Creagh said the giant fish are costing the state even before they potentially arrive on its shores. In addition to collecting and testing environmental DNA samples to determine where the fish might have spread, the DNR has also participated in various exercises to practice findings of a live fish in the lakes or their tributaries.

The focus of the effort has been on the waterways around Chicago that now connect Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River, but he said there are also concerns of grass carp moving into Lake Erie from other nearby basins.

On the Chicago risk, where the connection is man-made, he praised the efforts to speed up federal studies of alternatives for preventing the fish from entering the Great Lakes, but said some interim steps are needed until that study is completed.

The goal overall, though, is to block any invasives.

"What we're attempting to do is not chase the invasive species of the day necessarily, but make sure we have the rigor to look at the pathways and look at the risk analysis along those pathways," he said.

He said Michigan's diverse climate would continue to make it a target for invasive species.

"That whole diversity of agriculture and all the things we get to grow, we get to do that because of microclimates," he said. "Those same things are very welcoming to invasive species."

One new invader that will be around for some time to come is chronic wasting disease.

Mr. Creagh said it would be at least three years before officials knew if the steps the department had taken controlled the neurological disease that affects deer, elk and other cervids.

"It's going to take a few years of this to figure out the data," he said. "And it will take years of reducing deer numbers so we don't transport that disease out of that area."

Mr. Creagh praised both community leaders in Meridian Township and Ingham County as well as hunters in the region for helping with the disease control efforts.

"The hunters actually helped ... by hunting in the area as opposed to avoiding the area, having their deer tested, making sure we have good data," he said. "There's a number of examples across the country where you didn't have that collaboration between the locals, the state and the hunting community."

But keeping hunter numbers up will be a continuing struggle for the department, and the nation, Mr. Creagh said.

Nationally, hunter numbers are dropping about 1 percent annually, which he said is leading some to worry about a substantial loss over time.

But he attributed at least some of Michigan's hunter loss during that time to loss of population overall.

To reverse the loss, the department has been working more in urban areas to expose residents, particularly youth, to outdoors activities.

"We're looking at hunter recruitment and retention and reactivation," he said. "That all has to do with mentoring, getting kids out."

Mr. Creagh said the state has the elements needed to bring hunter numbers back up.

"I will maintain that if we have public access, which we have, and if we have a high quality deer herd, which we have, and if we have the right mentoring and access programs in place, we'll be just fine," he said.

He noted Michigan is third nationally in numbers of hunters.

The recent focus on gun rights and gun control has, to an extent, helped the department, he said. Firearms and ammunition carry a tax that provides Pittman Robertson Act federal grants for wildlife work, and he said those grants have been increasing.

The focus for the department, though, is firearm safety, he said.

"Whether you're for or against, what you should know is gun safety, because there is an opportunity for most individuals in the state to run across a gun at some time in their lives," he said, relaying a message used by a firearm safety instructor. "It's as much about gun safety as ownership."

Assuming Mr. Creagh does not return to his post at the DNR, one thing he will leave for his successor is final approval of a land strategy.

The plan was required in legislation that capped the department's land holdings. While the department completed the plan, the Legislature has yet to approve it, which the law requires for the cap to be removed.

The Legislature has, though, agreed to bring up conservation officer numbers for the state.

Shortly after Mr. Creagh spoke to Gongwer News Service, the department announced another CO training course to begin Sunday.

With the second class graduated earlier in the year, the department has added 60 officers and now has at least one posted in every county.

"Now, with full coverage around the state, we actually have succession planning in place," he said.

Appeals Court Affirms Sexual Abuse Conviction, Remands For Sentencing Changes

The Court of Appeals on Wednesday affirmed multiple convictions involving a father sexually abusing his young daughter but remanded the sentencing back to the circuit court.

In *People v. Sardy* (COA Docket No. 319227), Judge William Murphy, Judge Michael Gadola and Judge Cynthia Stephens affirmed the defendant's convictions of child sexually abusive activity, using a computer to commit a crime and two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct, but remanded the sentencing back to the lower court.

The panel, in one opinion written by Mr. Murphy and in a concurring opinion from Ms. Stephens, ruled against the defendant's arguments that the trial court violated his constitutional right to confront the witnesses against him when it permitted the victim's preliminary examination testimony to be admitted as substantive evidence at trial and that the offense of CSAA is unconstitutionally vague, among other arguments.

However, it did rule the case to be remanded back to the Oakland Circuit Court for sentencing. The panel said the trial court added 20 points to the defendant's offense variable score without proper reasoning.

The victim, Mr. Sardy's daughter, made claims to her mother, who lives in a separate home and was not married to the defendant, about inappropriate sexual behavior. The mother called the police and they searched Mr. Sardy's home where they found videos taken on his iPhone of his daughter "grinding" the couch. They also found nude photographs of the daughter in the bathtub.

At the trial, the girl claimed she did not remember anything when testifying and the court used her preliminary interview as evidence. The court ruled the girl was "unavailable." Mr. Sardy challenged this decision, saying the preliminary interview was unsworn and that the defendant's counsel was unable to cross-examine the witness.

The Court of Appeals ruled the defendant did cross examine the girl thoroughly during the preliminary interview and that the girl was indeed unavailable as she had "a lack of memory of the subject matter of the declarant's statement."

The court ruled that, although the defendant objected at the trial to the victim not being under oath during the preliminary interview, the defendant did not do so during the actual interview.

"Only an objection at the preliminary examination would have been meaningful," Mr. Murphy wrote.

Ms. Stephens said it was forfeiture, but both agreed even if a structural error were found, "a new trial is only warranted if the plain error resulted in the conviction of an actually innocent defendant or seriously affected the fairness, integrity, or public reputation of the proceedings."

The court ruled, given other evidence, the error did not result in an actually innocent person being convicted.

Mr. Sardy also argued the videos of the girl on the couch lacked consistent evidence that she was masturbating. The court denied the argument.

"We conclude that a rational juror could find that the prosecution proved beyond a reasonable doubt that defendant knowingly videotaped the child while she was engaged in a 'listed sexual act,'" the panel said, referring to masturbation.

SUPREME COURT: The Supreme Court on Wednesday denied to hear *People of the State of Michigan v. Robertson* (SC Docket No. 150132), saying the court is not persuaded the question presented should be reviewed. The court heard oral arguments on whether to hear the full case December 9.

Appeals Court Upholds Denial Of Attorneys' Fees In FOIA Case

Because an attorney filing a Freedom of Information Act request for a client did not list the client's name in the request, he will not be issued attorneys' fees after winning a case against Lake Templene Improvement Board for failing to respond to a FOIA request in a timely manner, the Court of Appeals affirmed this week.

In the unpublished case, *Rolfe, PLLC and Miller v. Lake Templene Improvement Board* (COA Docket No. 327513), Judge Donald Owens, Judge William Murphy and Judge Joel Hoekstra affirmed the St. Joseph Circuit Court's decision that attorneys' fees not be granted to the plaintiffs after winning their suit against the board.

Glenn Miller retained Craig Rolfe sometime in 2014 to investigate misappropriations by the Improvement Board. Mr. Rolfe sent out various FOIA requests without including Mr. Miller's name.

Eventually, during a pretrial hearing, Mr. Rolfe moved to add Mr. Miller's name to the FOIA requests. The court later found the Improvement Court violated FOIA but found Mr. Rolfe was the prevailing party, not Mr. Miller, and denied granting attorneys' fees.

The court ruled against attorneys' fees because Rolfe was an attorney acting on his own behalf.

Mr. Miller insists he is the prevailing party and Mr. Rolfe was acting on his behalf.

The Court of Appeals panel agreed with the lower court and said Mr. Miller did not make any of the FOIA requests.

"Because Miller failed to assert his right to public information by submitting a FOIA request, he could not file a civil action and he could not have prevailed," the court wrote.

Campaign Notes

JOHNSON ENDORSEMENT: U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D-Bloomfield Township) is backing former Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson in his run for the party's nomination in the 1st U.S. House District.

Mr. Peters sent a fundraising message on Mr. Johnson's behalf this week.

Mr. Johnson is facing former Kalkaska County Sheriff Jerry Cannon for the nomination. The Republican Party field is still in flux in the district.

Capital Notebook

FIREWORKS APPLICATIONS: The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Bureau of Fire Services has opened the 2016 consumer fireworks application period and low impact registration process, it announced Wednesday.

All consumer fireworks applications and required plans must be submitted by midnight, April 1, 2016. Low impact registrations can be submitted at any time but must be completed at least 10 days prior to sales, it said.

Applicants will continue to have the ability to report monthly sales and submit their safety fees online, but applications will be denied for any applicants who have unpaid safety fees or are missing reports (all zero sales must be reported for the 2015 certificate fireworks season).

When submitting documents for 2016 applications, applicants must submit all of the required documents at the time of application or it will be denied, and each document must include the 2016 Certificate number issued during the application process.

LOTTERY PRIZES: The Michigan Lottery issued a record $1.7 billion prizes in 2015, the bureau announced Wednesday.

Among the prizes, 34 were for more than $1 million, the Lottery said. The largest prize, $310.5 million, was for a Powerball drawing and went to Julie Leech of Three Rivers in September.

Appointments By The Governor

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION: Lisa Gray of Northville succeeds Mamatha Chamarthi, Kaushik Nag of Grand Rapids succeeds Hannah Feikema and Jamie Hsu of Troy and Toshiki Masaki of Canton are reappointed.

The appointments are for terms expiring November 30, 2019, and are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL: Kelsey Kleimola of Ypsilanti fills a vacancy to represent organizations that provide services for individuals with disabilities and James Whalen of Port Huron fills a vacancy to represent directors of centers for independent living for terms expiring December 31, 2018. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION: Tom McMillin of Rochester Hills succeeds Cletus Smith, who resigned, to represent the speaker of the House for a term expiring April 1, 2016. The appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE RETIREMENT BOARD: Bernard Kent of Franklin and Mitchell Stevens of Gaylord have been reappointed for terms expiring December 31, 2018. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY: Whitney Terry of Lansing succeeds Mark Epolito to represent the general public and Brian Gilbert of Grand Rapids and Ajay Middha of Midland are reappointed. All are for terms expiring December 31, 2019, and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC: Robert Huta of Gaylord, Donald Reno of Shelby Township and Ronald Wilcox of Wyoming have been reappointed for terms expiring December 31, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY: Sally Pittsenbarger of Ferndale succeeds Helena DeYoung to represent represents cosmetologists and Kathleen Skipper-Stong of Ida has been reappointed. Both are for terms expiring December 31, 2019, and the appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 9:27 AM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips
Attachments: g 0104.doc

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 8:43 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For January 5, 2016

News

Legal fees adding up for state in Courser, Gamrat case (Detroit Free Press, 1/5/2016)

Marathon refinery seeks OK to hike air pollutants (Detroit Free Press, 1/5/2016)

State employees who intentionally distort data could face jail time under a proposed law (Michigan Radio, 1/5/2016)

Cotter sets priorities for Michigan House in 2016 (Midland Daily News, 1/5/2016)

Bill inspired by Flint water crisis would make data manipulation by Michigan officials a felony (MLive, 1/5/2016)

Marijuana, LGBT protections and prevailing wage? 16 Michigan political issues to watch in 2016 (MLive, 1/5/2016)

Michigan taxpayers have spent more than $77,000 on the Courser-Gamrat scandal so far (MLive, 1/5/2016)

Harassment suit against lawmaker settled for under $12K (The Detroit News, 1/5/2016)

Michigan's Capitol buzzed by drone (The Detroit News, 1/5/2016)

Snyder chief of staff set to rejoin lobbying corps (The Detroit News, 1/5/2016)

Snyder weighs declaring water emergency in Flint (The Detroit News, 1/5/2016)

Editorials

State apology, resignation over Flint water first step (Detroit Free Press, 1/5/2016)

Steady decline in wetlands endangers Great Lakes (Michigan Radio, 1/5/2016)

Editor's Note: Daisy Elliott's legacy will endure (The Detroit News, 1/5/2016)

Owens: Abuse at root of election bill (The Detroit News, 1/5/2016)

Blogs

House Leaders Claim Optimism On Bipartisanship, But Can It Happen? (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 1/4/2016)

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Volume #55, Report #1 -- Monday, January 4, 2016

Talberg Named To Lead PSC

Governor Rick Snyder on Monday appointed Sally Talberg to chair the Public Service Commission as current chair John Quackenbush prepares to head back to the private sector.

Mr. Quackenbush will continue in a commissioner position until March 31, 2016, to help facilitate a smooth transition.

"Sally's experience as an energy consultant will be invaluable as she takes on this new role," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "John has been an exceptional chair and regulator for the state. We are fortunate to have the notice period he has provided to effect a quality transition. I wish him the best of luck with his future plans."

Prior to joining the PSC in 2013, Ms. Talberg, of Williamston, was a senior consultant at Public Sector Consultants in Lansing, serving as the firm's energy and regulatory expert. While there, she helped establish Michigan Saves, an energy waste reduction financing program.

She was also recently appointed president of the organization of MISO States, a multi-state organization working on electric transmission issues, and a key position as Michigan's Legislature works to develop new energy policy standards and regulations in 2016.

The Federal Communications Commission has also appointed Ms. Talberg to several federal-state boards, a statement from the governor's office indicated.

Mr. Quackenbush worked in management at UBS Global Asset Management and Sprint Corp. prior to being appointed by Mr. Snyder to chair the PSC in September 2011, though it was not immediately clear if he intended to return to either of those companies upon his departure from the PSC.

Ms. Talberg initially replaced Orjiakor Isiogu, who retired after serving as the chair of the commission since September 2007. When she first accepted the position, she told Gongwer News Service her focus would be striking a balance between affordable service and environmental protection (See Gongwer Michigan Report, July 5, 2013).

Norm Saari, former chief of staff to House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant), is the newest member to the three-person commission, having been appointed to the commission in July 2015 to replace Greg White, who retired.

Flint, Genesee County Formally Request Emergency Assistance On Water

Declaring that the water crisis goes beyond the ability of local resources to resolve, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners agreed Monday with the Flint mayor's call to declare a state of emergency in the city.

The Flint Journal reported the request will seek more than $50 million to replace lead service lines and other yet to be determined needs.

Several residences and other facilities in Flint use water service lines made of lead. When the source of the city's water was switched from the Detroit system to the Flint River without corrosion control treatment, lead-based service lines began leaching lead into the water, resulting in lead levels beyond those when the federal government requires remediation. Blood samples showed elevated lead levels in many children.

The request will go through the Department of State Police's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, which will meet with the Genesee County emergency management coordinator.

Snyder press secretary Dave Murray said the governor will seriously consider a state declaration of emergency or disaster, but given the time involved following the procedures to make that decision, the state is treating the situation as an emergency.

"Prior to a formal declaration, we are recognizing this as an emergency and are working with city and county leaders to coordinate efforts, streamline communication and tap all available resources at the state's control," he said. "A formal declaration could take a fair amount of time as people assess their needs and the damages."

Mr. Murray said the State Police have been closely engaged since the beginning of the crisis.

"Due to the uniqueness of this situation, we have to look at all possible options to help Flint residents," Mr. Murray said.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) called for Mr. Snyder to act quickly on the request.

"This is an important step in the process and the governor should make a swift decision," he said in a statement. "I'll continue pushing hard to make sure we receive additional resources that address immediate and long-term needs, and that they are used efficiently and effectively."

Julie Calley Moves Toward House Run

Republican Julie Calley has created a campaign committee to run in the 87th House District after rumors had been swirling around for months that she might seek the seat.

Ms. Calley, chair of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and wife of Lt. Governor Brian Calley, did not return a request for comment Monday, or multiple requests previously, but several sources have said she will run to replace Rep. Mike Callton (R-Nashville), who is term limited and cannot seek re-election in 2016.

Ms. Calley has not formally filed to run, but setting up her campaign committee will allow her to start raising and spending money.

House Spent $77K On Outside Firm During Courser, Gamrat Scandal

The House Business Office paid $77,192 to the Dickinson Wright law firm during the investigation and expulsion proceedings of former Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser, Progress Michigan said Monday after requesting the information.

The group criticized House Republican leadership for spending more than a representative's annual salary on outside counsel rather than using the Department of Attorney General or House counsel.

The current figure disclosed by Progress Michigan does not include any billings for the lawsuit former aides for Mr. Courser and Ms. Gamrat have brought against the House.

"It is troubling and incredibly ironic that two lawmakers were expelled from the House for wasting taxpayer resources, and yet, Speaker Cotter has already spent more than a lawmaker's salary on an outside firm as a result of his bungled investigation," Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan, said in a statement. "Speaker Cotter seems to be using taxpayer dollars to cover up his

own political missteps. Cotter should use his taxpayer-funded attorney to defend the House and pay for any outside counsel himself."

However, Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant), said the House also hired Dickinson Wright for a lawsuit against Rep. Brian Banks (D-Detroit) and paid more than $85,000 when a former employee of Mr. Banks' sued the House.

And Mr. D'Assandro said attorneys at the Department of Attorney General and the House counsel are not "pro-bono" lawyers waiting to be brought in. He said either option would have likely led to higher costs for the department or in hiring additional House counsel.

He said when talking about taxpayers' potential liability, it is better to spend more on the front end to ensure everything is done correctly.

"You want to spend more to make sure you're doing it right on the front-end," Mr. D'Assandro said.

Muchmore To Head Up Government Affairs At Honigman Firm

Dennis Muchmore, Governor Rick Snyder's outgoing chief of staff, will head up the government relations and regulatory practice at the Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn law firm starting in February.

Mr. Muchmore had said last year he planned to depart the administration in 2016, and months ago Mr. Snyder named Jarrod Agen to become his new chief of staff upon Mr. Muchmore's departure.

"It's been an honor to serve with Governor Snyder as we've worked to make Michigan the Comeback State," Mr. Muchmore said in a statement circulated by the Honigman firm. "I'm just as excited to enter this next phase with Honigman. Just as there were people who guided me along the way in my career, I see this as an opportunity to give back and help others prepare to do great things."

The firm also announced it is creating a faculty of current and previous Honigman attorneys to provide specialized training opportunities for firm attorneys and clients, legislators, legislative staff and leading state department and agency employees.

For Mr. Muchmore, the move will mark a return to the government relations and lobbying world. He helped found what is now the Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley and Associates lobbying firm.

"Dennis has tremendous respect from people on both sides of the aisle. He is known across the state for his superb integrity and for his long, distinguished and successful career," said David Foltyn, Honigman's chair and CEO. "With his guidance, we expect to continue to be an active voice for our clients in the legislative and regulatory process for decades to come."

Supreme Court: Injured Police Officers Cannot Sue For Damages

The prohibition on police officers and fire fighters from suing for damages from injuries sustained on the job is absolute, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled Monday.

In a per curiam decision, the court in *Lego v. Liss* (SC Docket Nos. 149246 and 149247) held that Michael Lego, a police officer, had no right to sue Jake Liss, a fellow officer who inadvertently shot him as they attempted to arrest a suspected armed robber, for gross negligence.

The decision overturned the Wayne Circuit Court and the Court of Appeals.

The Wayne Circuit Court had refused Mr. Liss' motion to dismiss the case, and the Court of Appeals agreed.

The Court of Appeals had ruled it could not decide as a matter of law the applicability of the statute stating that governments are "immune from tort liability for an injury to a firefighter or police officer that arises from the normal, inherent, and foreseeable risks of the firefighter's or police officer's profession."

But the Supreme Court ruled that, in fact, the issue can be decided as a matter of law.

"The undisputed facts here are that Michael Lego was shot by the defendant as both were attempting to apprehend an armed robbery suspect," the Supreme Court said in its ruling. "As the Court of Appeals partial dissent correctly concluded, 'being shot by a fellow police officer while engaging an active shooter is one of 'the normal, inherent, and foreseeable risks of . . . [a] police

officer's profession' within the meaning of MCL 600.2966.'

"This is true irrespective of whether the defendant was acting consistently with his training and departmental safety procedures or whether the defendant was grossly negligent while attempting to apprehend the suspect in this case. Thus, no question of material fact remains unresolved. Accordingly, the defendant is entitled to immunity as a matter of law," the court said.

The case was returned to the Wayne Circuit Court to enter an order granting summary disposition to the defendant.

Indigent Defense Council Submits Standards To Court

The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission has submitted its initial set of standards to the state Supreme Court, it announced Monday, addressing four elements: training and education of counsel, initial client interview, use of investigation and experts and counsel at first appearance.

The standards were originally released in June 2015 and were subject to a public hearing in mid-August. At the December 15, 2015 meeting, the commission voted to submit the final version to the Supreme Court for adoption.

The court now has 180 days to approve the standards, the MIDC said in statement.

"Today marks an important achievement for the MIDC," Executive Director Jonathan Sacks said. "In less than one year since establishing a formal office, the MIDC has developed this set of standards, met with stakeholders, received public comment and held a public hearing. I look forward to the Court's approval of this first set of standards."

Four points are raised on the issue of education and training of defense counsel, the first of which requires counsel to know "substantive Michigan and federal law, constitutional law, criminal law, criminal procedure, rules of evidence, ethical rules and local practices," the draft notes. Counsel is also to know the forensic and scientific issues that can arise in a criminal case and the legal issues concerning defenses to a crime, and be able to effectively litigate those.

Also on education, the commission outlines that counsel shall "annually complete continuing legal education courses relevant to the representation of the criminally accused," the standards indicate. Lawyers can discharge this obligation for annual continuing legal education by attending local trainings or statewide conferences, though. And attorneys with less than two years of experience practicing criminal defense are to participate in one basic skills acquisition class.

All attorneys are to annually complete at least 12 hours of continuing legal education in some form.

The second standard on initial interview outlines regulations on the timing and setting of the interview, as well as the necessary preparation and evaluation of client status (such as whether the client is competent to participate in his or her representation, understands, the charges, and has some basic comprehension of criminal procedure).

Where counsel is unable to communicate with a client because of language or communication differences, it is to take "whatever steps necessary to fully explain the proceedings in a language or form of communication the client can understand."

The MIDC also proposed a minimum standard for investigation and the use of experts in its third proposed standard. An independent investigation of the charges and offense in as prompt time as practical is required, and the "reasonable" request of funds to retain investigators to assist with a client's defense is appropriate in some situations, the MIDC said.

Finally, the commission proposed a minimum standard on counsel at first appearance and other critical stages of the procedure.

Counsel is to be assigned as soon as the defendant is determined to be eligible for indigent criminal defense services, and the indigency determination and appointment of counsel is to be made "as soon as the defendant's liberty is subject to restriction by a magistrate or judge," the draft standards suggest.

"All persons determined to be eligible for indigent criminal defense services shall also have appointed counsel at pre-trial proceedings, during plea negotiations and at other critical stages, whether in court or out of court," the final standard outlines.

The MIDC will also develop standards in the future addressing issues, it said, including the following: delivery of indigent defense independent of the judiciary, caseload levels, the assignment of counsel, qualifications and review of counsel, economic incentives and disincentives for the practice of indigent defense, and representation of clients by the same attorney at every court appearance.

Phelps Bill Would Make Manipulating Data A Felony

State employees who are caught manipulating data could be convicted of a felony under legislation Rep. Phil Phelps plans to introduce, he announced Monday.

Mr. Phelps (D-Flushing) said in a statement the legislation prevents government corruption by making it a felony for any state employee to knowingly manipulate data that would change the outcome of an official report. The felony would be punishable by up to five years in prison.

"As we began to comb through all of the facts surrounding Flint's water crisis it was frightening to learn that there were very few laws on our books that protect the public from potential government abuse such as data manipulation," Mr. Phelps said. "I am not sure if anyone involved in the Flint water crisis deliberately changed or removed critical data in state reports, but I am absolutely certain that it should be a crime if it did happen."

Mr. Phelps said he plans on introducing the legislation when the House resumes session next week.

"Protecting Michigan residents should be our highest priority, yet the Auditor General recently noted that potential bad actors in our government merely stand to lose their jobs, even if they put innocent

lives in jeopardy," he said. "As elected leaders we must send out a signal to everyone letting them know that we will not tolerate this form of injustice."

Campaign Notes: Mitchell Slams Fellow Republicans For Road Resolution

Business executive Paul Mitchell, one of several Republicans vying to succeed retiring U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, called out sponsors of a Senate measure that would again increase the sales tax to pay for roads.

The plan, SJR M, would impose a 7 percent sales tax, with the new penny divided between the state and local road agencies. The constitutional amendment would also declare void the fuel tax and registration fee increases recently enacted.

"I simply can't understand what these members of the state Senate are thinking in proposing even higher taxes," Mr. Mitchell said in a statement. "When the Legislature failed to produce a viable solution to fix our roads and punted their responsibility to the voters by proposing the largest tax increase in Michigan in the last 50 years it was rejected by the largest margin in modern Michigan election history. Career politicians, like those backing Senate Joint Resolution M, who continue to propose one bad tax idea after another clearly aren't getting the message that government needs to live within its means."

Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), currently one of Mr. Mitchell's key opponents for the seat, supported the package that created Proposal 2015-1, but is not listed as a sponsor of the new measure, which was introduced December 15. Sen. Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth) is the primary sponsor on the resolution.

Mr. Mitchell, who headed Say No to Higher Taxes and Special Interest Deals, one of the efforts against Proposal 2015-1 to increase the sales tax as part of a plan to increase road funding, said the failure of that proposal showed voters want roads fixed without a tax increase.

"We elected a Republican supermajority to the Legislature based upon the promise that they would enact conservative solutions to our state's challenges, but what we get is more taxes and more spending. The citizens are demanding and deserve better," he said.

LEGAL MARIJUANA: MILegalize, one of two groups trying to get initiated legislation to legalize marijuana possession (a third is seeking a constitutional amendment), urged supporters in a release Monday to continue submitting signatures, and money.

The committee is expecting to pass 180 days collecting signatures, meaning some of its petitions will become stale, but is also hoping for a rule change from the Board of State Canvassers that would keep more of those signatures alive.

The group announced it was planning fundraisers, and an update on signature collections, later in the month.

LOWER ANNOUNCES IN 70TH HOUSE WITH OUTMAN ENDORSEMENT: Edmore Village Manager Jim Lower, a Republican, announced Monday he is running in the 70th House District seat with the endorsement of Rep. Rick Outman (R-Six Lakes), the current representative who cannot seek re-election due to term limits in 2016.

"I am Pro-Life, Pro-Jobs, Pro-2nd Amendment, Pro-Family Values and I believe that 'We the People' must be in charge of our own government, Mr. Lower said in a statement. "We need a strong conservative voice in the State House of Representatives with the experience to get things done, I

will be that voice. My experience, strong work ethic, and relationships with the people of this district will enable me to be effective on day one."

Mr. Lower has also served as a county commissioner, an aide in the Michigan House, and as an aide to Sen. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan).

Capital Notebook

SENATE SCHEDULE: The Senate session calendar has been updated for January-June. The chamber is slated to return on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at noon and will go back to its normal 10 a.m. time after. Its spring break is scheduled to take place April 1-9, 2016. It has also scheduled tentative session days for June 2 and June 14-16.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, January 11

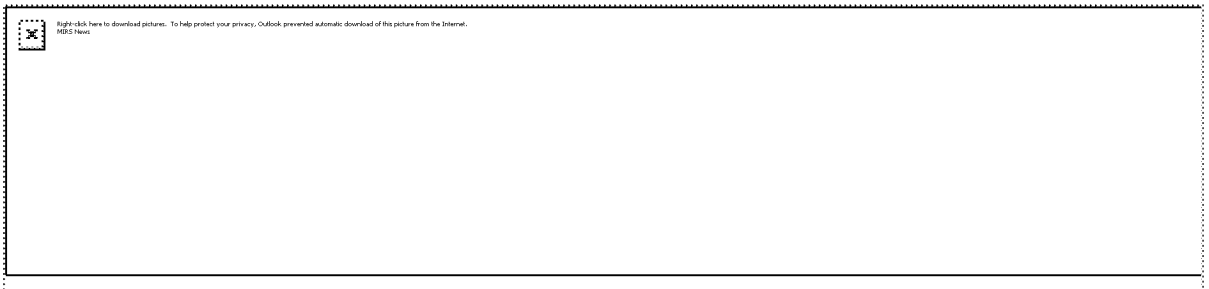
Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Advisory Council, Shady Lodge Farm, 6255 Clark Road, Lansing, 1 p.m. (Agenda)

Tuesday, January 12

Gaming Control Board, Detroit Office Hearing Room, Gaming Control Board, Cadillac Place, 3062 West Grand Boulevard, Detroit, 9:30 a.m. (Agenda)

From: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 4:55 PM
To: ann
Subject: FW: Gov Declares State Of Emergency In Genesee County -- 4:36 p.m.

From: MIRS Delivery [mailto:mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 4:48 PM
To: Fuller, Margaret (DTMB) <fullerm@michigan.gov>
Subject: Gov Declares State Of Emergency In Genesee County -- 4:36 p.m.



MIRS BREAKING NEWS: Gov Declares State Of Emergency In Genesee County -- 4:36 p.m.

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2157

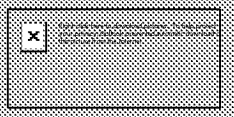
Gov. Rick **SNYDER** today declared a state of emergency for Genesee County due to the health and safety issues caused by lead in the city of Flint's drinking water.

By declaring a state of emergency, Snyder has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery operations. The declaration authorizes the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) to coordinate state efforts.

"The health and welfare of Flint residents is a top priority and we're committed to a coordinated approach with resources from state agencies to address all aspects of this situation," Snyder said. "Working in full partnership with the Flint Water Advisory Task Force, all levels of government and water quality experts, we will find both short-term and long-term solutions to ensure the health and safety of Flint residents."

MIRS: Michigan's oldest and most comprehensive newsletter covering the activities of Michigan state government

From the legislature to the governor, from the state bureaucracy to Michigan's courts, MIRS provides our subscribers with more news and insight than any other source.



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Volume #52, Report #178 -- Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Bipartisan Backing Carries 'Main Street Fairness' Bills

Certain online sellers with a presence in the state could be required to begin collecting the 6 percent sales or use tax under legislation the House Tax Policy Committee reported Wednesday, but with some believing the issue needs to be resolved at the federal level, it is unclear how much traction the bills will have in the full House.

The legislation (HB 4202 and HB 4203) cleared the committee on a 9-1 vote with five abstentions. Six Republicans and three Democrats voted yes.

House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) said the issue should really be solved on the federal level, and the question now is if the state's legislation is going to accomplish what the federal government isn't doing.

House Speaker Jase Bolger (R-Marshall) and Rep. Vicki Barnett (D-Farmington Hills)

"You're not hearing opposition from me, but you're not hearing we're going to run this tomorrow," Mr. Bolger said to reporters after House session. "You're hearing me wrestle with what the federal government is not doing. You're hearing frustration from me that once again the federal government is not doing its job, so we're left to pick up their slack. You're hearing also concern about what's the best policy."

The "main street fairness" issue - so named because retailers say their businesses face a 6 percent disadvantage to the Amazons of the world who do not collect sales or use tax - is in the House Republicans action plan for the term. That action plan, unveiled earlier this year, declares, "We will remove the 6 percent competitive advantage that out-of-state online retailers enjoy over Michigan companies."

Ari Adler, spokesperson for Mr. Bolger, said the speaker has always thought it was a federal issue, and it is still a part of the action plan. Mr. Adler said it is still unclear if the best course of action would involve state legislation.

Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica), chair of the committee, said he abstained on the bills because he agreed it is a federal issue.

"Tax policy should be fair and across the board, and that can only be done at the federal level," he said.

Asked if he thought the federal government would act on legislation soon (a bill passed through the U.S. Senate in May and is now in the U.S. House) Mr. Farrington said: "I've got no confidence at all."

Rep. Vicki Barnett (D-Farmington Hills), minority vice chair of the committee, also abstained. Ms. Barnett said the Department of Treasury still was not certain if the tax collected on Internet sellers would be sales or use tax. She also said it is a federal issue, and something she supports on the federal level.

Most of the sales tax goes to the School Aid Fund, and most of the use tax goes to the General Fund. The House Fiscal Agency analysis says it appears the majority of revenue generated from the bills would be sales tax, but it depends on how it is remitted.

"It's a tax increase on consumers who are looking for efficiency and convenience when they shop," Ms. Barnett said after committee. "There's no clear rules as to who would actually be forced to pay this tax. Probably, most importantly, the 1996 Telecommunications Act explicitly says that states are preempted from acting in this arena."

According to the Department of Treasury, about $482.4 million in sales and use tax revenue will be uncollected in the 2013-14 fiscal year, and nearly 60 percent of that is due to online sales. Although residents are supposed to remit the taxes in income tax returns, many do not.

The House Fiscal Agency analysis, however, says it is unlikely the bills would generate much revenue because sellers can move affiliated partners and warehouses to other states. To generate more revenue, federal legislation would need to be passed.

Mr. Farrington had the Democrats vote before the Republicans in the committee to make sure they didn't change their votes at the last minute, he said.

Rep. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton) was the lone no vote on both bills. Rep. Jon Switalski (D-Warren), Rep. Bob Genetski (R-Saugatuck) and Rep. Pat Somerville (R-New Boston) joined committee leadership in abstaining.

Voting yes were Rep. Harold Haugh (D-Roseville), Rep. Bill LaVoy (D-Monroe), Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak), Rep. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage), Rep. Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant), Rep. Frank Foster (R-Petoskey), Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto), Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Saginaw Township) and Rep. Amanda Price (R-Park Township).

Educator Effectiveness Plan Has Long Road Ahead, Committee Chairs Say

The House and Senate Education committees on Wednesday jointly heard testimony in support of a teacher evaluation system that focuses on both in-class hours as well as individual student growth, but chairs of both the committees say there is still some time to go before any legislative action may come as a result.

"We want to hear from the education community," Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, said after the meeting, noting the Senate committee will travel to Port Huron on September 26 to hear from teachers there who were part of the pilot program of the evaluation system being proposed by the Council for Educator Effectiveness.

"I think the committee will get great value hearing from teachers that have been evaluated on the pilot program," he said.

Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto), chair of the House Education Committee, said she and her members are also looking forward to hearing from educators and administrators before moving forward.

Sen. Phil Pavlov (top) and Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons

"It's just a starting point," Ms. Lyons said after the joint meeting. "Our members are going to be talking with the education folks in their districts. It's important that we make sure we do this right and we do this well because it's that critical, not only to the educators and the administrators involved, but to the kids as well."

And because the committee members have to review the report by the council in addition to talking to educators in their district, there is still much work to be done before any legislative action can take place.

"We have a lot of work to do to break the report down," Mr. Pavlov said. "This is a very important step and it's a very significant reform that has to be done properly."

About half of the nearly three-hour committee was spent discussing - and questioning - conclusions reached by the council, chaired by Deborah Loewenberg Ball, dean of the School of Education at the University of Michigan. In addition to explaining the components of the council's recommendations, she said the state must adopt a tool and stick with it whole-heartedly.

"Currently, districts use some of these tools," Ms. Ball said, referencing her presentation to the committees. "Many of them adapt the tools a lot, which is to say they use only some of the things included. Our recommendation is that the tool be used as designed by the designer."

That is to say districts should not deviate, for the most part, from either the philosophy or the implementation of any one plan.

And rather than categorizing teachers in four different categories, the state should consider three: professional, provisional and ineffective.

The idea behind fewer categories is that there is less of a chance of misclassifying a teacher in a profession whose variables are always changing, as well as the philosophy that the evaluation system the council proposes seeks to ensure continued improvement for every grade of teacher, even the best (See Gongwer Michigan Report, July 24, 2013).

Most questions from committee members focused on implementation, a point which Ms. Ball noted would have to take time in order to be done right.

For example, to enter a "testing mania" that seems to be trending nationally, according to Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton (D-Huntington Woods), is something that the state would have to re-examine annually, Ms. Ball said.

And any proposal that will work will work best if it is not tied to pay, particularly merit pay, Ms. Ball said.

"Our system is entirely oriented out of improvement," Ms. Ball said, responding to a question by Rep. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights). "To build a true system of improvement, we recommend this not be tied to pay issues."

Although it may seem counter to conventional wisdom to not pay attention to student and teacher results on a per-school basis, the way the evaluation system is being proposed, "A teacher will not be penalized for having a student below growth if that teacher is producing substantial growth for that student," Ms. Ball explained.

And Sandi Jacobs, with the National Council on Teacher Quality in Washington, D.C., said nationally there are three components to a strong evaluation system: make student learning preponderant

criterion, require observations from well-trained observers, and require annual evaluations for all teachers (even the great ones).

"Since 2009, we see states beginning to move forward on these policies," Ms. Jacobs said. "We've seen a great increase in annual evaluations, very big increase in student learning, and more and more using results for tenured learning."

Committee Again Exploring Religious Freedom For Adoption Agencies

Faith-based organizations said the change was needed to ensure they could follow their religious tenets, while civil rights groups said the legislation would open potential adoptive parents to discrimination as the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee opened discussion on legislation that would prohibit the state from requiring faith-based adoption and foster care agencies to violate their religious beliefs.

Rep. Kenneth Kurtz, chair of the committee and lead sponsor of the package (HB 4927 and HB 4928), said his goal was to codify the Department of Human Services' current practice for overseeing the private agencies it licenses.

"This state has never required that these agencies abandon their faith, nor do I think it should," Mr. Kurtz said.

The bills would not, he said, change any current practices. "Anyone who can adopt today will be able to adopt under this bill," he said.

Supporters of the legislation said it would head off problems that have arisen in other states where mandates have required agencies to take actions that violated their tenets. The Michigan Catholic Conference, in a fact sheet on the issue (officials voiced their support but did not speak to the bills) said the church had been forced to close its operations in some other states because of new state mandates brought either through statute or court ruling.

"These bills will ensure the public/private effort to find homes for children exists well into the future," Tom Hickson, vice president for public policy and advocacy for the Catholic Conference, said in a statement. "Faith-based adoption and foster care agencies, Catholic Charities for example, are prevalent in communities throughout the state and offer a multitude of services to destitute and vulnerable persons. It is imperative that the state continues to maintain and strengthen diversity in child placement."

Any future move to require faith-based agencies to violate their faith would mean loss not only of those agencies from the state-supervised system, but also of the families that support them, William Blacquiere, president of Bethany Christian Services, told the committee.

"When faith-based agencies are gone, so are most of the families that will adopt and provide foster care," he said. "We are not denying children a loving home. We are doing the opposite. We are ensuring there will be a loving home."

The bills would, though, allow agencies to turn away potential adoptive parents, opponents said.

"We should not be turning away willing and capable families willing to help a child in need," Emily Dievendorf, managing director of Equality Michigan, told the committee.

"Currently, faith based agencies are denying adoptions for a variety of reasons, including sexual orientation," Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union-Michigan LGBT Project, though he could not, when asked by committee members, list any cases where the group had filed complaints based on such discrimination.

The bills, he said, would allow faith-based agencies to be exempt from both state civil rights laws and requirements that they act in the best interests of the child in favor of supporting their religious beliefs.

"No public funds should go to a supposed welfare agency that ignores the best interests of the child," said Nicolette Siragusa, pastor of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Grand Ledge.

Much of the opposition came from gay rights groups, but some also raised concerns that agencies would turn away couples of other faiths as well.

"I don't believe we should be sending people on a mad search to find an agency that won't discriminate against them," Ms. Dievendorf said.

Mr. Blacquiere acknowledged his agency would not directly serve a Muslim family.

"We would work with the network of agencies we work with," he said, likely finding a Muslim agency to help that family.

Mr. Blacquiere said amendments were being developed to require development of such networks of providers to ensure all potential adoptive families are served.

Mr. Kurtz expected the bills to come up for additional discussion and potential movement in the coming weeks.

Bills Addressing Unemployment Agency Fraud, Compliance In House Commerce

A package of bills designed to bring the Unemployment Insurance Agency into compliance with federal standards and to properly handle fraudulent claims were discussed in the House Commerce Committee on Wednesday.

The bills (HB 4949, HB 4950, HB 4951, HB 4952, HB 4953 and HB 4954) did receive some criticism from members of the committee.

The more controversial piece of the package is Rep. Ken Goike's (R-Ray Township) bill, HB 4952, that would end a person's unemployment benefits if he or she failed a prospective employer's drug test.

Delaney McKinley, director of human resource policy for the Michigan Manufacturers Association, said a condition of receiving unemployment benefits is the person must be looking for suitable work, and cannot refuse that work.

"If there is a drug test required as a condition of that employment, if they refuse to take it or they failed it, they are essentially refusing that job," she said.

Ms. McKinley said the bill does not require a prospective employer to give a drug test, and doesn't require the prospective employer to even report the failure.

Tim Hughes, with the United Auto Workers, said in written testimony that the U.S. Department of Labor has not ruled on state legislation linking pre-employment drug tests to refusal of suitable work, but "it is certainly possible that they could find Michigan out of compliance with federal law under the terms of this legislation."

The first bill (HB 4949) would give the Unemployment Insurance Agency the ability to handle fraud and the improper payment of benefits. The agency would be able to receive payments for improper and fraudulent benefits from the moment a person began receiving the benefit.

Under current law, the agency receives the repayment from the time it was notified.

Some members were concerned the bill would force some unemployment claimants to pay for months of benefits that they cannot afford because of a mistake in the system or an appellate decision.

Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica) said he once had an employee who was forced to pay 9 months of unemployment benefits, that the person could not afford, back to the agency through no fault of his own.

Rep. Vicki Barnett (D-Farmington Hills) and Rep. Jim Townsend (D-Royal Oak) raised the same issue with the bill.

Wendy Block, with the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, said she would be willing to look at other language to better separate a mistake made concerning benefits from actual fraudulent activity. But she said it is fair for the money to go back to the employer either way.

"It's not the claimant's money," she said. "At the end of the day it is employers' tax dollars."

Mr. Townsend also was concerned that the first bill could potentially require unemployed persons to pay back money they could not afford to the agency, but HB 4950 allows employers four chances, or 2 percent of their unemployment requests, to fail to provide information to the agency before the employer is penalized.

The bill specifies when an employer or employer's agent has a pattern of failing to respond with timely or adequate information to the agency, the employer would not be credited the funds it sent out for benefits.

Mr. Hughes said the bill allows employers "free passes" for not providing timely and accurate information, and also provides that unemployed workers have to pay back benefits received because of employers violating the law.

Rep. Frank Foster (R-Petoskey), chair of the committee, said there would be another meeting next week on the issue, and more meetings if needed to allow more testimony. The bills need to be in law by October 21 to conform to the federal government's standards.

The other bills in the package would specify funds recovered by the agency because of fraud on behalf of the employer or employee would be credited no less than 15 percent into the Unemployment Trust Fund, which helps ensure sustainability of the program (HB 4951). This is to comply with federal standards and is accompanied by HB 4954, which amends complementary sections in the law. HB 4953 is a complement to HB 4950.

Bentivolio Leading In Early Poll

If the election was today, U.S. Rep. Kerry Bentivolio would win renomination from Republicans in his 11th U.S. House District, a Murray Communications-Portable Insights-Combat Data poll released Wednesday said.

But money could turn those numbers, pollsters said.

Of 717 likely Republican voters, Mr. Bentivolio (R-Milford) led challenger David Trott 59.55-40.45. That lead was higher (62.47-37.53) among women than among men.

The automated poll had an error margin of 3.66 percentage points.

The key takeaway, though, is the two are close enough for Mr. Trott to make up the gap with enough spending. "Bentivolio can hold this seat. Republican primary voters seem to be willing to give him a chance. But, if he doesn't raise enough money to be competitive with Trott, I suspect this 19% margin will begin to evaporate," Christopher Mark of Portable Insights said in a statement.

Patrick Murray of Murray Communications and Brian Bellgowan of Combat Data aired respective surprise over Mr. Bentivolio's lead, given his recent comments in the media, and Mr. Trott's support given he has not yet begun campaigning.

Mr. Bentivolio got national attention for talking about his desire to impeach President Barack Obama and has gotten some bad publicity for showing interest in holding a hearing on a debunked, much-mocked conspiracy called "Chem Trails" whose believers think the government is putting toxic chemicals into jet contrails to conduct experiments on the public.

Young Couple Charged In Trooper Slaying

19-year-old Eric Knysz shot and killed State Police Trooper Paul Butterfield, and Mr. Knysz's 20-year-old pregnant wife Sarah Knysz aided his getaway afterward, prosecutors charged Wednesday in formally accusing the pair in Mr. Butterfield's death.

The Mason County Prosecutor's Office authorized charges against Mr. Knysz, a Luther resident, of homicide-murder of peace officer, weapons-felony firearm for the possession of a firearm during the commission of a murder of a peace officer, carrying a concealed weapon and unlawful driving away of an automobile.

The murder count is punishable by life in prison without possibility of parole; the weapons charge punishable by two years served consecutively with the life sentence; the CCW charge punishable by up to five years in prison, a $2,500 fine, or both; and the driving away charge punishable by up to five years in prison. Prosecutors also notified Mr. Knysz of his status as a habitual offender/second felony offense that would multiply the maximum penalties by 1.5.

Mr. Knysz was shot by a State Police trooper at a gas station/convenience store, reportedly in the leg with a non-life threatening injury, and will be arraigned once he is discharged from the hospital and returned to Mason County. He allegedly shot Mr. Butterfield during a traffic stop in Sherman Township in Mason County.

Ms. Knysz was arraigned Wednesday at the 79th District Court in Ludington on a charge of accessory after the fact to the murder of Mr. Butterfield, punishable by up to five years in prison, a $10,000 fine, or both; and unlawful driving away of an automobile, a felony punishable by up to five years in prison.

Magistrate Patricia Baker set bond for Ms. Knysz at $250,000 cash or surety. Ms. Knysz was remanded to the Mason County Jail pending the posting of that bond and a September 25 preliminary examination.

Mason County Prosecutor Paul Spaniola said in a statement that Manistee County Prosecutor Ford Stone is reviewing the case for crimes the Knyszs might have committed in Manistee County, where they were caught. Mr. Spaniola said Lake County Prosecutor Craig Cooper also is exploring possible charges in his jurisdiction.

The investigation remains ongoing. State Police spokesperson Shanon Banner said she could not disclose any new information about what led to Mr. Butterfield pulling over the Knyszs, what might have led to Mr. Knysz allegedly shooting Mr. Butterfield and what other criminal activity the Knyszs might have committed besides the shooting.

The Muskegon Chronicle reported that Mr. Knysz had a lengthy criminal record, but no outstanding arrest warrants.

Poll Shows Snyder Improving Against Schauer; Peters, Land Tied

Governor Rick Snyder has moved out to a lead against his likely Democratic opponent, former U.S. Rep. Mark Schauer, in a new poll after previous surveys showed the pair in a statistical tie.

The survey from EPIC/MRA, released to the Detroit Free Press, put Mr. Snyder at 44 percent and Mr. Schauer at 36 percent. That compares to a 39-39 tie from an EPIC/MRA poll in May and an April poll from the same firm that had Mr. Schauer at 39 percent and Mr. Snyder at 38 percent.

The live operator poll of likely voters was conducted Sunday through Tuesday and had an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Mr. Schauer still remains unknown to most voters. But notably, Mr. Snyder's favorability and job approval ratings have improved considerably since May, during which time he pushed hard for Medicaid expansion and authorized Detroit to file for bankruptcy.

In May, 45 percent said they had a favorable impression of Mr. Snyder compared to 44 percent unfavorable. Now Mr. Snyder is at 49 percent favorable, 38 percent unfavorable. On job approval, Mr. Snyder was at 44 percent positive, 54 percent negative. That is improved from a 38-58 spread in May.

Meanwhile, EPIC/MRA continues to show the U.S. Senate race close between the presumptive Democratic nominee, U.S. Rep. Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township, and the lone declared Republican candidate, former Secretary of State Terri Land. Mr. Peters had 38 percent to 37 percent for Ms. Land.

Supreme Court Issues Order On Translation Services In Courts

In a move it said will help assure access to justice to Michigan residents who have limited English-speaking skills, the Supreme Court unveiled an order Wednesday requiring all courts in the state to provide interpreters for those individuals.

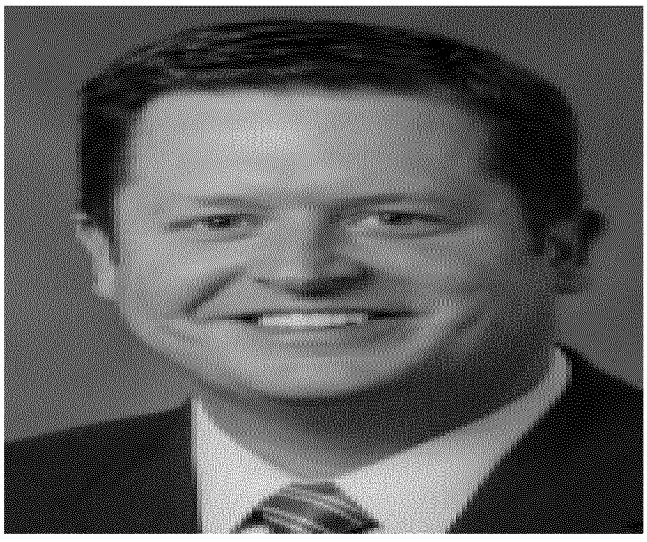
Under the order, persons who can afford translation services will be charged for those services, while lower-income individuals will not.

In a press conference, Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. and Justice Bridget McCormack said the rule would help "every person, every party" have access to the court system. That would include situations such as domestic abuse cases where a spouse needs to request a personal protection order, but has difficulty speaking English.

That would prevent, Mr. Young said, a situation of a judge saying, "Please bring your husband in to translate for you. That would be a problem."

The order was not unanimous. Justice Stephen Markman dissented, arguing the state was effectively being coerced into creating the rule by the U.S. Department of Justice or face the prospect of the state losing federal funds. "The rules being adopted today under the coercive circumstances created by the (Department of Justice) are both unnecessary and ill-advised," Mr. Markman said.

But in the press conference, Mr. Young said former Justice Marilyn Kelly began working on the issue before the federal government sent a letter to all state supreme courts calling on those courts to help assist persons officially designated limited-English-proficient.



Justice Bridget McCormack discusses the order while Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. listens.

Already a number of counties provide translation service and assistance to persons with actions before the courts, the two justices said, and they praised Wayne County particularly.

But not all counties provide such service, they said, and under the rules and order issued, all the courts must prepare a language access plan as a local administrative order by December 11.

Those affected by the order will be anyone with legal decision-making authority, which could include a parent in juvenile matters. The rules and order also deal with any trial, hearing or appearance before any judge, magistrate, referee or other hearing officer.

The rules require the courts to use certified interpreters for limited English participants. If a certified translator is not available, the court will then have to assess whether the proceeding should be delayed or if the court should use a qualified translator.

Mr. Young and Ms. McCormack also said technology could assist a court by accessing a translator online or by telephone.

Mr. Young said he was unaware of any case where lack of access to a translator had been an issue in an appeal. "But that is not a reason not to act," Mr. Young said.

In his dissent, Mr. Markman said the federal "demands" were "staggering," and effectively would allow a "Gulf state emir or a South American multi-millionaire businessman" who may choose to file a lawsuit have access to free translation services.

Theoretically, he argued, the Supreme Court would also have to have translators available for the court's learning center.

And, Mr. Markman said, the federal government fails to show how the current system has failed to ensure persons have access to justice if they have limited English skills.

Young: Working Hard To Put Aside Past

With a history of rancor marking the Supreme Court for more than a decade, Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. and Justice Bridget McCormack said the court has worked in an extremely collegial fashion this year.

Meeting with reporters to discuss a new rule and order on translation services (see related story), the two even engaged in some clowning. After Ms. McCormack talked about how her first year on the court had been marked by "incredible collegiality," Mr. Young made a show of handing her a $10 bill. (She later returned it, and Mr. Young said he would need it for groceries.)

While it is Ms. McCormack's first year on the court, it is Mr. Young's 15th year, and he said it had been the best year of his tenure.

"We are respectful of each other's views," he said. "The court is willing to listen to each other."

In some cases, that listening to one another has meant that in some opinions the minority opinion has ended up becoming the majority opinion.

"We have worked very hard to put our past aside," Mr. Young said.

That past included years where opinions nearly smoked with fury expressed by the members for each other. The court has seen significant change in personnel in recent years as former Justice Elizabeth Weaver - who was outspoken in challenging court procedure - resigned in 2010. Former Justice Maura Corrigan - one of Ms. Weaver's targets, but also one who gave as good as she got - left in 2011 to become director of the Department of Human Services.

And in January, former Justice Diane Hathaway resigned before pleading guilty to federal fraud charges. She began serving a prison sentence this summer.

Mr. Young said this is a "wonderful court."

Every top court in every state should have "talented and learned lawyers," he said, and "I hope this is that court."

When one reporter said it was hard to imagine Mr. Young conducting a similar press conference with Ms. Hathaway, Mr. Young said, "You have a limited imagination."

Senate Passes Child Abduction Legislation

The Senate on Wednesday unanimously passed legislation that would help ensure children would not be abducted by their parents during divorce proceedings.

The bill, SB 325, would establish the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act, which is intended to prevent the abduction of children by establishing standards for determining whether a child is at risk for abduction by one of his or her parents.

"My legislation empowers judges to order abduction prevention measures in child custody when evidence of a credible risk of child abduction is established," said bill sponsor Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), in a statement.

If a court determines a credible risk exists that the child will be abducted, it may order provisions and measures to prevent such a thing from happening. Some warning signs of possible abductions could be a parent suddenly getting passports for children, threatening to abduct a child, undergoing a change in citizenship status and other high-risk factors, Mr. Jones said.

Accordingly, the provisions include travel restrictions, prohibiting the individual from removing the child from the state, or placing the child's name on the U.S. Department of State's Child Passport Issuance Alert Program.

Sen. Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale) supported the legislation, but warned his colleagues that extending judicial discretion too much could have unintended consequences down the line. The bill passed 37-0 as Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing) was absent from session.

Courser (Sort Of) Downplays Governor Talk

Speculation prompted by the Right Michigan blog's countdown clock for a Republican primary challenger to Governor Rick Snyder led tea party activist Todd Courser to scoff Wednesday at the idea it would be him.

"Right now there is a little buzz on a primary challenge to Governor Rick Snyder and some are predicting that I am the one that is going to announce at the Mackinac Leadership Conference," he said in an email he also posted to Facebook about the upcoming Republican Party event on Mackinac Island. "I will say that this is news to me."

But Mr. Courser also said: "I believe that at the very least we should not assume that any battle to attempt to unseat this governor is lost. It is imperative that we defend liberty and conservatism at any and all levels."

Mr. Courser urged primary challenges against those compromising the conservative Republican brand.

"But we also need to be more than passionate; we need to be strategic and realistic about where our efforts will have the most impact on the advancement of conservatism," he said. "I have and continue to explore every option available that will advance conservatism and unite the party around those principles. I believe that the Lord will lead and provide for whatever option he directs."

Audit Praises Prison Mental Health Services, Finds Some Problems

A performance audit of Mental Health Services in the Department of Corrections resulted in mostly positive reviews for the agency, but criticized it on some aspects of its documentation and meeting required timeframes for evaluations.

The audit concluded that most aspects of Mental Health Services operated effectively.

But it found the agency did not conduct all evaluations and assessments within required time frames and did not document all required evaluations and assessments. The audit cautioned that these problems undermine the ability of the agency to ensure it met prisoners' needs in a timely fashion.

Agency procedures require the completion of an evaluation from a qualified mental health professional and a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation within 14 days of a prisoner being referred to MHS. But auditors, which reviewed records for 90 prisoners, found that 11 percent of qualified mental health professional evaluations occurred from three to 17 days late and 25 percent of comprehensive psychiatric evaluations were three to 114 days late.

Among the documentation problems found among the 58 prisoners reviewed who transferred to a different MHS level of care were that MHS did not document that it conducted 12 percent of the required mental health evaluations, 4 percent of the required psychiatric evaluations and 25 percent of the required activity therapy assessments.

The audit also found that MHS did not document or update all required individual treatment plans within required time frames. Depending on the level of care, those procedures require the updating of an individual treatment plan between one day and 10 days of a prisoner's admission or transfer to a new level of care. In 13 percent of 90 instances, MHS did not document or update individual treatment plans for prisoners admitted or transferred to a different level of care with five coming six to 95 days late and two 11 to 69 days late.

In some cases, MHS did not properly document all required notes, reviews, evaluations and assessments in prisoners' mental health records to ensure mentally ill prisoners received all mental health services consistent with their individual treatment plans.

In 35 of 61 records where MHS recommended case management, MHS did not document 41 percent of the required case manager or progress notes.

MHS officials indicated in the audit that they agreed with all the recommendations and that they are taking steps to comply.

The audit was conducted from April through September 2012 and generally covered operations from October 1, 2009, through August 31, 2012.

Army Veteran Sues State For Denying Him 'INFIDEL' License Plate

A U.S. Army veteran from the Upper Peninsula who served in the Iraq war filed a lawsuit Wednesday in the U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids against the Department of State for denying his request for a personalized license plate saying "INFIDEL".

Sergeant Michael Matwyuk sought the plate as a way to show defiance toward insurgents who labeled him and other U.S. soldiers as infidels. But the department denied the plate under the provision in the Motor Vehicle Code allowing it to do so with requests "that might carry a connotation offensive to good taste and decency."

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, filing the lawsuit on behalf of Mr. Matwyuk, said that policy violates the First and Fourteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

"As American soldiers in Iraq, we were called 'infidels' on a daily basis. As a way to cope, we decided to take this word, meant to hurt and demean us, as our own," Mr. Matwyuk said in a statement distributed by the ACLU. "It's a point of pride and patriotism that many of us identify with, just as we would identify with the word 'soldier.' This license plate is simply an expression of my service as an Iraqi combat veteran."

Appeals Court: Law Barring Vehicular Death Instruction Unconstitutional

A divided panel of the Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that a state law that prohibits a judge from instructing a jury on a lesser charge in vehicular death cases was unconstitutional.

The court, in *People v. Jones* (COA docket No. 312966) held the statute violated principles held since the 1840s that a jury may convict an individual of the crime charged or of a lesser included offense.

The decision, by Judge Amy Ronayne Krause and joined by Judge Douglas Shapiro, upheld a ruling by the Wayne Circuit Court to provide an instruction to the jury that Thabo Jones could be convicted of a moving violation that caused death.

Mr. Jones was charged with reckless driving that caused death, and the prosecutor appealed the circuit court action.

But the court held the law's requirement that an instruction on the lesser crime fails to take into consideration that there is no such limitation if a case is before a judge only or that a jury could still find a defendant guilty of the lesser crime.

The court also said the Legislature can draft a statute so narrowly that the elements of a crime could preclude a lesser offense. But that did not happen in this situation.

Dissenting, Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly pointed out that the requirement that a jury not be instructed in the lesser charge does not block the jury from deciding to convict on the basis of that lesser charge.

The Legislature may not establish procedural rules but alone has the power to establish substantive law, she said. And, she said, the law in question does not infringe on procedure or practice and therefore was properly adopted.

Snyder Names New Flint Emergency Manager, Darnell Earley

Saginaw City Manager Darnell Earley was named by Governor Rick Snyder to be the new emergency manager for Flint after manager Michael Brown resigned.

Mr. Brown will leave the post on October 31. In his resignation letter to Mr. Snyder, which he submitted last week, Mr. Brown cited the death of his brother as a reason to step aside now.

Mr. Snyder praised Mr. Brown, saying he provided calm leadership during a difficult time. During his tenure as emergency manager, the city was able to finish the 2012-13 fiscal year with a surplus.

Mr. Earley has been the Saginaw city manager for eight years. Before going to Saginaw, Mr. Earley was the Flint city administrator and briefly served as the city's temporary mayor in 2002.

Capital Notebook

GRASSROOTS MICHIGAN ANNOUNCES NEW HIRES: Grassroots Michigan, the new bipartisan political consulting firm, has hired Brian Began as director of research and Trisha Kosloski as office manager and scheduler. Mr. Began comes out of the House Republican political operation and Ms. Kosloski was the manager of the Biggby on Ottawa Street in Lansing.

UNIONS OFFICIALLY FILE RIGHT-TO-WORK APPEAL: State employee unions formally filed their appeal to the Supreme Court on the question of whether the right-to-work laws apply to state employees. The Court of Appeals ruled in August that the laws do apply, overturning a lower court ruling. Unions had said then they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

DEER BAITING: Deer hunters in Iosco County will likely be able to use bait to attract their prey. The Natural Resources Commission is expected to approve a resolution at its meeting Thursday opening the county to baiting.

Baiting had been banned in several townships as part of the effort to eradicate bovine tuberculosis. Because Iosco County is now designated as TB-free, the Department of Natural Resources has recommended lifting the baiting ban.

Appointments By The Governor

MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS: Rich Homberg of Bloomfield Hills succeeds Amanda Van Dusen, Shamita Johnson of Detroit succeeds David Egner, Nikke Nason of Marquette succeeds Nheena Ittner, Susannah Goodman of Detroit succeeds George Bayard III, Kim Dabbs of Grand Rapids succeeds Barbara Kratchman and Christian Gaines of Grand Rapids succeeds Julia Taubman, who resigned. Mr. Gaines' term expires September 1, 2014. All other appointments expire September 1, 2016. None of the appointments is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL: Rebecca Parten of Dearborn succeeds Sheila Ashcraft to represent advocates of, and for, individuals with disabilities for a term expiring December 31, 2014. The appointment is not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

TRUCK SAFETY COMMISSION: Sharon Conklin of Comstock Park succeeds Ken Houck to represent private motor carriers and Timothy Yungfer of Bath fills a vacancy to represent the general public. Reappointed are Robert Ramels of Iron Mountain, Walter Heinritzi of Lansing, Daniel Blower of Ypsilanti, Dave Goller of Rockford and Thomas O'Brien of Fremont. The appointments are for terms expiring August 4, 2015, and are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Appointments By The Majority Leader

Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville (R-Monroe) has appointed Jane Ann Allison of Baldwin to the Baldwin Promise Authority for a term expiring September 9, 2017. Her appointment is effective immediately.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, September 18

Civil Service Commission, Conference Room A, Lower Level, Capitol Commons Center, 400 South Pine Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

Tuesday, September 24

Public Service Commission, Hearing Room 1, 4300 West Saginaw Street, Lansing, 11 a.m.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Friday, September 13

Senate Economic Development, (Chr. Kowall, M., 373-5323), St. Luke's New Life Center, 3115 Lawndale Avenue, Flint, 48504, 10 a.m.

- **A discussion of economic development with testimony from: Congressman Dan Kildee, Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright; University of Michigan-Flint, Mott Community College, Kettering University, Hurley Medical Center, Genesys Health System, McLaren Health Systems, Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy, Flint Chamber of Commerce, Genesee Chamber of Commerce, Goodwill, Michigan Economic Development Corporation**

From: Crain's Detroit Business <crainsdetroit@CrainAlerts.com>
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 7:10 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DCH)
Subject: Michigan Morning: Why Super Bowl means business | Joe Louis adds Wi-Fi for fans | Short's now third-largest brewery in Michigan

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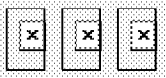

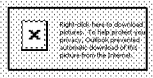

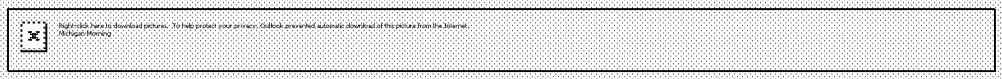

January 30, 2015

Special report: Why the Super Bowl means business

Crain's sports business reporter Bill Shea looks at the ad spending, economic impact, ticket prices through the years, how many footballs a team really uses in a season and more. Oh, and tips for the 43 million hosting a watch party this weekend.

The late Stan Ovshinsky, alternative energy pioneer, named to Inventors Hall of Fame

Called "the Edison of our age," the pioneer in photovoltaics who founded Energy Conversion Devices Inc. in 1960 to explore alternative forms of energy has been named as one of 14 members to the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

What is the state's role in Flint's water fiasco?

Officials say they are working to improve water quality as Flint transitions to a new water system in 2016, but worried residents have pushed the mayor to ask Gov. Rick Snyder for help.

Monitor of Michigan's prison contract with Aramark is out

GRAND RAPIDS PRESS

Short's overtakes New Holland to become Michigan's 3rd largest brewery

Advertisement

Detroit auto show attendance surpasses 808,000 visitors

Score! Joe Louis Arena adds Wi-Fi for fans

The home of the Detroit Red Wings will make available a new wireless Internet capability for fans beginning with Saturday's game against the New York Islanders.

10 things to know about Super Bowl XLIX

GUEST BLOG: CHARLIE WOLLBORG

McClure's Pickles, Detroit Beard Collective part of brand blizzard in Newcastle Brown Ale's non-Super Bowl ad

Super Bowl's economic impact: Ticket prices, player payday — and stadium fast facts

Advertisement

Ally CEO surprised by GM's lease incentives move to GM Financial

MLIVE

12 weeks off, 3-day weeks: Flexible retirement at West Michigan businesses sets trends

Detroit Institute of Arts to restore museum's exterior walls, sculptures

Michigan unemployment rates change little in December

10 things to do this weekend

EVENTS CALENDAR

Info Session: Increase Employee Satisfaction & Lower Turnover

Are you a business owner or manager who hires, coaches and oversees hourly wage employees? At this informational session, Home Instead President and owner Bert Copple will discuss the five basic needs of employees that boost job satisfaction and decrease turnover.

Date: Tuesday, February 3 8:00am - 9:30am

Place: Troy Chamber of Commerce - Classroom A, 2125 Butterfield, Troy

Contact: Jaimi Brook | (248) 641-8151 | theteam@troychamber.com

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From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 12:22 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: HealthPlus in merger talks with HAP | DMC Children's Hospital hires COO | Bills would regulate human breast milk banks

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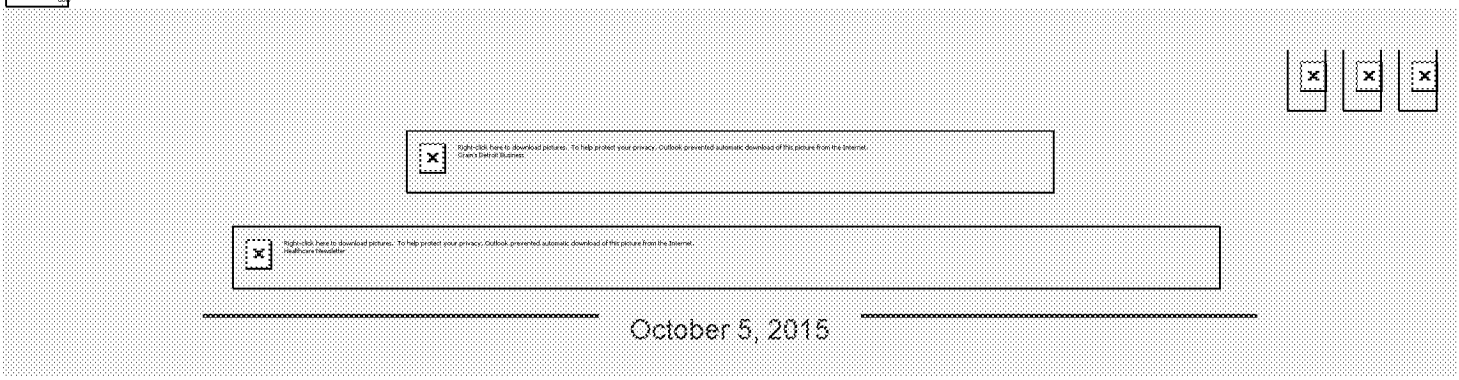

JAY GREENE

HealthPlus negotiating merger with Detroit-based Health Alliance Plan

Financially struggling HealthPlus apparently sees a rosier future as part of Health Alliance Plan, which is a division of Henry Ford Health System.

HealthPlus of Michigan workforce shrinking by nearly half

DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan hires Eric Hess as COO

Hess replaces Theresa Hendricksen, who has served as the chief nursing officer and interim COO since 2014. She retains the nursing officer role.

CAPITOL BRIEFINGS

Taylor lawmaker sponsors bills to regulate human breast milk banks

Legislation would distinguish between nonprofit milk banks, such as those run by hospitals, and for-profit companies, which pay

nursing mothers for their breast milk.

UAW-Ford to host mobile mammogram screenings in Detroit area

The program will take place in five locations and is being conducted in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.Twenty-five appointments will be available each day for women 40 and older.

Advertisement

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Beaumont opens first convenience clinic in Meijer store

Detroit City Council OKs land deal for closed Herman Kiefer health complex

Michigan pledges $1 million for filters, steps to help Flint's water

THE FLINT JOURNAL

Flint groups give away 4,000 filters to residents worried about lead in their water

Bristol-Myers gets early approval of combo cancer treatment

Approval of the first combination of breakthrough drugs that boost the immune system to fight cancer gives Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. an early lead over competitors testing other combos in a pharmaceutical gold rush of sorts.

Advertisement

Coca-Cola to tweak Vitaminwater labels to settle lawsuit

A health advocacy group that filed the suit with private law firms on behalf of consumers in 2009 had noted that the drinks have 33 grams of sugar and negligible amounts of juice.

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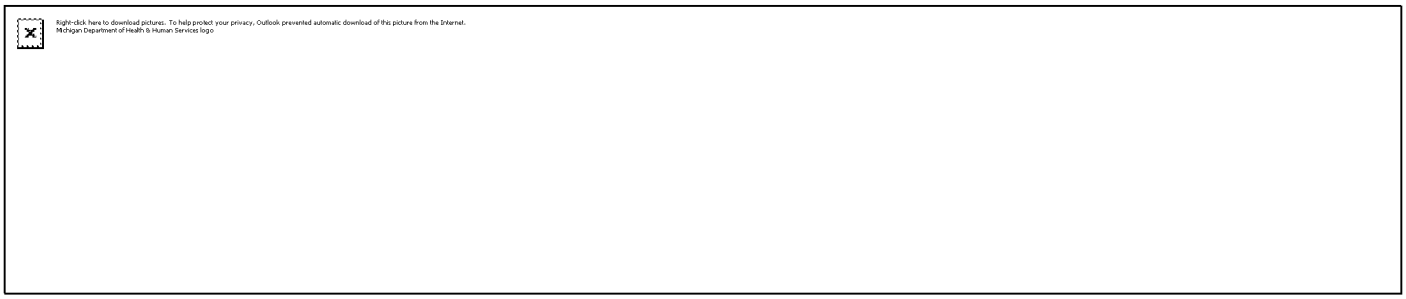
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

LANSING, Mich. – Free water filters will be available to current Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients and Flint residents at four locations beginning Tuesday, October 6, at 9 a.m. through a partnership between the MDHHS and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Free National Sanitation Foundation certified water filters are being provided to Flint residents as part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area.

Current MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location to obtain a free, certified home water filter. Residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices located at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be onsite at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

"Ensuring that families in the Flint area have access to resources that will help reduce the potential for lead exposure is our top priority," said Nick Lyon, director of the MDHHS. "I want to thank our partners who have mobilized to make water filters available – a point that highlights the importance of continued collaboration at the local, state and federal level as we move forward."

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active Family Independence Program (FIP), Food Assistance Program (FAP), Child Development and Care (CDC), State Disability Assistance (SDA), or Social Security Insurance (SSI) recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office to receive their filter free of charge. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their water bill to the GCCARD location.

Although blood lead levels throughout the city of Flint have remained steady, last week, MDHHS data was found to be consistent with a recent Hurley Children's Hospital study indicating increased blood lead levels in children residing in two Flint ZIP codes after a 2014 change in water source. While lead paint remains the number one cause of lead poisoning in Michigan, the recent data prompted MDHHS to take action to reduce potential lead exposures through water sources.

MDHHS is urging parents in Flint and throughout the state to do their part in preventing elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information about steps you can take now, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and available resources, visit www.michigang.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf

Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.

Questions? Contact Us

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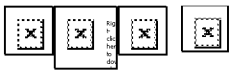

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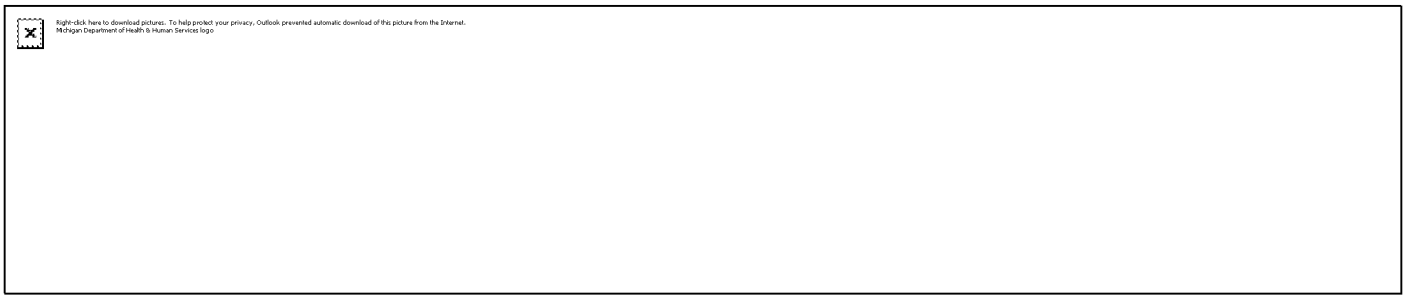
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:51 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: State offering extended, weekend hours for water filter distribution at Lippincott GCCARD



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2015
CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

State offering extended, weekend hours for water filter distribution at Lippincott GCCARD

Nearly 5,000 NSF certified filters issued by MDHHS to Flint residents since Monday

LANSING, Mich. – Flint residents and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients with a city of Flint water bill will now be able to take advantage of extended hours this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department 2727 Lippincott location. Extended hours will be offered at the Lippincott facility only, and will run until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The other three locations will maintain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. operating hours, Monday through Friday, for filter pick up.

Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive, reemphasized that the Brita SAFF-100 filters being distributed by the department and GCCARD do meet the NSF/ANSI 53 standards for drinking water treatment units.

“The Brita faucet filtration system that we are distributing to residents are National Sanitation Foundation certified to reduce lead in drinking water,” said Dr. Eden Wells. “When connected appropriately, these filters improve water quality by filtering out contaminates including lead, chlorine, benzene and other chemicals.”

Since Monday when MDHHS announced that free water filters would be distributed at four Flint locations, the state and GCCARD have partnered to issue approximately 5,000 free NSF certified

water filters to residents that are on the city of Flint water system. The distribution of filters is part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area. These NSF certified water filters remove lead in the water administered through water taps in homes.

MDHHS clients and residents with a city of Flint water bill may take advantage of the extended hours at the Lippincott GCCARD. During the regular business hours, MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location; residents on Flint water who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the GCCARD offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw. Staff will be onsite at all four locations to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their city of Flint water bill to a GCCARD location.

MDHHS is urging all residents do their part to prevent elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information on prevention, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and resources, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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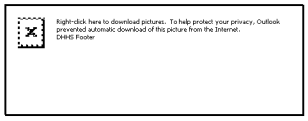
- Flint Extended Hours Press Release 10715.pdf



Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.

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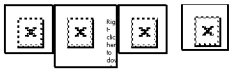

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From: Sheltrown, Lucinda (MDOS)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:42 PM
To: Ackerman, Darin (GOV);Keilen, Alison (GOV);Biehl, Laura (GOV);BILL ZAAGMAN;Bourbonais, Lori (MDOS);Brown, Jessica (GOV);Buehrer, Becky (MDOS);Burke, Felicia (DIFS);CATHY SUNDEEN;Courtney Overbey <COverbey@house.mi.gov>;Durfee, Sally (GOV);EDITH BEST (EBEST@HOUSE.MI.GOV);Fackler, James (MDOS);Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB);GONGWER NEWS 2;GONGWER NEWS 3;GONZALES, B;Heaton, Anna (GOV);HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS 6;JANE VAN ELLS;JEAN HAMELIN;JOHN REURINK (Release@MIRSNEWS.com);JONATHAN OOSTING;Jordyn Bentley;KATHRYN BATESON;KATRINA GRIFFITH;LAURA SORRELL;LAURIE MWAKANANDI;LM Law Library, Law Library (MDE);Law, Kimberly (DHHS);LSB 10;LSB 15;LSB11;LSB14;Malerman, Melissa (MDOS);MARCY JOHNS;MARY ANN CLEARY;MICHIGAN PUBLIC RADIO 21;MIRS 23;Murray, David (GOV);Owens, Felicia (MDOS);Rospond, Laurie (GOV);SENATE ENROLLING 27;Stoken, Laura (GOV);TAMARA WARREN;THERESE BREUNINGER;Williams, Sally (MDOS);Zach Gorchow
Subject: Public Acts
Attachments: Public Acts-2015.xls

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

The attached list has been updated by:

House Bill 4102

If you need any additional information and/or copies, please let know.

Lucinda J. Sheltrown, Dept. Tech/FOIA Coordinator
MDOS/Elections/Office of the Great Seal
Phone: 517-335-2659
FAX: 517-241-1820

From: Ruest, Karla (DHHS)
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2015 12:38 PM
To: Adamczyk, Gene (DHHS);Anderson, Paula (DHHS);Becker, Timothy (DHHS);Bennett, Pam (DHHS);Beurer, Terrence (DHHS);Collins, Joseph (DHHS);Doll, Ryan (DTMB);Doolittle, Christine (DHHS);Dowker, Joann (DHHS);Dye, Carol (DHHS);Elliott-Egan, Lorna (DHHS);Frisch, Erin (DHHS);Frost, Erik (DHHS);Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB);Gillette, Patrice (DHHS);Glenn, Patti (DHHS);Grijalva, Nancy (DHHS);Hanley, Farah (DHHS);Hardiman, Bill (DHHS);Harkins, Cynthia (DHHS);Hawks, Orlene (DTMB);Hertel, Elizabeth (DHHS);Joyce, Shavaughn (DHHS);Kangas, Susan (DHHS);Kimichik, Alan (DHHS);Kosloski, Jessica (DHHS);Krause, Kurt (DHHS);Larner, Trena (DHHS);Lasher, Geralyn (DHHS);Lewis, Philip (DHHS);Lyon, Nick (DHHS);Madden, Angela (DHHS);Meyer, Mark (DHHS);Minicuci, Angela (DHHS);Moran, Susan (DHHS);Noll, Bruce (DHHS);Otis, Genevieve (DHHS);Parker, Karen (DHHS);Pizana, Vita (DHHS);Granger, Patricia (DHHS);Rick, Matthew (DHHS);Ridley, Nancy (DHHS);Scott, Teri (DHHS);Sederburg, Kari (DHHS);Sims, Teri (DHHS);Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS);Spitzley, Maureen (DHHS);Stephen, Kimberly (DHHS);Stiffler, Kathleen A. (DHHS);Titus, Laura (DHHS);Viventi, Carol (DHHS);Vorce, Donna (DHHS);Warner, Kurt (DHHS);Wells, Eden (DHHS);Wheaton, Bob (DHHS);Wieber, Deborah (MCSC);Williams, Brett (DHHS);Wilson, Kristen (DHHS);Yager, Steve (DHHS);Zeller, Lynda (DHHS);Priest, Chris (DHHS)
Cc: Noll, Bruce (DHHS);Madden, Angela (DHHS);Elliott-Egan, Lorna (DHHS);Vorce, Donna (DHHS);Granger, Patricia (DHHS);Grijalva, Nancy (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Legislative Weekly Report
Attachments: weekly_status_report_w-e 10-15-15 (002).docx

Subject: RE: Legislative Weekly Report

Happy Saturday!

Please find attached the Legislative Weekly Report. As always, please review and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great weekend!

Karla Ruest
Director, Legislative Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services
Capitol View Building, 7th floor
201 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48913
(517) 373-1629

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WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

To: Directors

From: Karla Ruest

Subject: Legislative Status

Period Ending: 10/15/15

Senate Activity This Week	NEXT ACTION	Link to Bill Right click, pull down to open hyperlink
SB 334 CHILD ABUSE (Emmons) Allows reporting child abuse or child neglect through an online reporting system and waiving a written report under certain circumstances.	(10/15/15) Received in House (10/15/15) Passed in Senate 37-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0334
SB 374 VENEREAL DISEASES (Hertel) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 37-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0374
SB 375 VENEREAL DISEASES (MacGregor) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 37-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0375
SB 376 VENEREAL DISEASES (Knezek) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 37-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0376
SB 377 VENEREAL DISEASES (Schmidt) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 37-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0377
SB 378 VENEREAL DISEASES (O'Brien) Revises references to venereal disease to	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&o

sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 37-0	bjectname=2015-SB-0378
SB 379 VENEREAL DISEASES (Warren) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 36-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0379
SB 380 VENEREAL DISEASES (Marleau) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 36-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0380
SB 381 VENEREAL DISEASES (Young) Revises references to venereal disease to sexually transmitted infection.	(10/14/15) To House Health Policy (10/14/15) Passed in Senate, 36-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0381
SB 409 METHAMPHETAMINE PRODUCTION (O'Brien) Provides penalties for solicitation to purchase certain ingredients of methamphetamine.	(10/13/15) To House Criminal Justice (10-13-15) Passed in Senate 38-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5mhwb0me1xkv3p5pf0wazc5n))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0409
SB 410 METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURE (Casperson) Sets sentencing guidelines for solicitation to purchase certain ingredients of methamphetamine.	(10/13/15) To House Criminal Justice (10-13-15) Passed in Senate 38-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5mhwb0me1xkv3p5pf0wazc5n))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0410
SB 424 METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURERS (Casperson) Increases penalties for manufacture of methamphetamine near a school or library.	(10/13/15) To House Criminal Justice (10-13-15) Passed in Senate 38-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(z52oxydxlxwtr0ivalr51lde))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0424

House Activity This Week	NEXT ACTION	Link to Bill Right click, pull down to open hyperlink
HB 4481 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Lyons) Prohibits custody or parenting time for certain parents of a child conceived through sexual assault or sexual abuse.	(10/15/15) Passed in House, 101-4, w/IE	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4481
HB 4836 LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE (Lyons) Provides for establishing partnership programs under federal law.	(10/14/15) Passed in House 106-0	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4836
HB 4674 MENTAL HEALTH (Leonard) Modifies	(10/15/15) Advanced to	

assisted outpatient treatment program.	Third Reading	
HB 4767 METH (Kivela) Prohibits attempts to solicit another person to purchase ephedrine or pseudoephedrine for purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine, and provides penalties.	(10/13/15) on House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4767
HB 4768 METH (Kivela) Revises sentencing guidelines to reflect crime of attempting to solicit another person to obtain ephedrine to pseudoephedrine.	(10/13/15) on House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4768
HB 4769 METH (Kivela) Increases penalties for manufacture of methamphetamine near a school or library	(10/13/15) Reported in House Criminal Justice On House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4769
HB 4843 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (Pscholka) Exempts minors from certain possession penalties for seeking medical treatment for drug-use related illness or injury.	(10/14/15) Passed in House, 106-0, w/IE On House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4843

Enrolled Bills This Week	NEXT ACTION	Link to Bill Right click, pull down to open hyperlink
SB 240 POWDERED ALCOHOL (Jones) Prohibits sale, use, or possession of powdered alcohol.	(10/14/15) Ordered Enrolled	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5mhwb0me1xkv3p5pf0wazc5n))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0240

Bills Introduced This Week	Referred to	Link to Bill Right click, pull down to open hyperlink
HB 4968 HEALTH INSURERS (Plawecki) Requires coverage for colorectal exams under certain circumstances.	(10/13/15) To Insurance	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4968
HB 4972 HEALTH OCCUPATIONS (Guerra) Prohibits government interference with physician-patient treatment programs	(10/13/15) To House Health Policy	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4972

HB 4973 CHILD ABUSE OFFENDERS (Roberts, S.) Creates a child abuse offenders registry.	(10/13/15) To Judiciary	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4973
HB 4974 CHILD ABUSE OFFENDERS (Miller, D.) Requires certain persons convicted of child abuse offenses to register under the child abuse offender registry.	(10/13/15) To Judiciary	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4974
HB 4975 CHILD ABUSE OFFENDERS (Guerra) Provides for sentencing guidelines for child abuse offenders registration act violation.	(10/13/15) To Judiciary	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4975
HB 4976 FOSTER CARE (Hovey-Wright) Creates children's assurance of quality foster care policy.	(10/13/15) To Families, Children and Seniors	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4976
HB 4977 FOSTER CHILDREN (Runestad) Creates specific policy for foster children.	10/13/15) To Families, Children and Seniors	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4977
HB 4978 FOSTER CARE (Darany) Requires the Department of Human Services to provide information regarding the foster children's assurance of quality foster care policy to foster children.	(10/13/15) To Families, Children and Seniors	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4978
SB 564 ABORTION COMPENSATION PROHIBITION (Pavlov) Prohibits compensation for the distribution or transfer of any portion of an embryo, fetus, or neonate, including portions obtained as the result of an elective abortion.	(10/15/15) To Oversight Committee	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0564
SB 565 ABORTION COMPENSATION SENTENCING (Pavlov) Enacts sentencing guidelines for the receipt of compensation for the distribution or transfer of embryo, fetus, or neonate, including portions obtained as the result of an elective abortion	(10/15/15) To Oversight Committee	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0564

Signed by Governor	NEXT ACTION	Link to Bill Right click, pull down to open hyperlink
HB 4102 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS (Pscholka) Provides for supplemental	(10/15/15) Signed by	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/

appropriations for the 2015-16 fiscal year. *$9.35 million to help city of Flint water system.*	Governor w/IE Public Act 143'15	mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4102

Last week's Committee Activity	NEXT ACTION	Link to Bill
House Health Policy		
Presentation on Biosimilars. The Pharmacist Association gave a presentation. No votes were taken.		
House Criminal Justice Committee **Not DHHS - Monitoring**		
HB 4767 METH (Kivela) Prohibits attempts to solicit another person to purchase ephedrine or pseudoephedrine for purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine, and provides penalties.	(10/13/15) Reported from Committee. On the House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5mhwb0me1xkv3p5pf0wazc5n))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4767
HB 4768 METH (Kivela) Revises sentencing guidelines to reflect crime of attempting to solicit another person to obtain ephedrine to pseudoephedrine.	(10/13/15) Reported from Committee. On the House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5mhwb0me1xkv3p5pf0wazc5n))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4768
HB 4769 METH (Kivela) Increases penalties for manufacture of methamphetamine near a school or library.	(10/13/15) Reported from Committee. On the House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(5mhwb0me1xkv3p5pf0wazc5n))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-HB-4769
HB 4864 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Kivela) Provides for 5-year stop-sale alert after conviction of attempted "smurfing."	(10/13/15) Reported from Committee. On the House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ce3u2fyz4zrw4mtylxrcciil))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4864
House Judiciary Committee	**Next Action**	**Link to Bill**
HB 4793 Mental Health (Lucido). Bill would require confidentiality of filing petitions for involuntary hospitalization.	(10/13/15) Reported from Committee. On the House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4793

House Families, Children and Seniors Committee	**Next Action**	**Link to Bill**
HB 4022 Foster Care (Kosowski) Bill would create foster child Identification theft protection act.	(10-14-15) Reported from Committee. On the House Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-HB-4022

House Appropriations - Subcommittee	Next Action	Link to Bill
Met to discuss the Home Help Audit. Farah Hanley testified.		

Senate Judiciary Committee	Next Action	Link to Bill
Did not have any DHHS bills up.		

Senate Finance Committee	Next Action	Link to Bill
SB 543 (MacGregor) Bill would create income tax check off for Fostering Futures Scholarship Trust Fund**.**	((10/15/15) Bill was reported from Committee. Now on Senate Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0543

Senate Health Policy	Next Action	Link to Bill
Did not meet this week.		

Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee	Next Action	Link to Bill
SB 529 (Emmons) Bill to modify to include a successor guardian provision.	(10/14/15)) Bill was reported from Committee. Now on Senate Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0529
SB 530 (Emmons) Bill to modify and add the definition of sibling.	(10/14/15)) Bill was reported from Committee. Now on Senate Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0530
SB 503 (Emmons) Bill would modify the Michigan Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA).	(10/14/15)) Bill was reported from Committee. Now on Senate Floor for consideration.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0503
SB 517 (MacGregor) This bill would repeal and recreate the uniform family support act (UIFSA)	Testimony only	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2015-SB-0517
SB 518 (MacGregor) Update the Uniform	Testimony only	http://www.legislature.mi.go

Interstate Family Support Act. (UIFSA)		v/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0518
SB 519 (Emmons) Updates child support in the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)	Testimony only.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0519
SB 520 (Emmons) Updates parenting time in the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)	Testimony only.	http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(alo2xygnk415ttdqmkyp0xdy))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2015-SB-0520

Senate Appropriations Committee	Next Action	Link to Bill
Committee met for discussion regarding boilerplate report benchmarks of new programs funded at $500,000 or more in the FY'15 budget. Kari Sederburg presented on Making Michigan a No-Wait State for Senior Home-Delivered Meals and In-Home Services. Steve Yager presented on The Child Welfare Performance Based Funding.	None	

Committees Scheduled for next week (10/19/15)
House Health Policy Tuesday 9 am.
HB 4437 **(Rep. Yonker)** Health; pharmaceuticals; FDA-designated interchangeable biological drug products; allow substitution for brand-name drugs by pharmacists.
House Criminal Justice Tuesday 9 am
NO DHHS
House Judiciary Committee Tuesday 10:30 am
NO DHHS

House Appropriations: Health & Human Services Tuesday 10:30 am
NOT POSTED YET
House Families, Children & Seniors
Nothing Posted Yet.
Senate Health Policy Committee Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.
SB 444 (Stamas) Prohibit disclosure of confidential communications, and provide immunity from liability for critical incident stress management services for emergency service providers. DHH has not taken a position, however sees no problem with the bill.
SB 502 (Marleau) Modify exemption to exempt certain payments from drug companies to a consumer or a person acting on the consumer's behalf. DHHS has not taken a position on this bill. (Medicaid would not allow anyway.)
Senate Judiciary Committee
NO DHHS

From: Bright Ideas <Bright_Ideas@mail.vresp.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 10:06 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Bright Ideas: PSC turns 36 and more in our October issue

If you have trouble reading this email, go to http://www.pscbrightideas.com

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OCTOBER 2015

FEATURES

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PSC turns 36!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

President Peter Pratt, the firm's longest-serving employee, reflects on what it's like to work for PSC.

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Upcoming conference will focus on college affordability and value

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Michigan families know education is key to success, but college tuition is getting more and more expensive. At the College Value and Affordability Summit, a wide variety of experts -- university presidents, legislators, and more -- will convene to help tackle this issue.

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Voters, experts agree: It's time for an independent redistricting commission

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Is it time for an independent redistricting commission? PSC vice president Jeff Guilfoyle explains what a nonpartisan/bipartisan alternative to a state legislature drawing voting lines could mean for Michigan.

Talent in Michigan: Setting an ambitious agenda

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Talent retention, recruitment and development are key to a healthy workforce. On Oct. 29, Public Sector Consultants will bring together experts in these areas to discuss how Michigan can better diversify, grow and strengthen its labor pool.

Region 9 Prosperity Summit...setting the course for the future!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Come hear from leaders of successful regional economic partnerships at the Region 9 Prosperity Summit on Nov. 16.

View All Features

IN THE GEARS

In the Gears: PSC's evaluation skills inform decision-makers

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015

Effective policy does not end with implementation; programs, initiatives and policies must be continuously evaluated to make sure they are reaching their milestones and goals. How does PSC work with clients to design and conduct evaluation?

View All In The Gears

NEWS

- Unlike Courser, Gamrat, courts get 1st crack at 2 Dems

  Source: The Detroit News

- Challenges to upward mobility solutions summit

- Will the Legislature finally take action on the roads?

  Source: Michigan Radio

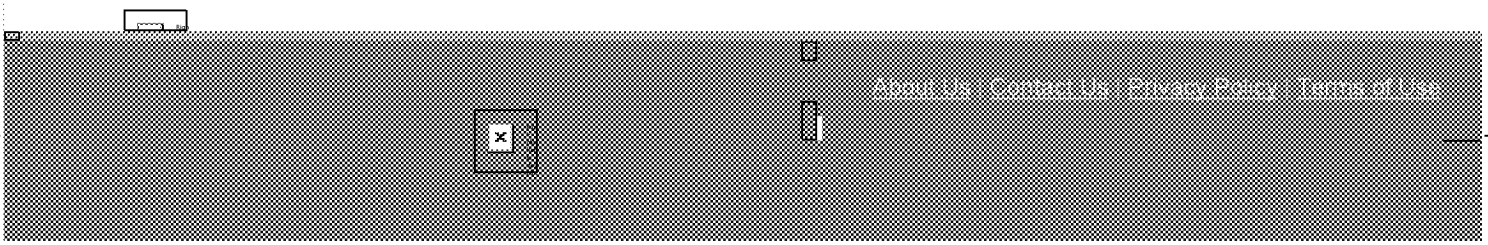
- Is the fallout from Flint's water crisis just beginning?

  Source: Michigan Radio

Source: Bridge Magazine

- Septic tanks flush water quality down the tubes

Source: Great Lakes Echo



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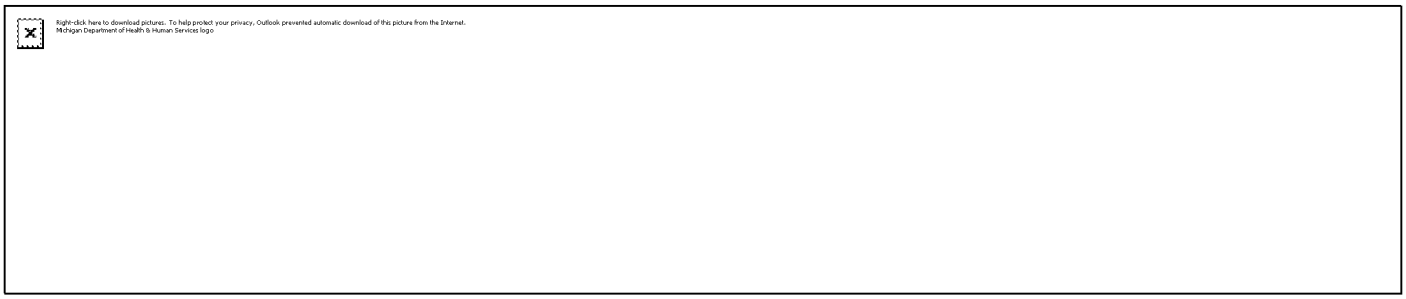
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint

Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

LANSING, Mich. – Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the state's action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

"Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education efforts."

Information comes from tests administered citywide to 1,361 children and adults since October 1. Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and 9 of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report covers test results reported to MDHHS since the state action plan was put in place Oct.

2. It includes the number of tests and number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests that have been reported to MDHHS since the beginning of October. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Five micrograms per deciliter is the level that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers elevated and triggers health care professional follow up with families.

The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available.

When reviewing historical trend data, the risk of lead exposure is highest during the third quarter of each year – July through September. Seasonal variation is the result of a number of factors including increased exposure to lead in dust and soil in the summer months.

In the third quarter of 2010, 8.3 percent of Flint children 6 and under showed elevated blood lead levels. The figure gradually decreased to 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013. During the same months in 2014, the figure increased to 7.5 percent and decreased to 6.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letters to Flint parents regarding lead testing. The state is providing funding for GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected. During these follow-up visits, nurses coordinate with environmental health investigators to meet with families in their homes to identify lead exposures, address questions and provide water filters. People can be exposed to lead from paint, soil, plumbing and other sources.

MDHHS continues to provide free water filters and replacement cartridges to Flint residents at four locations, including the MDHHS Flint offices and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

- Flint Blood Lead Level Summary Report December.pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release.pdf

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From: Public Sector Consultants Inc. <donna@www-pscinc.ccsend.com> on behalf of Public Sector Consultants Inc. <psc@pscinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Poll: Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

PRESS RELEASE
December 9, 2015

For Immediate Release
Contact: Selma Tucker
Director of Marketing & Communications
(517) 484-4954, stucker@pscinc.com
Public Sector Consultants Inc.

Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

LANSING, Mich. -- In the wake of the Flint water crisis, how concerned are voters about the safety of the water in their home? Enough to agree with each other, according to the latest Michigan's Pulse poll, a partnership of Public Sector Consultants and Michigan Radio.

From November 3 to November 5, 2015, Denno Research surveyed 600 likely voters on a range of topics, including water quality, concealed pistols, prison reform and autonomous vehicles. Beyond increased attention to urban water quality, these highly politicized topics yielded little agreement, with stark differences by political affiliation, race and age.

Water Safety

Ninety-one percent of respondents agree that the State of Michigan should examine the water systems in densely populated areas for signs of failing infrastructure. The vast majority (84 percent) also feel that water should be tested in Michigan's K-12 school buildings at least once a year.

About half of respondents (46 percent) are concerned about the safety of their water, but there are clear differences by subgroups:

- African-American voters (71 percent) are more concerned than white voters (40 percent).
- Democrats (52 percent) are more concerned than Republicans (36 percent).
- Wayne County respondents (61 percent) have higher concerns than those in other parts of the state, with 81 percent of voters in Detroit expressing concern about the safety of their water.

Concealed Pistols and Prison Reform

With the recent coverage of high-profile shootings on college and K-12 school campuses, allowing concealed pistols in these places has become a major topic for the upcoming presidential election. Under state law, those licensed to carry concealed pistols still cannot carry their weapons at schools; at day care centers, sports arenas or stadiums; at entertainment facilities that seat 2,500 or more; at bars, churches, hospitals, casinos and dormitories or classrooms of colleges or universities.

About half of voters (46 percent) support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, while (49 percent) oppose that.

- Of the Republicans polled, 65 percent support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, compared to Democrats, at 33 percent.

Less than half of respondents (40 percent) support lifting the ban in day care centers, K-12 schools and college dormitories and classrooms, with a little over half (55 percent) opposed.

- Almost half of all men polled (47 percent) and almost two-thirds of Republicans polled (62 percent) support lifting the ban; while women (34 percent), Democrats (27 percent) and Independents (34 percent) oppose doing so.

Slightly more than half of Michigan voters (53 percent) support presumptive parole, legislation recently passed by the Michigan House that automatically paroles low-risk felons after they serve their minimum sentence.

- African-Americans (74 percent) and Democrats (67 percent) are more supportive than whites (49 percent) and Republicans (40 percent).

Finally, we asked voters if they think offenders who were convicted of violent crimes under the age of 18 should be eligible for parole. The jury is clearly still out on this issue, with opinion split between yes (41 percent) and no (39 percent), with nearly a quarter (20 percent) saying they don't know or are unsure.

Robot Cars

Autonomous vehicles are currently being developed in Michigan, and some (like the Google Self-Driving Car) are already being road tested in other states. We wondered if people were comfortable with the idea of robots driving cars on Michigan's roads, and more to the point, if people thought they would make our roads safer.

- A solid majority (68 percent) are not comfortable with the idea of having driverless cars on Michigan's roads, with half (51 percent) saying they were very uncomfortable.
- A little more than half of voters (56 percent) feel that driverless cars would be more dangerous than the humans currently driving on Michigan's roads.

Despite this opposition, voters accept that this will be how people get around in the near future. Most respondents (57 percent) think that driverless cars will be common in Michigan sometime in the next five to 20 years. That buys humanity at least a few years to figure out how to prevent the cyborg invasion that is sure to follow.

Legislative Reform

In a previous PSC poll after the failure of Proposal 1, road funding was identified as a critical priority, with voters saying the legislature should work over the summer to resolve the issue. While the poll did not specifically address the merits of the $1.2 billion package recently signed by Gov.

Rick Snyder, voters clearly do not approve of the way this issue was handled, with the vast majority rating the legislature as bad (21 percent) or terrible (58 percent).

We followed this question with a couple of options on how to improve the effectiveness of the Michigan Legislature. All of the ideas appear to have similar appeal, which seems to indicate that voters are ready for a change -- even if they don't know exactly what the change should look like:

- Stricter campaign finance and/or ethics laws (25 percent)
- Switch to a part-time legislature (21 percent)
- Do nothing because legislators can always be voted out of office if they are doing a poor job (21 percent)
- Change the length of term limits by allowing members to serve up to 12 years in either chamber (18 percent)
- Don't know/unsure (15 percent)

Goodbye Halloween

On the heels of the Halloween season, we wondered what had scared voters the most so far in 2015. While a quarter (25 percent) were not willing to express their fears out loud, those that did were scared most by the presidential debates (42 percent), followed by the Detroit Lions (22 percent).

About the Survey

Michigan Radio, an NPR News Station and the state's most listened-to public radio service, and Public Sector Consultants (PSC), the state's premier nonpartisan think tank, are partnering on a yearlong initiative studying Michiganders' attitudes toward policy issues affecting their lives in a series called Michigan's Pulse. Michigan's Pulse will release quarterly in weeklong segments on Michigan Radio's Stateside with Cynthia Canty with in-depth analysis by PSC researchers and other thought leaders.

The Michigan Radio/PSC survey of the Michigan electorate was conducted by Lansing-based Denno Research. Six-hundred respondents, 450 by landline and 150 by cell phone, in the state of Michigan were surveyed from November 3 to 5, 2015, with a margin of error of plus/minus 4 percent. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they would vote, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2016 general election.

Full survey results are available here.

Public Sector Consultants is Michigan's most respected, connected, and dedicated research and program management firm, with specialties in governance and regulation, health care, education, energy, and environmental policy. PSC is committed to providing objective research and sound solutions to the public and private sector.

Michigan Radio is an NPR News Station, and the state's most listened-to public radio service, attracting more than 500,000 listeners each week across Michigan. Licensed to the University of Michigan, Michigan Radio broadcasts at 91.7 FM in southeastern Michigan, 91.1 FM in Flint, and 104.1 in western Michigan, and is available online at michiganradio.org.

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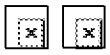

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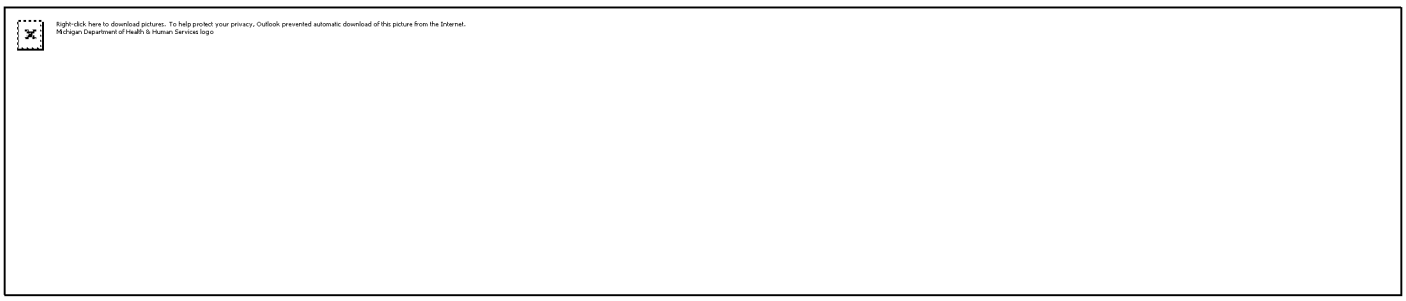
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its newest summary report on lead testing in Flint. According to preliminary data, 39 of 1,836 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"As testing continues, our focus remains on helping families reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We are working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to provide information and offer tools in the community, and encourage families to explore the resources that are available to them."

Both capillary and venous blood tests are included in the report, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS is working closely with local partners to offer resources and distribute important lead testing and prevention information. Additional state funding has allowed for Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. These families can also choose to have the nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other

sources.

To support these efforts, the state is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities on enhanced screening and testing. In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS has recommended blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are still available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint EBL Data Press Release Dec 11.pdf
- Flint Blood Testing Report December 11.pdf

Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.

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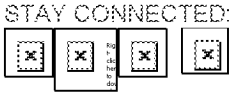

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From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2015

CONTACT: Angela Minicuci, 517-241-2112

Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its bi-weekly summary report on lead testing in Flint. Preliminary data indicate that 43 of 2,182 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"In partnership with the Genesee County Health Department, we are working to engage and provide resources to residents to reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Case management and home lead analysis are available for families in which an elevated blood lead level has been detected."

The first MDHHS summary report on blood lead levels in Flint was issued Dec. 3, 2015. Updated reports are posted on a bi-weekly basis on the www.michigan.gov/flintwater website. After refining our methods to identify age, some people are now counted in a different age group than on previous reports. The total counts for each year have not changed.

The report includes both capillary and venous blood tests, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms

per deciliter.

MDHHS, together with the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), is working with local partners to distribute educational information around lead testing and prevention. Supplemental state dollars are funding GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected.

Families with an elevated blood lead level can also choose to have a nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to help identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources. Families with questions about their blood lead levels or test results are also encouraged to contact their primary care physician or local health department.

In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities to recommend blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Blood Testing Report 23Dec15 .pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release 122315.pdf

Become a foster parent through Michigan Department of Health & Human Services foster care program.

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From: Crain's Michigan Morning <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2015 7:11 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Fox Theatre marquee gets face-lift | Many hands give Joe Louis 'Fist' a cleanup | Traverse City can't find enough workers

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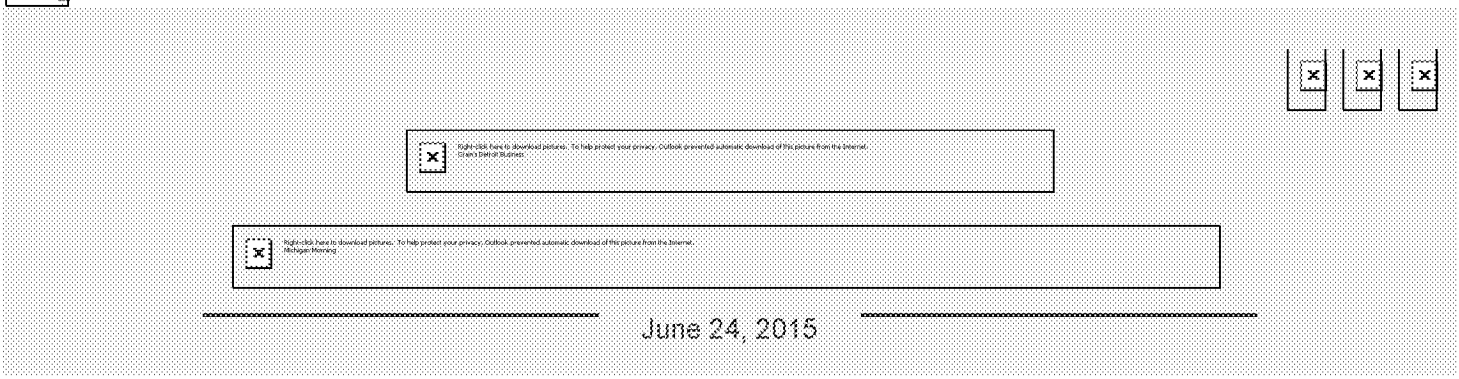
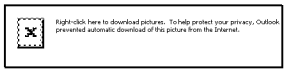


Fox Theatre marquee gets a face-lift, thousands of new lights

Olympia Entertainment plans to revitalize the 1988 marquee on the historic Fox Theatre, installing 5,000 feet of new neon and more than 1,000 LED lighting components.



Workers to clean up, repair Joe Louis 'Fist' sculpture

The Detroit Institute of Arts and others will be on hand today to do conservation work on the 24-foot-high "Monument to Joe Louis" in downtown Detroit, a sculpture better known as "The Fist."

Jimmy John's buys naming rights to new Utica baseball stadium

The $12 million independent minor league baseball stadium that breaks ground Tuesday in Utica will be called Jimmy John's Field, and the new three-team league playing there will be known as the United Shore Professional Baseball League.

ZF Friedrichshafen to invest $71 million, add 571 jobs in Northville tech center expansion

THE DETROIT NEWS

Traverse City can't find enough workers to fill jobs

Advertisement

Knight Foundation commits $1.5 million to Motor City Match

Fifth Third Bancorp to close 100 branches

Pistons sign corporate sponsorship deal with fantasy sports site FanDuel

Detroit's three-year deal includes the naming rights to the Club 300 lounge inside the Palace of Auburn Hills, and FanDuel will be the presenting sponsor for “FanDuel Fridays” theme night for Friday home games next season, the team said.

EPA rejects environmental group's challenge to U.P. mine

Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge getting colorful lighting upgrade

Advertisement

MLIVE.COM

Grand Rapids mayor honored for program that employs young people

Free fitness park to open today along Dequindre Cut

Northville Park Place adds fitness, vision care centers ahead of grand opening

Judge won't order Flint to resume drawing water from Detroit system

Customer satisfaction with U.S. goods, services continues long slide

John Hertel elected chairman of Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority board

GUEST BLOG: MARK S. LEE

Staebler's dual roles help faciliate closer Wayne State, Techtown relationship

Ned Staeble shares his thoughts on TechTown's vision, its focus on neighborhood revitalization and its role with local police in focusing on public safety.

Angle Advisors hires Tom Gordy as managing director

Flagstar names Leonard Israel president of mortgage operations

Marygrove names former New Hampshire college president as interim president

What made headlines 30 years ago today in Detroit

Ford-Cottage hospital merger needs board OK | Developers snap up potential loft sites downtown

EVENTS CALENDAR

Social Media Day Detroit #SMDayDet

Join the Social Media Association of Michigan on Friday, June 26 for Mashable's 6th Annual Social Media Day!The event will begin with a VIP reception that will include a fireside chat on the topic of "Technology's Role in a Resurging City." Guests of Honor:David Anderson, co-founder at Bamboo DetroitJake Cohen, managing partner at Detroit Venture PartnersEdi Demaj, co-founder at Rocket FiberMichael Evans, senior developer at Loveland TechnologiesJill Ford, head of innovation and entrepreneurship at the City of DetroitThe public event will follow, with classic Motown music blended with modern techno beats and an interactive technology-focused experience.REGISTER: www.bit.ly/SMDayDet

Date: Friday, June 26 5:30pm - 10:00pm

Place: MotorCity Casino Hotel, 2901 Grand River Ave, Detroit

Contact: Lisa Gibala-Warren | (586) 383-1465 | smamiorg@gmail.com

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From: Crain's Afternoon Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 3:34 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Fast 50: Companies that put 'rev' in revenue | Detroit shows off for visiting meeting planners | Wayne State listed among safest campuses in America - but is it true?

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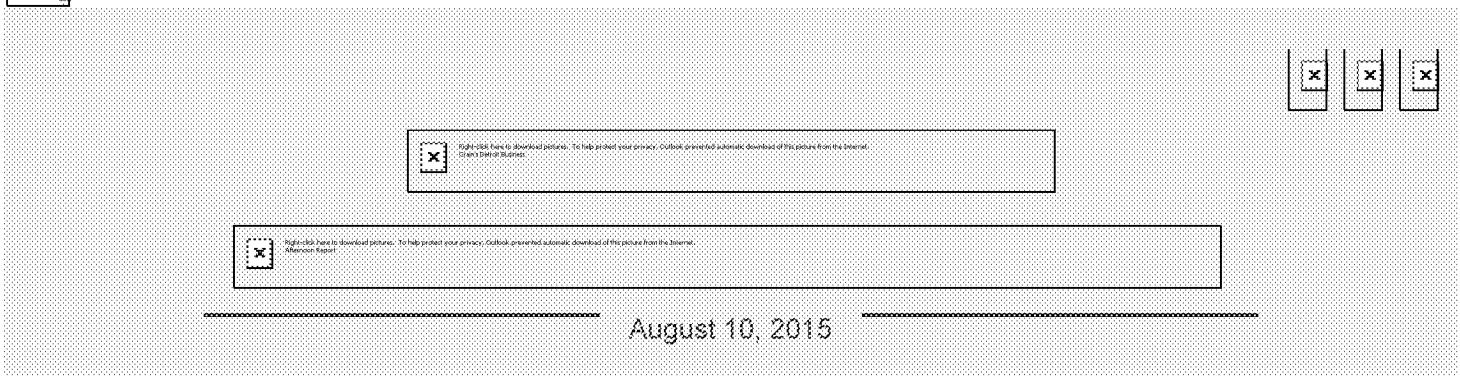

50 fastest-growing companies in metro Detroit

This special report highlights the companies that put the "rev" in revenue, reflecting an economy that's well into recovery.

SHERRI WELCH

Detroit shows off its best for visiting meeting planners

Led by the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, the city is pulling out all the stops to make sure the 5,300 meeting planners and exhibitors in town for the "Super Bowl of conferences" through Tuesday take home memorable experiences from Motown.

Sleeping Bear Dunes area partially reopens; officials review emergency declaration requests

The region was hard hit during the Aug. 2 storms, in which hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses lost power

statewide.

Thailand automotive subsidiary to expand in Howell, add 30 jobs

KIRK PINHO

Wayne State listed among safest campuses in America — but is it true?

Bestcolleges.com said Wayne State reported zero crimes over five years, but WSU officials acknowledge that's not true and credit officers and public safety collaborations for keeping crime low.

Advertisement

Michigan to reduce Big House capacity by 2,300 seats

To comply with federal law for disability access, Michigan Stadium will now seat 2,300 fewer fans for football games and nonfootball events, the University of Michigan's athletic department said.

Nike, Restoration Hardware rumors fuel buzz about Woodward corridor

The retail landscape is changing along Woodward Avenue downtown with a mix of new small businesses and some pending deals with big-name destination stores.

MARY KRAMER ON WJR

More med school grads means more competition | Auburn Hills a magnet for office deals

Midseason trade winds blow away value of player jerseys

Downriver group aims to improve communities, create jobs

Mustang's roar can be as rowdy as you want with help from Roush app

Eastern Michigan, professors reach tentative 4-year contract

AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

Hot pace, fresh products point to near-record year for auto industry

Get your grub on by using app for restaurants

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From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 11:26 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Henry Ford unveils plan for $110M outpatient cancer center | Schlichting: Network, develop connections | Grant boosts research into infants with serious infections

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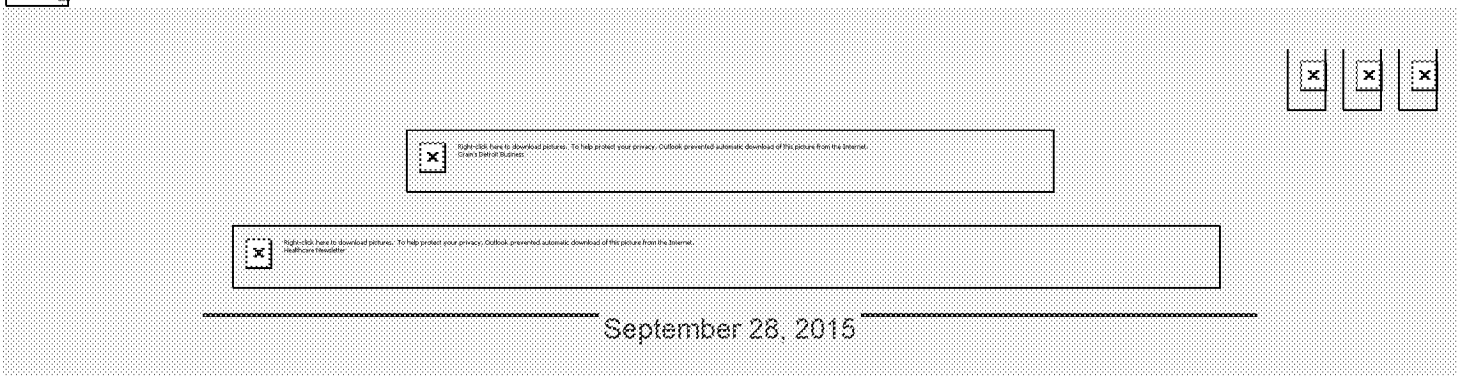
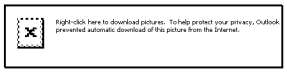


Henry Ford unveils plan for $110 million outpatient cancer center

The project is the second development so far for the 300-acre parcel known as Henry Ford's South Campus, and part of a long-term plan for a $1 billion community health park.



Nancy Schlichting: Network, develop connections, maintain them

Nancy Schlichting will retire as CEO of Henry Ford Health System in December 2016 after 13 years in the job, but she'll continue to leverage a broad and deep network of connections built over three and a half decades.

$5.76 million grant to Wayne State, others

boosts research into infants with serious infections

Prashant Mahajan, M.D., of WSU and Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit will collaborate on developing a system that leads to diagnoses in a couple of hours instead of up to two days.

Former Detroit Receiving Hospital CEO, DMC executive Edward Thomas dies at 80

GRAND RAPIDS BUSINESS JOURNAL

Schools in western Michigan partner on rehab clinic

The facility also will provide support for older adults experiencing physical or cognitive changes.

Advertisement

Hospitals issue debt at the fastest pace since 2012

Nonprofit hospital bonds are being issued at the fastest pace since at least 2012 as earlier concerns over the Affordable Care Act's implementation have largely abated.

MLIVE

Van Andel Institute surprised with $3 million gift

Officials were taken by surprise by a donation from a Grand Rapids man who had no connection to the institute.

Doctors urge Flint to stop using water from Flint River

There is no dispute that water drawn from the Flint River since 2014 is agitating and releasing lead in old pipes and service lines in thousands of homes. State regulators insist the water is safe, although they're urging anyone with concerns to have their water tested for free.

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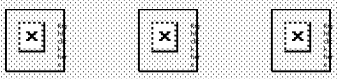

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From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Study: C-section rates too high; some metro Detroit hospitals improve | HealthPlus aims to merge with HAP

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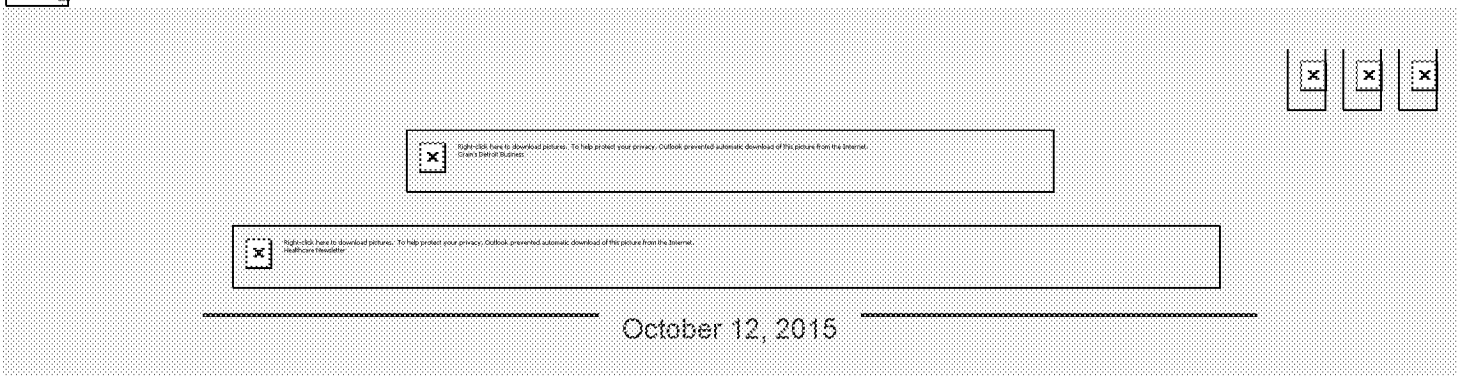

Study: C-section rates too high in Michigan, posing risks to moms, babies

The state scored 21st in the nation in average cesarean rates with 27 percent, compared with the target rate of 23.9 percent, The Leapfrog Group said.

JAY GREENE

Beaumont among Detroit-area hospitals working to improve C-section rates

The Royal Oak hospital is bucking the national trend of increasing C-sections by cutting its rate by one-third in only six months, an effort that surprised even one of the hospital's top obstetricians.

HealthPlus negotiating merger with Detroit-based Health Alliance Plan

State of Michigan under mounting scrutiny for Flint's water

crisis

What was supposed to be a cost-cutting move for a 99,000-resident city in financial crisis turned into a health emergency and could end up costing state government at least $10.6 million.

Health care prices in metro Detroit vary widely, mirroring national trends, study finds

Advertisement

PETOSKEY NEWS-REVIEW

Charlevoix hospital to fully integrate with Munson Healthcare

MIBIZ

Mercy Health expects high interest in contractor bidding for renovation project

Crain's summit to address cost, quality of health care

Experts will address the overall challenge of creating transparency in the cost and quality of health care during the Crain's Health Care Summit on Oct. 28. Keynote speaker for the event will be Leah Binder, CEO of The Leapfrog Group.

MIBIZ

Spectrum, Saint Mary's look to launch own medical residency programs

'You can't pay people to change health habits': Workers often opt out of employer wellness programs

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UAW workers at Blue Cross approve master labor agreement on second go-around

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From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:51 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Henry Ford, Sparrow could lose in Medicaid contracts changes | Push is on for more transparency | Paramedics work to keep patients at home

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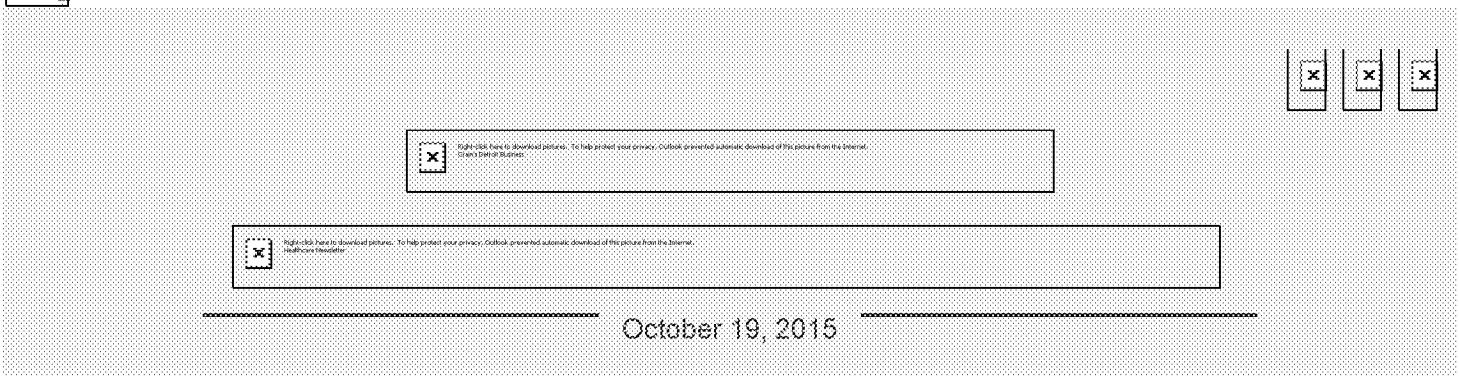

Michigan's new Medicaid regions could be costly for Henry Ford Health System

The financial impact from the potential loss of Medicaid contract business in the state could also hit Lansing-based Sparrow Health System.

SPECIAL REPORT: HEALTH CARE

Employers and consumers lead push for better data on price and quality in health care industry

Drive for an all-claims payer database is an uphill battle

The national movement to increase health care price and quality transparency has been an uphill battle for Sen. Jim Marleau, R-Lake Orion, a former small-business owner who chairs the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Leapfrog CEO: Transparency's the Rx for better health care

As head of Leapfrog, a Washington, D.C.-based, employer-formed watchdog organization that promotes health care transparency, Leah Binder believes individuals and employers deserve to know which providers offer high value before they receive hospital or physician care.

Report: Current Michigan databases could play role in health care cost transparency

There are five main organizations in the state, excluding individual hospitals and insurers, that collect price and quality data.

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JAY GREENE

DCCC plans for retirement of 'guiding light'

After 18 years at Southeast Michigan's newest federally qualified health center, Irva Faber-Bermudez, CEO of Detroit Central City Community Mental Health Inc., has decided to step down this December.

New paramedics programs work to keep patients at home

The practice, known as community paramedicine, is expanding in Southeast Michigan as more ambulance companies join Southfield-based Community EMS in helping hospitals reduce readmissions and unnecessary emergency department visits.

Wayne State medical school probation lifted, but program placed on 'warning' status

Jack Sobel, M.D., dean of Wayne State's medical school, testified about the 12 accreditation violations in an appeal hearing Tuesday.

EMU's orthotics, prosthetics program gets new home in historic building

The program moved into the newly updated Rackham Hall, joining the Ypsilanti school's programs for exercise science, nursing, occupational therapy, nutrition services, physician assistant and social work.

Concerto opening additional clinics for Medicare-Medicaid patients in Detroit

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JAY GREENE

Millennials' online shopping habits are changing health care marketing

A new survey shows parents ages 18-35 are using the Internet to shop for a pediatric hospital before they discuss it with their pediatrician. As a result, hospitals are changing how they market to a younger generation.

MICHIGAN RADIO

State DEQ admits not following protocol to keep lead out of Flint water

Michigan bills would ban second-term abortion procedure

Bigger bite coming for health law penalty on uninsured

Certificate of Need filings from metro Detroit hospitals

The following are selected certificate of need filings from Sept. 17 to Oct. 14.

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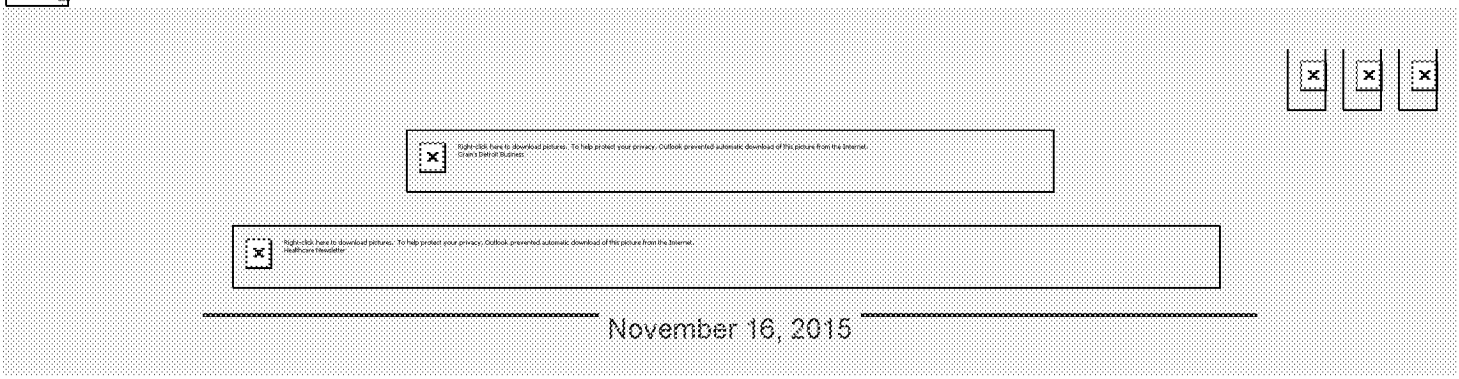
From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 1:39 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Allegiance, Henry Ford say merger is right fit | Outpatient centers are on the grow | Marijuana dispensaries fear being zoned out

Having trouble viewing this email? See the online version.



Allegiance, Henry Ford say merger right fit

Last week, Allegiance signed a letter of intent to become Henry Ford's sixth — and most distant — hospital.

Outpatient facilities on the grow; better technology, new payment models are the drivers

New ways of getting paid have outpatient centers on a building kick.

Marijuana dispensaries worry about future as Detroit ponders zoning changes

In addition to safety, regulatory issues and public attitudes, owners of the more than 150 medical marijuana dispensaries in Detroit now also are worried about a proposed city zoning law that might impair their businesses.

JAY GREENE

State committee rejects 5 of 6 Medicaid health plan appeals

Molina Healthcare of Michigan is the only HMO to win its appeal of Michigan's Medicaid contract rebid decisions that were made last month; HAP is expected to lose half its membership after ruling.

Mergers add up to fewer health care systems in Michigan

Since 2011, when *Crain's* published its first statewide hospitals list, the total number of independent health systems has dipped to 15 from 20.

Advertisement

Convenience, access, revenue spark retail clinic growth

Competition for urgent care and convenience care business has accelerated the past five years between physicians and hospitals and as retail pharmacies and discount stores enter the growing market. For example, Trinity Health has signed a national agreement with Walgreen to staff retail clinics in Michigan and other states, said Rob Casalou, CEO of St. Joseph Mercy.

Payment incentives move care to outpatient settings

To manage patient populations under managed care, a range of locations and various types of outpatient centers are necessary, said Maria Abrahamsen, a health care lawyer at Dykema Gossett PLLC in Bloomfield Hills.

Urgent care, health centers growing as lower-cost option to ERs

Number of registered medical marijuana patients in Michigan grows in past three years

Currently, the state logs 178,629 active, registered medical marijuana patients. Crain's

reported that there were about 160,000 in 2012.

Proposed Detroit marijuana dispensary zoning rules

Medical marijuana bills

The state Senate is considering a series of bills that would regulate medical marijuana production and sale in Michigan.

JAY GREENE

DCCC board adds clients as members

Two of the more interesting trustees on the board of Detroit Central City Community Mental Health Inc. are also patients of the agency.

Mylan's $26 billion hostile bid for West Michigan drugmaker Perrigo fails

Class-action suit filed against Gov. Snyder claims damages resulting from lead in Flint's water

FDA approves AstraZeneca drug for advanced lung cancer

Rite Aid adds prescription analysis to genetic test lineup

Rite Aid is giving patients a chance to peek over their doctor's shoulder with genetic tests that help determine the effectiveness of some prescriptions.

FDA orders recall of machine used to clean medical scopes

Metro Detroit hospitals continue growing: Certificate of need report

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From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: DMC to cut, redeploy jobs | WSU med school to restructure | Crittenton to care for OU sports teams

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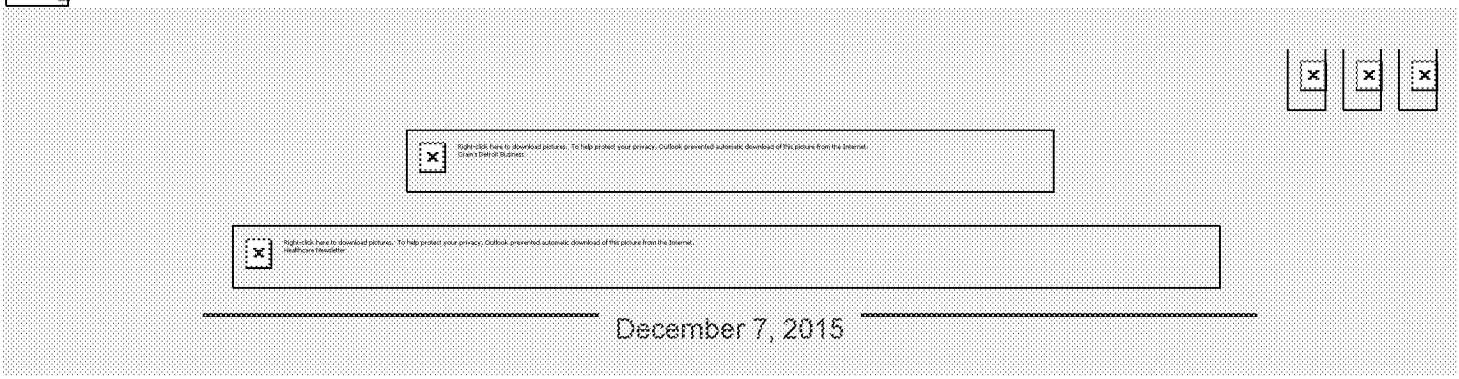
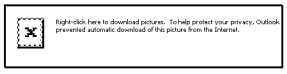


Detroit Medical Center announces layoffs, job redeployments

Detroit Medical Center is moving quickly to reduce its workforce by about 1 percent to generate efficiencies. Officials say the for-profit hospital is not in financial trouble.



Wayne State medical school, affiliates face cuts, restructuring to deal with $29 million loss

"We have a critical and serious problem," Dean Jack Sobel said.

WSU med school's financial troubles delay construction on Midtown building

Blue Cross to trim $300 million by 2018

The plan could lead to an unspecified reduction in employees and contractors, according to records obtained by *Crain's*.

Hospice of Michigan, Arbor Hospice announce affiliation agreement

Advertisement

JAY GREENE

Kaiser strikes deal in Seattle; is Detroit's Henry Ford next?

Kaiser is expected to spend $1.8 billion to acquire Group Health Cooperative in an aggressive move to expand nationally. Word is Henry Ford and Kaiser are dancing. Will they also settle down?

Crittenton Hospital, Oakland University strike health provider sports deal

Crittenton's medical team will support the 18 teams at OU for the next five years.

Oakwood Group subsidiary wins up to $1 million to prevent football injuries

Sparrow PHP sells 21,000 Medicaid members to Blue Cross Complete

Dearborn museum opens exhibit about St. Jude hospital, Danny Thomas

JAY GREENE

Study: Opioid uncoordinated use increasing in Michigan

Painkiller addition is reaching epidemic-like proportions nationally, and Michigan is getting its share, according to a new study by the Ann Arbor-based Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation.

MICHIGAN RADIO

Flint tap water 'still not safe' says Virginia Tech researcher

MODERN HEALTHCARE

Nurses take on more tasks, still lack in diversity, national report says

FDA OKs first generic version of Gleevec leukemia pill

Gleevec currently has a U.S. list price of about $10,000 per month for the more-common 400-milligram daily dosage.

OTHER VOICES: DR. JACK SOBEL

Wayne State medical school will meet challenges

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

Letter: Support medical marijuana safeguards for state

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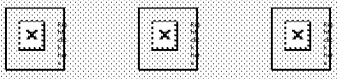

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From: Crain's Health Care Report <crainsdetroit@crainalerts.com>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:18 AM
To: Gardner, Kimberly (DTMB)
Subject: Meridian Health Plan COO a Crain's Newsmaker | St. John Providence hospitals outsource CRNA services | Smartphone health risks

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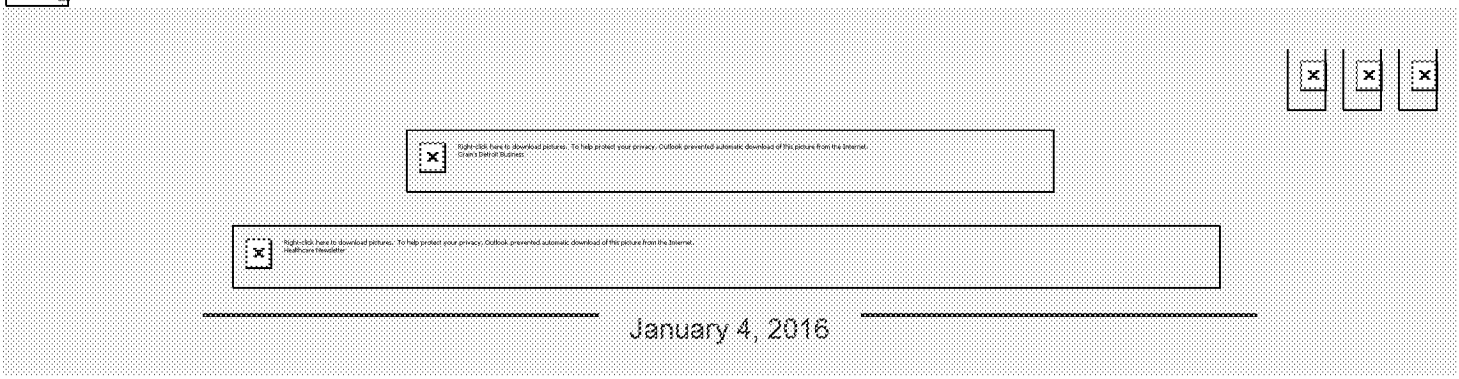

Meridian Health Plan of Michigan's president and COO a *Crain's* Newsmaker of the Year

Jon Cotton had a busy year, overseeing the Detroit-based company's growth in revenue, employees and space.

CRNAs out as St. John Providence hospitals outsource services

Michigan environmental regulator resigns amid Flint's lead-in-water crisis

MICHIGAN RADIO

Genesee County commissioners to consider Flint water plan today

The plan calls for more water filters and blood lead testing. It also says thousands of water lines will need to be replaced.

TOM HENDERSON

It's worse than just rude to always be slouched over your smartphone

Tech gadgets and phones can ruin your posture and your mood, Harvard professor says.

Advertisement

Health care repeal vote to open a political year in Congress

It's been like a long-delayed New Year's resolution for Republicans, but 2016 will finally be the year when they put legislation on President Barack Obama's desk repealing his health care law.

MODERN HEALTHCARE

2016 election uncertainty clouds health care business climate

Health care stakeholders should brace for a year of business uncertainty in 2016 — an election year where the Senate and White House are up for grabs with Democrats and Republicans offering competing visions of the government's role in health care.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Congratulations, you've made it past the deadliest day of all

A few years ago, a sociology professor named David Phillips examined 57 million death certificates issued between 1979 and 2004 and made an interesting finding: Not only do more people die in the winter months, but New Year's Day is actually the deadliest day of all.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Home births are on the rise, but they come with some risks

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FDA regulator, widowed by cancer, helps speed drug approval

The FDA's oncology chief has been denounced by many cancer patient advocates as a slow, obstructionist bureaucrat. His wife's battle with cancer has helped speed up the drug approval process, he and cancer specialists say.

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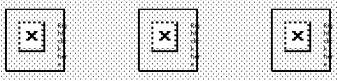

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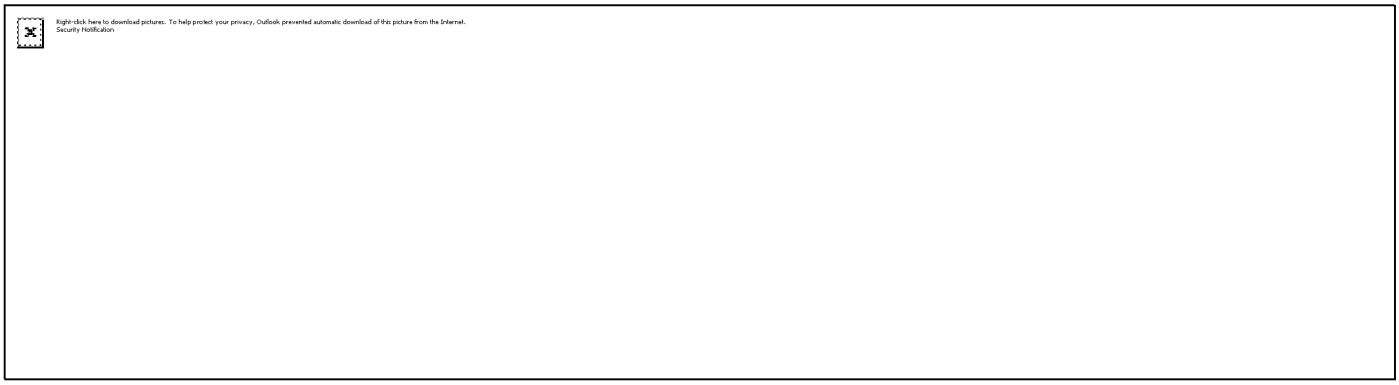
From: DTMB Facilities <dtmb@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Gargano, Roger W. (DTMB)
Subject: Facility Notification: Constitution Hall



Protest Activity

Date/Time:

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Details:

Please be aware that there is a protest event planned for today, October 28, outside of the Constitution Hall from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The event is being held in response to the water condition in Flint. Please plan your daily activities with this in mind as a large turnout for this event is anticipated. DTMB and MSP will be working together to monitor the situation.

Contact:

DTMB Customer Service Center, DTMB-Customerservice@michigan.gov or 517-373-6227

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From: Gargano, Roger W. (DTMB)
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 12:36 PM
To: rogergargano@aol.com
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/12/chronic_deficits_prompt_state.html#incart_river_index

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 8:56 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For December 4, 2015
News

Gov. Snyder proclaims Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

Push to recall Snyder over Flint water crisis stalls (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

State says blood-lead levels in Flint kids have dropped (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

Flint water still unsafe without lead filters, professor says (Flint Journal, 12/4/2015)

New tests show toxic lead in plumbing at Flint elementary schools (Flint Journal, 12/4/2015)

Michigan cops fume over loss of U.S. military vehicles (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 12/4/2015)

High school charges student reporter $8,806 for public information (Michigan Radio, 12/4/2015)

5-year budget deficits prompt state review of 11 Michigan school districts (MLive, 12/4/2015)

House Elections Committee still considering straight-ticket voting box ban (MLive, 12/4/2015)

Petition language to recall Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder flops again at Board of State Canvassers (MLive, 12/4/2015)

Presidential candidate and U-M graduate Ben Carson returning to Ann Arbor (MLive, 12/4/2015)

Foes attack bill ending straight-party voting (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

GOP lawmakers oppose state aid for Planned Parenthood (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Michigan may dump cities' bans on pit bulls (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Senate approves data center tax break bills (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

State: 30 Flint residents have elevated lead levels (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Treasury study might lead to school emergency managers (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Editorials

What's your take? (Battle Creek Enquirer, 12/4/2015)

Don't deny voters the right to vote a straight ticket (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

Fight economic inequality with collective bargaining (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

Gun control inaction makes mass shootings a way of life (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

Open the door to lending for more minority businesses (Detroit Free Press, 12/4/2015)

Vote next week for 2015's best political quotes (Lansing State Journal, 12/4/2015)

Bring Switch to Michigan, but be smart with data center tax breaks (MLive, 12/4/2015)

Detroit education reforms also must address 'school-to-prison pipeline' (MLive, 12/4/2015)

Deregulating toxic air chemicals a major shift (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Editorial: Put priority on fixing Detroit tax system (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Moss: State Dems favor expansion of FOIA (The Detroit News, 12/4/2015)

Blogs

Recalling A Forgotten Representative (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 12/3/2015)

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From: DTMB-SMC@michigan.gov
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 2:06 AM
To: Gasch, Carrie (DTMB)
Subject: State of Michigan Building Closer for Monday, February 02, 2015

Importance: High

CARRIE,

A snow emergency declaration was issued and the following offices will be closed on Monday, February 2, 2015: Constitution Hall, G. Mennen Williams, George W. Romney, Governor's Residence, Grand Tower, Hall of Justice, John A. Hannah, Joint Operations, Lewis Cass, Lottery, Michigan Library & Historical Center, Murray D. Van Wagoner Building, Ottawa Building, Richard A. Austin, State Police Headquarters, Stevens T. Mason, Records Building, State Laboratory, SOM Warehouse Complex, Construction & Technology, Energy Center, General Office Building, General Services Building, MDOT Photo Laboratory, MDOT Warehouse, Operations Center, Secretary of State, State Maintenance Equipment Garage, State Police Post 11 District 1 HQ's, State Police Forensic Laboratory, State Police EMHSD Training Center, State Police Training Academy / Training House, Vehicle & Travel Services and Jackson.

From: Larner, Trena (DCH)
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 9:00 AM
To: Brown, Kristy (DCH);Eddy, Sean (DCH);Engman, Christina (DCH);Francis, Kathreen (DCH);Fratto, Teresa (DCH);Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI);Klein, Susie (DCH);Kolarik, Stacey (DCH);LaForest, Ann (DCH);Lett, Jacque (DCH);Peng, Qian (DCH);Sipe, Anne (DCH);Taylor, Tairus (DCH);Werner, Jason (DCH);Wightman, Traci (DCH);Wolek, Ewa (DCH)
Subject: FW: Michigan Report, Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Attachments: Michigan Report, Tuesday, September 22, 2015

From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 6:49 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DCH)
Subject: Michigan Report, Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Attachments: 150922dayplan.htm; Sep22.htm; Sep22House.htm

Michigan Report for Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Medical Marijuana Bills Make Their Way To House Floor

Sharp Disagreement As Committee Discusses Bill To Criminalize Abortion Coercion

Courser, Gamrat, Dillon Replaced On House Committees

Judiciary Clears Way For Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation

Jones Takes Another Shot At Regulating Nudity At Bars

House Panel Considers Updates To 'Kevin's Law'

Hunter Response Could Determine CWD Control

Tours Of Capitol Dome Interior Banned For Safety Reasons

Committee Ups Penalties For Failing To Yield

Group: Lobbyists Spent $21M To Lobby State In First Half Of Year

MSF Approves $3M For Monroe Port

Carhartt Expands, Valiant International Locates In Auburn Hills

Kildee Calls For Independent Test Of Flint Water

Longtime Prison Warden Barred From MDOC Property

Capital Notebook

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Activity Reports

House

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #54, Report #188 -- Tuesday, September 22, 2015

Medical Marijuana Bills Make Their Way To House Floor

After months of negotiations, the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday reported a package of bills creating a regulatory structure for medical marijuana provisioning centers and permitting the use of non-smokeable forms of the drug.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB420901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB421001" } were introduced in February, and similar bills were overwhelmingly approved by the House last term, though they died in the Senate during lame-duck.

During the first nine months of this term, stakeholders attempted to hash out their differences in a way they didn't last year. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284701&locid=1" } (R-Nashville), sponsor of HB 4209, said this time around he wanted to be sure to include law enforcement.

"This is something I've been working on longer than my bachelor's degree," he told the committee. "It's been essentially over four years, and it's been an education. Now it's better than it's ever been."

HB 4209 creates the regulatory structure for medical marijuana provisioning centers. The bill allows for local governments to decide if they are appropriate for their community. The bill includes an 8 percent excise tax and the 6 percent sales tax to be charged on marijuana.

The bill also requires the use of a secure transport service to transport the marijuana.

It cleared the committee 8-2 with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=310601&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=274601&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor) voting no.

Mr. Irwin expressed concerns about the taxes charged on the drug. He said there is a philosophical difference on whether a person believes higher taxes and more regulations will lead to more or less black market activity.

"When we add all these layers of regulations, we are increasing the cost in the legal market, thereby giving a huge advantage to the illegal market," he said. "If we grab too tightly, this may squeeze through our fingers, and we end up with less control rather than more control."

The bill also creates five license types: growers, processors, testing labs, secure transporters and dispensaries. A five-member board is also created under the bill to handle the licensing.

The revenue collected through the taxes would be split up, with 27.5 percent going to local governments with provisioning centers; 27.5 percent to counties with provisioning centers; 5 percent to sheriffs in the counties with provisioning centers; and 40 percent to the state.

The legislation would also use a seed-to-sale tracking system to help ensure medical marijuana does not make its way to the black market. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB482701" } , which also cleared the committee, creates the program.

HB 4210 allows the use of topical and edible forms of the drug. The bill cleared committee 10-1 with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=291201&locid=1" } (R-Mancelona) voting no.

Patient advocates were not pleased with the proposal taxing the drug.

"No medicine should be taxed," said Matthew Abel with Cannabis Counsel.

He also said the bill creates a new bureaucracy, as more state workers will need to be hired: 113 licensing enforcement personnel; 34 state police personnel and four lawyers at the Department of the Attorney General.

"The latest versions of HB 4209 and HB 4827 have not been well thought-out," Mr. Abel said. "They clearly will cause numerous unintended consequences, while failing at their intended purpose, to move toward a regulated system and away from the illegal market."

Sharp Disagreement As Committee Discusses Bill To Criminalize Abortion Coercion

Coercing a woman into having an abortion would become a crime under legislation discussed Tuesday in the House Criminal Justice Committee.

The bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB478701" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB483001" }) generated several strong disagreements between those who oppose abortion and those who support the legal right to an abortion. No vote was taken, and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001&locid=1" } (R-Plymouth), the committee chair, said the committee would return to the legislation at an upcoming meeting.

The committee's three Democrats - { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=367901&locid=1" } of Bridgeport, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=94401&locid=1" }

of Muskegon and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358301&locid=1" } of Detroit - each took turns peppering the bill sponsors and activists supporting the bills about why the legislation is necessary.

Supporters of the bills said they had considerable anecdotal reports of women coerced into an abortion - by their parents, husband or boyfriend, and others - and the state should make such actions illegal.

"It is an all-too-common experience," said Genevieve Marnon of Right to Life of Michigan.

But the Democratic lawmakers questioned why the bills do not criminalize the coercing of a woman into keeping her baby.

"The real problem is what those of us here are questioning which is people being coerced into carrying a pregnancy," Ms. Hovey-Wright said.

Ms. Marnon said any form of coercion is wrong, but the issue raised by Ms. Hovey-Wright belongs in a different statute and thus not in the bills before the committee. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=317301&locid=1" } (R-Troy) mocked the Democratic criticism, asking sarcastically whether he should oppose the bill because it fails to criminalize every illegal act.

But Democrats and an official with the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan questioned why the bill was even necessary, saying that the state's informed consent law already requires a woman's consent to an abortion without coercion and that other statutes would make coercion into having an abortion illegal.

"These kinds of laws are part of a political campaign that women who seek abortions do so because they are confused and coerced," said Shelli Weisberg of the ACLU of Michigan.

But Ms. Marnon said a specific statute will help prevent the coercing of women into an abortion.

"Women will know it's a crime and can tell whoever is coercing her to stop because it's illegal," she said.

Courser, Gamrat, Dillon Replaced On House Committees

House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } announced new committee assignments to replace the recently departed former representatives Cindy Gamrat, who was expelled, and Todd Courser and Brandon Dillon, who both resigned.

Mr. Courser (R-Silverwood) resigned before he could be expelled like Ms. Gamrat (R-Plainwell). Mr. Dillon (D-Grand Rapids) resigned to take the post as chair of the Michigan Democratic Party.

With Mr. Dillon's departure, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=318601&locid=1" } (D-Clio) returned to the House Appropriations Committee. The term started with drama surrounding Ms. Faris' appointment as minority vice chair, and she was later removed from the committee.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371701&locid=1" } (R-Holland) will take Ms. Gamrat's former spot on Appropriations.

"Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat have done enough damage to the House and to the legislative process," Mr. Cotter said in a statement. "We cannot allow their absence to get in the way of the important work these committees are doing to reform state government and improve the lives of Michigan's residents. Each of these representatives has agreed to take on the extra work necessary to make sure we can all move forward and continue Michigan's comeback."

Ms. Faris will also join the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee and the Transportation Subcommittee.

Mr. Cotter also created a new House Appropriations Subcommittee to reflect the merged community health and human services departments as the Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

The 15-member committee is essentially a merger of the two separate subcommittees. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) was named as minority vice chair instead of Rep. Brian Banks (D-Detroit), who served as the MVC of the separate Human Service Subcommittee.

Mr. Dillon was minority vice chair of the Community Health Subcommittee.

Katie Carey, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills), said it was disappointing Mr. Cotter did not consult with Mr. Greimel before choosing the minority vice chair of the new committee.

However, she said, they are pleased with the other Democratic appointments.

The chair of the new committee is { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284401&locid=1" } (R-Walker) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277401&locid=1" } (R-Jackson) is vice chair.

The other members are: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Rapids Township); Rep. Joe Bizon (R-Battle Creek); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289301&locid=1" } (R-Newaygo); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=333201&locid=1"

} (R-Sebewaing); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358801&locid=1" } (R-Livonia); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=356701&locid=1" } (R-Williamsburg); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179401&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township); Rep. Mike McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=318601&locid=1" } (D-Clio); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=370001&locid=1" } (D-Canton); and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=248901&locid=1" } (D-Sterling Heights).

On Mr. Courser's former committees, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284201&locid=1" } (R-Alto) will return to the Education Committee as his replacement. Ms. Lyons chaired the committee during the last two terms.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219601&locid=1" } (R-Montague) will sit on the Agriculture Committee; Mr. Afendoulis on the Criminal Justice Committee; { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=283401&locid=1" } (R-Owosso) on the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee; and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353601&locid=1" } (R-Clarkston) on the Regulatory Reform Committee.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=96801&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) will replace Ms. Faris on the Financial Liability Reform Committee and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601&locid=1" } (D-Westland) will replace her on Military and Veterans Affairs.

On Appropriations subcommittees, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358201&locid=1" } (R-Sturgis) will now sit on Education; Mr. Poleski will take over as chair of Judiciary (replacing Mr. VerHeulen); Ms. Cox will sit on Licensing and Regulatory Reform; Mr. Canfield on the Military and Veterans Affairs subcommittee; and Mr. Poleski on Natural Resources.

Judiciary Clears Way For Wrongful Imprisonment Compensation

The state would compensate those who had been wrongfully imprisoned for a crime they did not commit under legislation reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=43601&locid=1" } (D-Warren) first raised the idea of { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB29101" }, with support from committee chair { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand

Ledge), back in May. Michigan is one of a minority of states that does not compensate nor offer exit services for persons who have been wrongfully imprisoned.

"Exonerees face tremendous difficulties re-integrating into society," Mr. Bieda said, noting that 30 other states and the federal government offer compensation for those who can prove they were wrongfully imprisoned. "It is our intent to help these individuals re-establish their lives."

The bills would be limited in scope to a person who could prove he or she was convicted and served time in a Michigan prison, and that all the convictions resulting in imprisonment were overturned because of new evidence of actual innocence.

After the convictions are overturned, the charges were dismissed, or an individual is acquitted at retrial and the individual proves in the Court of Claims complete innocence of all of the offenses that landed them in prison, they too could be eligible for compensation.

And a court that determined a plaintiff had been wrongfully convicted and imprisoned must expunge those records from a person's criminal history.

Compensation would be $60,000 per year for the period of incarceration; economic damages, including lost wages and other expenses; reasonable attorney fees; and reimbursement of any amount collected from the plaintiff by the state under the State Correctional Facility Reimbursement Act. If a person chooses to collect this money, it would bar them from any further action against the state based on the same matter. Such settlements would be paid from the General Fund.

The Senate Fiscal Agency estimated the cost to the state to be significant but indeterminate. The National Registry of Exonerations maintained by the University of Michigan Law School indicates that 60 exonerations have occurred in Michigan to date. At a minimum, assuming all 60 individuals met the eligibility criteria and receive only the yearly compensation amount, the first year of payments would total $3.6 million. The average number of years of wrongful imprisonment per exoneration is 8.05, the analysis said.

If all payment were made under the conditions in the NRE's database, the total minimum costs would be about $29 million General Fund, the SFA determined, based on fixed amounts taken from the bill. But there are other variables that could increase the figure on a per-case basis.

"Although I'm not in jail anymore, the effects of my wrongful conviction continue to ruin my life," said Julie Baumer, who was wrongfully convicted a decade ago of Shaken Baby Syndrome. She spent four-and-a-half years in jail.

A similar bill, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB453601" } , was reported from the House Criminal Justice Committee in mid-June but has not seen action on the floor yet. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358301&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), sponsor of that bill, spoke in support of Mr. Bieda's bill at the committee.

"There are significant costs that come with adjusting back into society. Exonerees are given no services to help with this," she said. "I believe when an individual is proven innocent ... the least they should expect is a state that wants to help make it right."

The bill was reported with unanimous approval.

UPDATING OLD STATUTES: The committee also reported a slew of House bills updating outdated language in statute despite some concern by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township) about what repealing at least some of those statutes said about our citizens morally.

Among them was { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB424801" } , which repeals provisions of law related to playing of the National Anthem, use of indecent language in front of women and children, and improper disposal of refrigerators. It was reported unanimously.

Also reported unanimously was { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB425001" } , which repeals prohibitions against certain endurance contests, as well as { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450101" } , which revises sentencing guidelines to reflect certain repealed crimes.

The committee also voted to eliminate references to "human monstrosity" in law via { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB470901" } , as well as { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB471001" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB471101" } related to modifying the penalty for violators related to camping on state-owned lands. Currently, it is a misdemeanor to do so, but the bills would change it to a civil infraction. HB 4711 also repeals laws dealing with sentencing a person to solitary confinement and/or hard labor; assembling or rebuilding a battery from used battery parts, for sale, without labeling it as rebuilt; and keeping a person sentenced to hard labor constantly employed.

All were reported with unanimous approval and no changes.

Jones Takes Another Shot At Regulating Nudity At Bars

A bill prohibiting nudity at bars saw more testimony in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday as it was reported from the committee for a second time since May.

"This will keep status quo in Michigan," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge), chair of the committee and sponsor of { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB30201" }, in defending his bill for a second time in his committee.

Mr. Jones' bill was introduced in late April, saw a committee hearing and S-1 substitute adopted about two weeks later when the bill was reported from his own committee, making this the second time the bill has come up for a hearing in Judiciary.

The last time the bill was up in committee, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township) raised a concern about a potential loophole that would seem to allow nudity in certain establishments if it was considered a form of art, and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=43601&locid=1" } (D-Warren) was concerned about an amendment that seemed to put the bill above potential court challenges.

And Mr. Bieda's concern was precisely the reason for a second hearing. Officials with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" }'s office gave a presentation about why that section was necessary and appropriate.

"One of the things we were concerned with (in dealing with a case on nudity in a bar) ... was that the Sixth Circuit found we didn't have any rationale or reasons to back up rules that prohibit full nudity," said Don McGehee, division chief of the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement division. He said the court insisted, in { HYPERLINK "http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/07a0351p-06.pdf" \t "blank" }, that the state must have evidence of secondary effects such as crime, plight, drug trafficking, and so forth, and that full nudity and sex acts are "expressive conduct" protected by the First Amendment.

But there are many cases that have found that negative secondary effects exist in or near adult-oriented entertainment venues.

"This bill does not try to ban all nudity," Mr. McGehee said, noting that certain venues can have topless entertainers if they have a special permit. "This bill would be to ban, by state law, full nudity in any entertainment establishment or any (liquor) licensed premises on the premises."

He provided to the committee studies and cases that prove negative secondary effects and thus legitimize the section Mr. Bieda had previously raised concerns about.

But Mr. Bieda's concerns were not entirely alleviated. He noted how the language included a "broad range of things that could be a secondary problem with a regular bar or night club, and I just wonder if this couldn't be cut down a little bit," he said.

One example Mr. Bieda pointed to was that litter was considered to be a negative secondary effect, and while Mr. McGehee agreed that he probably wouldn't consider such a thing a "material" negative secondary effect, some believe it ought to be, Mr. McGehee said. But Mr. Bieda expressed concerns that such language could have an effect on something as innocent as a restaurant.

"I think that language could be a lot tighter," Mr. Bieda said.

Nonetheless, the committee gave unanimous support to send SB 302 back to the full Senate, but Mr. Bieda hoped to continue work with Mr. Jones on that language.

House Panel Considers Updates To 'Kevin's Law'

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151301&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=325701&locid=1" } want to update "Kevin's Law," passed in 2004 to reduce the incarceration rates of those with mental illnesses, as it has been found to be ineffective.

Mr. Calley spoke to the House Health Policy Committee on Tuesday and said under current law, a crisis needed to occur before intervention could happen. He said communities around the state were confused by the complexity of "Kevin's Law" and it hasn't been utilized much.

The law outlines the assisted outpatient treatment program in the state.

Under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB467401" } , sponsored by Mr. Leonard (R-DeWitt Township), a family member or friend would be allowed to petition the court and allow judges to order outpatient treatment for those who have had their mental illness confirmed by a physician, all without a crime being committed.

"When something bad happens, either to a person with a mental health issue or when something happens tragically perpetrated by a person with a mental health issue, usually there is a long trail of evidence that preceded that action, warning signs that could have been picked up on," Mr. Calley said.

He said those warning signs often are noticed, but without the ability to intervene sooner, there aren't a lot of options.

By contrast, Mr. Calley said HB 4674 would allow earlier intervention and help create a more successful release from hospitalization. He also noted due process rights are not affected by the bill.

And Mr. Leonard said the things that were supposed to happen under "Kevin's Law" simply have not happened.

"We are trying to revamp 'Kevin's Law,' we are trying to fill those gaps that are in the law and get people the treatment they need before they hurt themselves or hurt somebody else," Mr. Leonard said.

He also said the bill will provide long-term savings within the Department of Corrections.

Former Judge Milton Mack, who is now serving as the state court administrator, told the committee families have been seeking help for their loved ones with mental health issues for a long time but are not always able to get it.

"This bill will finally unlock the promise of 'Kevin's Law' and make timely assisted outpatient treatment readily available to many," he said. "Our mental health system fails many in a crucial point of time in their lives where timely intervention can mean the difference between recovery and maintaining self-determination or spinning downward into the cycle of poverty, homelessness and incarceration."

Mark Reinstein with the Mental Health Association of Michigan also said the current law is utilized little in the state.

He said the five most significant changes under the proposed bill are

- Setting a timeframe for when hearings must be held;
- Setting a clear two-exam requirement, with at least one from a psychiatrist;
- Removing that a person must be non-compliant with recommended mental health treatment from the list of eligibility criteria;
- Inserting the same prosecutorial responsibility for assisted outpatient treatment as other court-ordered mental health treatments (currently the local prosecutor does not need to be involved); and
- Simplifying the process of petitioning and certifying that someone may require court-ordered care.

The committee did not act on the bill.

Hunter Response Could Determine CWD Control

States' abilities to control chronic wasting disease have depended largely on aggressive efforts to reduce deer populations in affected areas, and it was unclear yet how open hunters will be able to aid in those efforts, Department of Natural Resources wildlife veterinary specialist Dan O'Brien told the House Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday.

"I've been amazed at the cooperation we've gotten over the summer," Mr. O'Brien said of land owners in the current affected area. "People have concerns, but by and large they were very supportive."

He said U.S. Department of Agriculture sharpshooters have taken some deer from local public lands, and a number of private land owners in the area have allowed USDA on their lands or have taken out disease control permits to take deer themselves.

"Now we're transitioning into hunting season and we'll have to see how the hunters accept things," he said.

The fear, particularly in the long term, is that hunters will stay home, Mr. O'Brien said.

The prion-based disease destroys brain tissue in deer, elk and moose, over time slowing their behavior and eventually killing them.

In as little as 20 years, the disease can spread through the deer herd.

"When that happens, hunters are going to stop hunting because they don't want to harvest sick deer," he said. "The entire economy and tradition of hunting is also lost."

The DNR would also lose one of its key methods for controlling the deer population, he said.

Mr. O'Brien said New York had been able to eradicate the disease by aggressively removing deer from areas where the infection was found. Wyoming, in contrast, had little resources for the control effort and so has seen its deer populations plummet.

Wyoming is also, though, seeing a shift to deer that can withstand the disease longer and so are able to reproduce before succumbing.

Mr. O'Brien said there is no evidence so far that the disease can be spread to non-cervids. Officials in Colorado and Wyoming, where the disease first appeared, tested spread from deer to cattle with captive infected herds and found no transmission.

Scientists have been testing for the past 10 years and have also found no evidence that the disease can be transmitted to humans, he said.

As part of the effort to track the disease, the DNR is requiring hunters in the area surrounding the three positive deer finds in Meridian Township (Ingham County) to bring their deer to DNR check stations where, in most cases, officials will take the head for testing. Mr. O'Brien said hunters would know within three days if their deer is negative for the disease and within a week if an initial positive test is confirmed.

The key struggle the department faces is the incubation time for the disease: between one year and five years before deer show symptoms.

"That means you have infected animals on the landscape that are infecting others but aren't showing symptoms, so we don't know how many there are or where they are," Mr. O'Brien said.

There are not confirmed tests for CWD, but he said scabies, a related disease in sheep, has been proven to remain viable in soil for more than 16 years.

The first positive deer, found in May, had likely been infected in 2013, he said. The other two deer had not yet been showing symptoms, so it was unclear when they were infected, he said. He

said it was likely that a person brought the disease into the area but there was likely no way to confirm who or when.

The state has only found the three deer from the 677 deer tested so far, but Mr. O'Brien said the state would have to test thousands of deer before it will know the extent of the infection.

A key source of test animals has been road kill, and he said the DNR has extra staff dedicated to collecting the carcasses for testing.

While new tests are being developed, Mr. O'Brien said there are currently no approved tests for identifying the disease from tissue of living animals, though he said tests for tonsil and rectal biopsies are close. He said the tests are not currently sensitive enough to find the prions in bodily fluids.

In answer to questions from committee members, he said, for instance, it was possible that the doe urine used as an attractant for bucks could potentially be infected. But he also said the facilities that raise the deer to collect that product are well regulated by the USDA to ensure the deer there are not infected.

Mr. O'Brien said the department so far has been funding the testing and response with existing funds moved from other programs, but DNR legislative Liaison Trevor VanDyke said officials were currently considering whether to ask for additional funds in the 2016-17 budget.

"We're in the process of developing next fiscal year's budget and this is one of the things that will be considered," he said. "We'll look within first before we ask for any kind of General Fund or supplemental."

POACHING PENALTIES: The committee also reported a package of bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB24401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB24501" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB24601" }) that create substantial increases in penalties for illegal taking or possession of elk, moose, bear, eagles and waterfowl. Using artificial light in taking that game would mean an extended period of license loss.

As reported, the bills would also create a misdemeanor penalty for using an illegal snare or cable restraint for trapping game.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001&locid=1" } (R-Vulcan) abstained on reporting SB 244, which creates the new penalties, and voted against the other two bills over objections to both about the amount of the penalties and including an illegal equipment provision in what is otherwise a poaching bill.

"I think that the fines are excessive and punitive and out of line," he said.

He said he would not object to the bills if the committee adopted his amendment that would make the illegal snares a crime only if they caught or killed a dog, which he said was the impetus behind the language.

The committee rejected his amendment.

Tours Of Capitol Dome Interior Banned For Safety Reasons

As exterior renovation of the Capitol nears completion, including a stunning restoration of the dome's exterior, the state's Capitol Commission on Tuesday adopted a policy that bans tours of the dome's interior.

The commission policy does allow for exceptions but acted on the advice of architects and out of fear that with the exterior restoration complete, requests for tours inside the narrow chambers between the skin of the dome and the rotunda would increase. The area is so narrow and packed with lighting and other fixtures that the Lansing Fire Department has actually developed a technical rescue protocol should anyone become ill or injured in the dome compartment.

The policy was one of many decisions the commission made, which included a new procedures manual for using public spaces and which calls for groups using the interior to, in some cases, pay a damage deposit or provide an insurance rider.

Commission chair and House Clerk Gary Randall said he was concerned that requests for tours of the interior of the dome would become more numerous.

But the interior is extremely narrow, and to go up through the interior requires going through a sliding door known as the guillotine and up a small ship's ladder. If someone were to have a heart-attack or get injured, it would be extremely difficult to get them out, he said.

But the commission did not approve, on a 4-1 vote, a total ban of access to the dome interior. Under the proposal passed, workers conducting maintenance would be allowed in the area and the commission could make exceptions for some situations to allow others into the dome's interior.

Senate Secretary Jeff Cobb, who said some legislators had expressed an interest in going into the dome's interior with visitors, voted against the proposal.

The commission also decided that Capitol employees who work on weekends will be paid time and one-half instead of accumulating compensatory time.

With the exterior renovations nearing completion, the continuing work on the Capitol will switch to the interior with a series of projects. The first will be completion of a project the state had to rush into action when it discovered during the summer the ceiling on the first floor corridor of the Senate's section was sagging and in danger of collapse.

Following that work, the state will focus on repairing and renovating the ceiling on the ground floor.

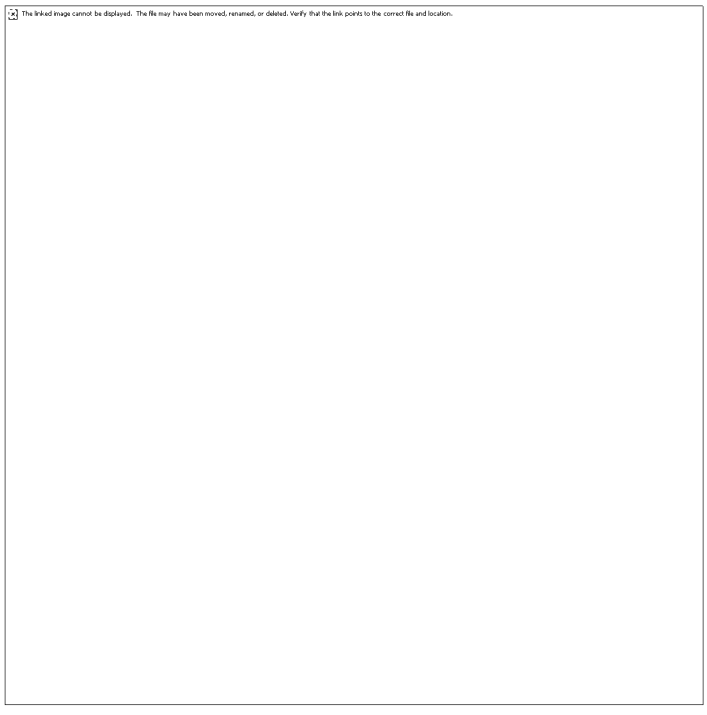
The state has some $500,000 worth of decorative painting to complete, but it is also having difficulty finding a decorative painter to hire. The craft is so specialized it is hard to lure experienced painters away from the companies they now work for, the commission said.

Commission members were also excited that next year, replicas of two large gas lamps that greeted the public from 1879 until the late 19th century will be returned to their place at the entrance of the walkway to the Capitol at the intersection of Michigan and Capitol Avenues.

In June 2016, the commission is planning to hold an event, open to the public, honoring the workers who handled the renovation, and showing off the lamps and redone garden beds.

MODILLIONS FOR SALE: As part of the exterior renovation more than 200 sandstone modillions from under the cornice surrounding the roofline of the Capitol were removed and replaced with new, hand-cut sandstone modillions, each weighing 47 pounds.

And as a result, the Capitol Commission decided to offer at least 100 of the old modillions, which were in place since the Capitol was completed in 1879, to the public. The rest were considered too badly deteriorated for public sale.



These old modillions from the Capitol will be among those sold to the public.

Modillions are decorative brackets used under a cornice, especially in buildings with Corinthian or Iconic architectural features. Modillions are seen in castles, cathedrals and other larger public buildings.

Commission member and former Capitol Facilities Director Kerry Chartkoff said it may be surprising how popular the modillions could be. When the initial renovation of the Capitol was completed in 1992, there were some original materials to the Capitol that couldn't be reused. Instead of just sending the goods to a landfill, the state decided to re-enact an auction of the materials that was held in 1879 - when materials not used were sold to the public.

Ms. Chartkoff said she was surprised at the interest and excitement the public had at that auction.

At a little more than 40 pounds, each modillion will probably have a specific decorative purpose for the people buying them.

The commission set a price of $100 minimum on the pieces. The first 50 will be sold for $100 each, with the buyers selected through a lottery. Persons interested in the modillions will be able to send a postcard to the Capitol facilities office to participate.

The remaining 50 will be sold through a mail auction, with bidders assigning a price in their letter to the state.

The commission will announce details of the lottery and auction at a later time.

And anyone not lucky enough to buy one of the modillions will get another chance: in 100 years when the new set of modillions will likely be replaced.

Committee Ups Penalties For Failing To Yield

Failing to yield to an approaching emergency vehicle, currently a civil infraction, would be increased to a misdemeanor, or a felony in the event that failing to yield caused injury or death to emergency personnel, under legislation reported from the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

The bills, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB42101" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB42201" }, come in the wake of the death of a Lansing-area firefighter who prosecutors allege was deliberately run down while trying to collect money for charityt, as well as another incident in June in Holland in which four people - a patient, paramedic, and two firefighters - were hospitalized after an ambulance was involved in a crash with a pickup truck that failed to yield to the ambulance.

"When there is an emergency, every second counts," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=364301&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing), sponsor of SB 421, as he rattled off various statistics exemplifying just that.

Mr. Hertel said the bill would bring penalties in line with those associated with violating the state's move-over law. A person who failed to yield to an emergency vehicle and caused injury to a police officer, firefighter or other emergency response personnel in the immediate area of the approaching emergency vehicle would be guilty of a felony punishable by a maximum fine of $1,000 and/or up to two years' imprisonment.

If an individual failed to yield and caused death to a police officer, firefighter or other emergency response personnel, an individual would be charged with a felony punishable by a maximum fine of $7,500 and/or up to 15 years' imprisonment.

"We must ensure the punishment fits the crime," Mr. Hertel said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township) raised an issue with the increased sentences.

"For somebody who was distracted, was thinking about the hectic schedule ahead, and in one case they have an injury and in another somebody dies on it, it's tough for me to put somebody away for that long of time considering the disruption to family (due to imprisonment)," Mr. Colbeck said.

But Mr. Hertel was unimpressed.

"I'm happy to continue conversations, but I think it's no less egregious not to move over than it is to not allow somebody with flashing lights to pass," he said.

And { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge), chair of the committee and sponsor of SB 422, told Mr. Colbeck those are maximum penalties. Rarely, except in the most egregious of cases, does a court incur those penalties upon a violator of the law, he said.

The two bills, reported unanimously, are tie-barred and would take effect 90 days after their enactment.

GOOD SAMARITAN LAW: On a related note, the committee also reported { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB42701" }, which would include licensed emergency medical service providers in the Good Samaritan law. The law provides immunity from liability for certain health care professionals who provide care at the scene of an emergency, provide emergency care to someone who requires it as a result of a sports-related injury, or who responds to a life-threatening emergency in a hospital or other medical care facility when the person's actual hospital duty doesn't require a response.

Group: Lobbyists Spent $21M To Lobby State In First Half Of Year

In the first { HYPERLINK "http://www.mcfn.org/press.php?prId=228" \t "blank" }, lobbying firms spent $21 million on efforts to lobby legislators, the Michigan Campaign Finance Network said Tuesday.

That figure is up 1.4 percent from the same period in 2014, according to the MCFN.

Leading the way on spending was Governmental Consultant Services, Incorporated, at $947,832, followed by Karoub Associates, Kelley Cawthorne, RWC Advocacy, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Public Affairs Associates, Midwest Strategy Group, Muchmore Harrington Smalley Associates, Kandler Reed Khoury and Muchmore and the Michigan Credit Union League, the MCFN said.

MSF Approves $3M For Monroe Port

The Michigan Strategic Fund on Tuesday approved up to $3 million in repayable funds from its Investment Fund for the city of Monroe to make improvements to the Port of Monroe.

"These improvements will transform the Port of Monroe into a center of economic activity and a premier general cargo handling facility on the Great Lakes," MEDC { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=336401&locid=1" } said in a statement. "The project will promote further growth and investment in the Port and the region, and will lead to new jobs for Michigan residents."

The project expands trade routes and cargo opportunities, calls for dredging the River Raisin and a range of other improvements to increase accessibility to the port, the MEDC said. The impact is expected to cause fewer cargo delays and accommodate larger vessels with increased shipping capacity. The dramatic improvements in shipping efficiency are expected to generate a major economic impact to the Monroe region, it said.

"This is outstanding news for Monroe and the entire region," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" } (R-Ida) said of the approval, in a statement. "The port is the industrial, commercial and recreational gateway to Monroe and is Michigan's only port on Lake Erie, yet its aging infrastructure has limited its accessibility.

The MSF also approved a Brownfield Work Plan worth about $3.6 million, the tax revenue generated as a result of the work plan to be used to repay the Investment Fund.

"As we consider policies to help promote job creation and economic development, it is important to remember the key role that our infrastructure plays in our economy," Mr. Zorn said. "These improvements will increase the accessibility and efficiency of the Port of Monroe - leading to fewer cargo delays, reduced wear and tear on regional roadways, and a substantial increase in the opportunity for new trade."

Located on the western edge of Lake Erie, the port provides direct access to all five of the Great Lakes and serves 17 states. The improvements will not only promote new cargo opportunities but will ship and receive materials for the port's existing tenants, including DTE Energy, Michigan Paving & Materials, Gerdau MACSTEEL, Ford Motor Company and Ventower, the MEDC noted.

Carhartt Expands, Valiant International Locates In Auburn Hills

Garment manufacturer Carhartt, founded in Detroit in 1889, will expand its headquarters in Dearborn to create 215 jobs, and auto systems maker Valiant International will expand its North American presence with the purchase of a facility in Auburn Hills after both received grants from the Michigan Strategic Fund.

Carhartt, best known for work clothes such as jackets, coats, overalls, coveralls, and more, will invest nearly $18.6 million and create 215 jobs, resulting in a $1.35 million Business Development Program performance-based grant from the MSF, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced Tuesday.

Michigan was chosen over competing sites on the East and West coasts where "top-tier talent related to the garment industry is more readily available," the MEDC noted in a statement.

The Strategic Fund also approved a $2.3 million grant for the purchase of an 187,000-square foot facility in Auburn Hills for Valiant International Inc. The project is expected to generate a private capital investment of $32.7 million and create 223 jobs over the next three years, the MEDC said.

"We proudly welcome Valiant to the global automotive capital," said MEDC { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=336401&locid=1" }, in a statement. "We appreciate their commitment to the Michigan economy, and know they'll find Michigan is the preeminent business environment to grow their endeavors in the automotive, aerospace, defense, and construction industries."

The company is based in Windsor, Ontario.

As part of the move to Auburn Hills, the company will consolidate its Troy-based sales operation and establish a skilled-trade training site for apprentices to learn machine operating, welding, robot programming and other metal-working skills, the MEDC said. It also plans to partner with local government, community stakeholders, colleges, trade schools and private businesses to attract high-wage workers. In fact, the skilled trades positions at the company are expected to pay on average $47 per hour, the MEDC noted.

NEAPCO DRIVELINES, LLC: The auto manufacturer plans to expand its driveline operations in van Buren Township and expand its headquarters in the metro Detroit area, investing $57.7 million and creating 167 jobs, the MEDC said. As a result, it was awarded a $1.5 million grant. Michigan was chosen over a competing site in Mexico.

REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS: HM Ventures Group 6, LLC, plans to renovate the historic Wurlitzer Building located on Broadway in the heart of downtown Detroit into a mixed-use boutique hotel to include 106 hotel rooms, a street level caf鍚 restaurant, retail and meeting space, and a rooftop bar. It will generate a total capital investment of nearly $22.3 million and create 48 permanent, full-time jobs, the MEDC said, resulting in a $3.5 million Community Revitalization Program loan. The MSF also approved $1.76 million in local and school tax capture to the Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to prepare the site for redevelopment.

In Grand Rapids, OHM, LLC plans to renovate the vacant, historic Rowe Building into a mixed-use building to include retail and residential space with sublevel parking. The projected is expected to serve as a catalyst in the revitalization of the north side of downtown, the MEDC said, investing nearly $26.9 million and creating 15 full-time jobs. It earned a $5.4 million

revitalization loan. MSF also approved $2.58 million in local and school tax capture to the Grand Rapids Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for brownfield alleviation, site preparation and infrastructure improvements for the project.

MSF also approved the following:

- $2.5 million in funding to continue the Michigan Pre-Seed Fund 2.0 which provides loans or equity to early stage companies;

- Private activity bond authorizing resolution for Lutheran Homes of Michigan, Inc. to acquire and improve a 72-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility known as Lutheran Woods located in Livonia;

- An extension of a business and tourism marketing and advertising services contract with McCann Erickson USA, Inc.; and

- An extension of a business and travel public relations services contract with Weber Shandwick.

Kildee Calls For Independent Test Of Flint Water

After meeting with state and federal environmental officials Monday, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306801&locid=1" } said he is not confident that enough is being done to ensure Flint's water supply is safe and called for independent testing.

The city has been hit by a number of complaints in recent months, including tests showing unsafe levels of some chemicals as well as discoloration.

Mr. Kildee (D-Flint) said officials with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Quality and the city told him the water is being tested, but he said in a statement he was not convinced the testing was correct or sufficient.

"So far, I have been given no reason to have confidence in the current testing results," he said. "For example, it is unclear if homes sampled also took part in previous tests, which could have shown trends in water quality."

Mr. Kildee called for independent testing of the city's water that would include more homes.

"Flint residents deserve absolute transparency when it comes to the quality of their water," he said. "Additionally the city, DEQ and EPA must work together to ensure the immediate safety of Flint's drinking water, including any temporary relief until a long-term solution can be completed."

The Coalition for Clean Water echoed Mr. Kildee's call for additional testing and for providing residents with other sources of water until the system can be tested and repaired.

The group said its own testing showed corrosion problems in the city's water system.

"The Coalition demands the water source be switched back to Detroit water immediately as it is many times less corrosive than Flint River Water," the group said in a statement. "Even with the belated addition of corrosion control, extensive damage has been done to the pipeline infrastructure, and switching to Detroit water would be the best preparation for the eventual transition to KWA pipeline water while providing the best prospects of controlling lead and iron corrosion."

RIVER RAISIN: The DEQ announced Tuesday that the EPA had removed beneficial use impairment designations related to fish and wildlife populations and habitat from the River Raisin.

"Restoration of these beneficial uses means the fish and wildlife habitat in the River Raisin has vastly improved and can support healthy populations," DEQ officials said in a statement.

Longtime Prison Warden Barred From MDOC Property

The longtime warden of two Muskegon-area prisons has been stop-ordered and barred from entering Department of Corrections property, pending an investigation.

Mary Berghuis, the warden of the Earnest C. Brooks and West Shoreline Correctional facilities, was stop-ordered pending further investigation, said Corrections spokesperson Holly Kramer.

Ms. Kramer said she could not release any details about why the department stop-ordered Ms. Berghuis, the warden of the Brooks facility for 15 years and a longtime department employee before becoming warden, because the situation remains the subject of an internal investigation.

Shane Jackson, the deputy warden at the Muskegon Correctional Facility, was named acting warden for the two prisons Ms. Berghuis oversees.

Capital Notebook

DIFS CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS: The Department of Insurance and Financial Services has issued four new cease and desist orders for four different individuals, whose case can be found by clicking on their name: { HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwOTIyLjQ5MzUyOTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDkyMi40OTM1MjkzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU3NDgyJmVtYWlsaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&100&&&http://www.michigan.gov/documents/difs/Nicole_J_Aloisio_15-12608_500506_7.pdf" \t "blank" }, { HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwOTIyLjQ5MzUyOTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDkyMi40OTM1MjkzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU3NDgyJmVtYWlsaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE=

9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&101&&&http://www.michigan.gov/documents/difs/Cynthia_Montalvo_15-12652_500509_7.pdf" \t "blank" }, { HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwOTIyLjQ5MzUyOTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDkyMi40OTM1MjkzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU3NDgyJmVtYWlsaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&102&&&http://www.michigan.gov/documents/difs/Vanesa_Munoz_15-12650_500510_7.pdf" \t "blank" }, and { HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwOTIyLjQ5MzUyOTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDkyMi40OTM1MjkzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU3NDgyJmVtYWlsaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&103&&&http://www.michigan.gov/documents/difs/Edy_Garcia_Barba_15-12651_500508_7.pdf" \t "blank" }.

A list of all the Director's Orders can be found on the DIFS { HYPERLINK "http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwOTIyLjQ5MzUyOTMxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDkyMi40OTM1MjkzMSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NTU3NDgyJmVtYWlsaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZ1c2VyaWQ9Z29uZ3dlckBnb25nd2VyLmNvbSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRlSWQ9JiYm&&&104&&&http://www.michigan.gov/difs/0,5269,7-303-20594_20598---,00.html" \t "blank" }.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, September 23

Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, 9:30 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/orders/agendas/2015/150923.pdf" \t "blank" })

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 6:44 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DCH)
Subject: Michigan Report, Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Attachments: Sep23.htm; 150923dayplan.htm

Michigan Report for Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Special Election: Gamrat Claims Win, Lyons Readies Bill To Prevent Similar Situations

Carson Cites Education, God For Nation's Strength

Peters, Stabenow Call For More Protections Against Great Lakes Oil Spills

Report Offers Options For Regulating Fracking

Regional Approach To Economic Development Yielding Dividends, Officials Say

DEQ: Flint Lead Problem From Home Connections

Appeals Court: Restitution In Sex Cases Must Be Based On Facts

Insurance Agents Warned Against 'Sliding'

Handy Middle School Principal To Run In 96th House

PSC Directs Clear Rate Communications To Provide Proof Of Services

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Volume #54, Report #189 – Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Special Election: Gamrat Claims Win, Lyons Readies Bill To Prevent Similar Situations

Former Rep. Cindy Gamrat announced her victory in an Allegan County Tea Party straw poll with just 30 voters, and the chair of the House Elections Committee is getting legislation ready that would block expelled lawmakers in the future from being able to run to fill their vacancy.

Ms. Gamrat trumpeted her victory, though not all the candidates challenging her appeared at the tea party event on Wednesday. She called the meeting a great chance for voters to meet and question candidates. She is running to succeed herself in the 80th District.

Meanwhile, Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto), chair of the House Elections Committee, said she is drafting legislation that would ensure candidates who resign or are removed from office would not be able to run in the special election filling the vacancy.

If the legislation were already in place it would affect both Ms. Gamrat and former Rep. Todd Courser in the 82nd District. Mr. Courser resigned in the early hours of September 11, and Ms. Gamrat was expelled about an hour later. Both are running to win election back in those seats.

There appears to be nothing in statute now that would block the two from running in the special elections to fill their seats. However, House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) has expressed openness to not seating her if she were to win in the 80th House District, from which she was recently expelled (See Gongwer Michigan Report, September 19, 2015).

Ms. Lyons said she hopes to introduce the legislation in the near future. The bill could not affect the elections now scheduled. The special primary election in each district will be on November 3, and the special general election will be on March 8.

Ms. Gamrat said the forum she attended gave her a chance to show she is fighting to give Allegan County voters a voice and will attend additional candidate forums in the next few weeks.

"Lansing's voice is not Allegan's voice, the Lansing political class has been pushing for more spending and higher taxes, which is out of step with most of the people in Allegan County," Ms. Gamrat said in a statement. "The decision of representation should be made by the voters, not Lansing's political establishment, and last night was a great opportunity for the voters to engage in the process, hear from the candidates, and ask questions."

Republican candidates Mary Whiteford of Allegan and Jim Siver of Fennville did not attend.

Ms. Whiteford said the Allegan County Tea Party is closely aligned with Ms. Gamrat. She said she has been and will continue to attend multiple events throughout the community.

Mr. Siver, an attorney, said the group invited him Monday for a Tuesday evening event and he couldn't make it.

He and Ms. Whiteford said they are attending forums with the League of Women Voters and the Allegan County Republican Party in the coming weeks.

Shannon Szukala of Martin, a veteran who did attend the event, said many who showed up were there to support Ms. Gamrat. He said he is unsure at this point if they reflect the majority of voters in Allegan County.

Mr. Szukala also said he holds similar values as Ms. Gamrat and would not have filed to run in the seat if he had known she was running. He said he did not withdraw before the deadline because he thought he should follow through with his candidacy.

Allegan County Commissioner Jim Storey of Holland said he has yet to hear from a single voter who says they are going to vote for Ms. Gamrat.

Ms. Gamrat was expelled from office earlier this month after a scandal was revealed that she was having an affair with former Rep. Todd Courser of Silverwood. Mr. Courser resigned before being expelled and is also running for his old seat in the 82nd House District.

A House Business Office investigation said the two former lawmakers misused their offices and taxpayer resources for attempted political and personal gains. Their exit from office came after a 16 hour session where Republican leadership attempted to get enough votes for their expulsion.

Ms. Gamrat and Mr. Courser have both questioned the circumstances surrounding their exits. Ms. Gamrat has also said repeatedly her voters should decide if she is qualified to serve in the House.

To regain her seat, Ms. Gamrat must make it through an eight-person Republican primary and then be seated by the House. Mr. Cotter has expressed openness in refusing to seat her and Mr. Courser.

The Allegan County Tea Party said in a Facebook post three of the candidates, other than Ms. Gamrat, possess the same or close to the same values as the group: Bill Sage of Allegan, Kevin Travis of Hopkins and Mr. Szukala.

The group said Mr. Storey and Eric DeWitt of Holland "would be considered conservative by most Republicans, but not necessarily constitutional."

Of Ms. Whiteford, who did not attend the event, the group said: "(She) is a Democrat running as a Republican."

Carson Cites Education, God For Nation's Strength

SPRING ARBOR - America owes its strength to the founders' focus on education and the influence of God, Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson told a rally of supporters at Spring Arbor University on Wednesday, but the nation needs to get its budget under control to remain great.

Mr. Carson drew his strongest applause from about 2,500 people gathered in the Christian university's fieldhouse for his assertions that he is not politically correct.

Mr. Carson spent much of his half hour address talking about his upbringing in a poor household. He praised his mother both for thrift and for her push that her sons to be educated.

He said she had only a third grade education but made Mr. Carson and his brother read books from the Detroit Library and provide her written book reports "even though she couldn't read them."

Mr. Carson said she only bought new cars to avoid adopting someone else's problems, but only paid cash.

"If my mother were the secretary of treasury, it would not be in deficit," he said.

He said it was that same attention to education that grew the United States into a world power in its relatively brief life.

"When you think about the brain, the incredible human brain, why do we ever talk about what we can't do?" he said. "Early on, we paid a lot of attention to that brain. ... That's the reason that our people were so successful. ... This is the most exceptional nation the world has ever known."

But he said God also drove the development of the nation. He related a story of an opposing commander telling George Washington that he would have to have been under God's protection to have survived the commander's sharpshooters.

"There are many other stories that are well documented that it was more than just us that was involved in the foundation of this nation," he said.

"As a physician and a neurosurgeon, I learned lots of things," he said. "The greatest lesson I learned it is God who does these things."

While he did not directly address his recent comments that a Muslim could not be president under the Constitution, he said there were certain values that do not fit with the American identity.

"I have no intention of being like everybody else and giving away all of our values and principles for political correctness," he said. "Anybody is welcome to come to America, but they don't get to change who we are."

And he said he opposed the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allowed same-sex marriage.

"I personally believe the Supreme Court made a mistake when they voted to change the definition of marriage from what it has been for thousands of years," he said. "If you change the definition of marriage for one group, what right do you have to not change it for the next group and the next group?"

He took a dig at President Barack Obama on the issue. "Even though our president says we're not a Judeo-Christion nation, he doesn't get to decide who we are," he said.

Mr. Carson blamed much of the nation's current economic condition on the national debt. He argued the Federal Reserve Board cannot sufficiently increase interest rates because that would mean increasing costs for the federal government.

"They have to keep the interest rates depressed, which is the only way average people can make money," he said. "Only the rich people with the risk tolerance that can invest in the stock market."

He said government regulations also drive up costs, increasing the income spread between the rich and poor.

Democrats attacked Mr. Carson for his opposition to increasing the minimum wage and to the Patient Protection

and Affordable Care Act.

"Ben Carson's policies would do a lot to hurt Michigan families," Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon said in a statement. "Unfortunately, the rest of the Republicans running for president are no different."

Meanwhile, the 2016 Committee, a super PAC supporting Mr. Carson, praised him for recent comments on the possibility of electing a Muslim as president.

"Ben Carson is right. A practicing Muslim who observes Sharia Law cannot serve as president," John Philip Sousa IV, chair of the committee, said in a letter. "It is a fact that Sharia law is totally inconsistent with the United States Constitution."

Peters, Stabenow Call For More Protections Against Great Lakes Oil Spills

Ensuring that no crude oil is shipped on the Great Lakes and requiring the federal government assess risks to pipelines were two parts of a bill U.S. Sen. Gary Peters and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow said Wednesday they are introducing to provide greater protection for the lakes from the possibility of oil spills.

The two Michigan senators' action comes after the state unveiled its task force report on a pipeline, and in talking with reporters the two said they hoped they could attach their bill to legislation Congress will consider that reauthorizes the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

The two did not call for the closure of the controversial Pipeline 5 that runs under the Mackinac Straits and carries both light crude and liquefied natural gas products.

The state task force report said it anticipated the 60-year old pipeline would have to be closed down someday, and that the state and Enbridge Energy, which owns and operates the pipeline, should plan for that.

But the volume of the materials carried through the pipeline makes it problematic as what would be an acceptable alternative. The task force report looked at the possibility of shipping those products via tankers.

The state already said it has an agreement with Enbridge to not ship heavy crude oil through the pipeline, which the company currently does not anyway.

Ms. Stabenow (D-Lansing) said that agreement "doesn't move the ball down the road."

Hers and Mr. Peters' (D-Bloomfield Township) proposal would bar any tanker or barge from carrying any crude oil on the Great Lakes. Currently, no crude oil is carried on the Great Lakes, and Mr. Peters said the bill would ensure that condition is permanent.

The bill would also cover all pipelines in the region, current and future, and Mr. Peters said he would hope federal reviews of the pipelines would be completed within a year.

The bill also would call for improving response plans in the event of pipeline leaks, and improve public knowledge and transparency of risks.

Report Offers Options For Regulating Fracking

The state has a number of options for reducing risks from high volume hydraulic fracturing operations, a final

report released Wednesday by the University of Michigan's Graham Sustainability Institute said.

The report did not make specific recommendations for the state to adopt but provided a variety of options that could improve the state's oversight of fracked oil and gas wells.

"The purpose of this (integrated assessment) is to present information that expands and clarifies the scope of policy options in a way that allows a wide range of decision makers to make choices based on their preferences and values," the report said.

Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant thanked the group for including his agency in its discussion groups and accepting some of its suggestions.

"The state of Michigan appreciates the Graham Sustainability Institute's work to produce a comprehensive, thoughtful look at issues around oil and gas production in Michigan," Mr. Wyant said in a statement. "This report offers some useful information and options for state regulators to consider in the months and years ahead."

Among the recommendations was to provide additional points for public input.

In developing regulations, the report said the state could run facilitated listening sessions as well as increase membership on the Oil and Gas Advisory Committee or appoint a special committee to address fracking.

When issuing permits, the report said the state could improve notice of the pending permits and require public comment periods. It recommended similar changes when leasing state mineral rights.

"To date, Michigan has largely treated HVHF as an extension of other types of oil and gas activities," the report said. "As a result, the public has had few opportunities to weigh in on whether and where HVHF occurs."

On water withdrawals, the report praised the state's Water Withdrawal Assessment Program, but said it could require metering of withdrawals for fracking and include those uses in its permitting program. The state could also require a site-specific review for any fracking withdrawals.

And the state could prevent contamination from the fracking operations by prohibiting use of any chemicals that have not been proven to be minimally toxic, the report said.

"Michigan's existing information policies primarily adopt a remedial approach to uncertainty, the most common approach of the other states surveyed," the report said.

The state could be more remedial by at least requiring more information in advance, but the report also noted that there is limited information available about many of the chemicals used.

Michigan could also require emergency response plans for wells in sensitive areas and could require that bonds be relative to the potential cost of cleanup, rather than a blanket amount, the report said.

Regional Approach To Economic Development Yielding Dividends, Officials Say

When Governor Rick Snyder first announced his regional prosperity initiative in 2013, there was some hesitation and fear from locals that their individual voices may no longer be heard in economic development conversations, an official for Michigan Works! said in an interview Wednesday, but now the system is well on its way toward

those 10 regions with few problems to report.

The Michigan Works! system has been in existence since the early 1970s under a different name and has had as many as 25 different agencies, all with the same purpose of connecting employers and talent, at one time. Though it is set up through federal legislation, the agencies work in a public-private partnership of sorts, and are always locally-driven, said Elaine Wood, CEO of Networks Northwest, the agency serving employers and employees in the Northwest region of the state. Her agency has actually been one that others are looking to as they seek to consolidate their services, because hers has worked in that manner for 30 years, she said.

"Talent is really the highest form of capital for any form of business now. This is the 21st century reality," Ms. Wood said. "I think our level of participation has become much broader than it used to be on a local level, and because Michigan Works is very much a demand-driven system - the employer is our primary customer - all we're doing is responding to the needs of our local companies."

Since the governor's announcement in 2013, Michigan Works! agencies have decreased from 25 different offices to about 16 agencies, Ms. Wood said, so they are "almost there as a system" in terms of their end-goal of 10 agencies. And while there have been some concerns from the county commissioners who have to make the decision to reorganize their respective agencies, most have grown to see the benefit of consolidation, Ms. Wood and other officials said.

One example of that can be seen at the Michigan Works! Southwest agency, Ben Damerow, the director of that agency, said. Data collected through a consulting agency around the time the governor announced the Regional Prosperity Initiative concluded that "employers do not care where they get their talent from," Mr. Damerow said.

In Kent County, for example, 75 percent of its workforce lives and works in Kent County. Neighboring Allegan County - known as a "bedroom community," Mr. Damerow said - determined that about 27 percent of those living there lived and worked in Allegan, but in some circumstances that number can shoot up to 68 percent working in the region together.

"Twenty-seven plus the additional percent working the regions shows, hey, it makes sense for Allegan County, as it relates to their labor force, to be in our region," he said of the makeup of Michigan Works! Southwest.

And then there were those who lived in cities that crossed boundaries. Holland, for example, is responsible for 16 or 17 percent of Allegan County's tax revenue, though a portion of Holland is also in Ottawa County.

"The south side of Holland is a precious resource for Allegan County and it made it very difficult for those customers who had to commute from the south side of Holland into the Allegan service center, which is about 20 miles away, when they could have easily commuted two miles north to the service center in Holland," Mr. Damerow explained. "It's those undue hardships we were putting on the customers because of the way the funding had been split up between the two counties."

And the more things are split up in that matter, the less meaningful and successful services are to the public, Ms. Wood said.

"On the other hand, if you go to the opposite extreme and deliver a sort of one-size-fits-all at a state level, let's say, then you're not paying enough attention to the special characteristics of certain communities. So the regional approach is really, in my experience, the best middle ground for that," she said.

Though Ms. Wood said it was too early in the process to determine whether the regional model had done anything to attract or retain businesses in communities, it certainly seems like from general conversations that it will, she said.

"What we hear from our (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) colleagues is when a company is thinking about locating to another state, they want consistency in services from the different players in a particular community," Ms. Wood said. "They want to know that the talent development people and the economic development people and the education people are all in it together to put together the kind of attractive features they want in order to bring their company there. The regional prosperity initiative is really, really helpful in that regard."

And speaking from her own community's experience, Ms. Wood said the regional approach has raised conversations that perhaps were not being had, or being as closely paid attention to, previously.

"Now having shared governance between the public and private sector, the level of conversation our region is having now about attraction, retention, commercial corridor development, about housing problems, costs of living, you name it, that cuts across all these different things that tend to be legislative and funded very siloed, it's our job locally to take all those silos and turn them over and make something ... where all the pieces fit together," she said. "It's just easier to do that when you have common geographic boundaries and you have more integration of all those topics within a community."

DEQ: Flint Lead Problem From Home Connections

Officials have found lead in Flint's water system, but it is coming from final service connections, Department of Environmental Quality officials said in response to a push from U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee for additional water testing in the city.

Mr. Kildee (D-Flint) called Tuesday for the DEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to have independent testing conducted on the city's water system after the lead findings and complaints of murky water in the system (See Gongwer Michigan Report, September 22, 2015).

Brad Wurfel, spokesperson for the DEQ, said there is a federal rule calling for converting lead pipes to copper, but that the rule is designed to reduce the problem, not eliminate it.

"We felt we were clear that the lead detected in Flint's water is strictly the product of lead in home plumbing," Mr. Wurfel said of the meeting with Mr. Kildee and staff from other elected leaders. "It doesn't come from the river, or the plant, or the cast iron pipes employed for most of the delivery system. It comes from water passing through lead service connections - more than 15,000 of them in Flint, and it comes from home plumbing in older homes."

But he noted that Mr. Kildee is in the best place to push for change because much of what he would like to see happen would require federal funds.

Appeals Court: Restitution In Sex Cases Must Be Based On Facts

Restitution orders in criminal sexual conduct cases must be based on a factual basis of costs a victim may face and not on projections, the Court of Appeals ruled on Wednesday.

The court also said restitution could not be granted to an alleged victim if there is no criminal case dealing with the alleged crime.

Judge Elizabeth Gleicher, joined by Judge Kirsten Frank Kelly and Judge Deborah Servitto, overturned a decision by the Leelanau Circuit Court in *People v. Corbin* (COA docket No. 319122).

In the case, Jeffrey Corbin was accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting two boys, Shane and Austin (who are both now adults) over a 10-year period. The two brothers revealed the abuse some six years after it ended, and Mr. Corbin admitted to the abuse. He was initially charged with assaulting both brothers, but the charge for assaulting Austin was dropped because the statute of limitations had run out.

After being sentenced to prison, Mr. Corbin was then ordered to pay restitution of $276,800 to Austin and $276,805 to Shane. The restitution was to help both undergo psychological therapy needed to deal with the abuse.

But Ms. Gleicher said restitution could not be paid to Austin because there was no conviction of a crime against him.

In terms of the restitution ordered for Shane, the amount was based on estimates of how much it might cost to undergo the therapy and recoup some lost expenses before the crimes were discovered.

But the Appeals Court said the restitution provision had to be based, according to state law, on a reasonable fact-based system. Shane's restitution was not so based, so the case was sent back to the trial court to reconsider the case on the basis of what the facts would show a proper restitution would be.

Insurance Agents Warned Against 'Sliding'

Insurance and Financial Services Director Patrick McPharlin issued orders on Wednesday banning "insurance sliding," which keeps an insurance customer for getting full details of insurance policies.

In Bulletin 2015-21-INS, Mr. McPharlin said insurance agents who engage in the practice could be put on probation, suspended, have their license revoked or be fined.

In the bulletin, Mr. McPharlin said it had come to his "attention that some insurance producers are engaging in the practice known as insurance 'sliding.'" He did not identify any agents who may have engaged in the practice.

In cases where "sliding" has occurred, charges for additional coverage the customer is unaware of are hidden in a total premium and the premium is higher than what the customer initially agreed to.

Mr. McPharlin said examples of "sliding" include telling customers that roadside assistance is part of a policy when it is not, or saying that a customer must purchase roadside assistance in their policy, enticing customers to buy auto club memberships, or enticing a customer to buy coverages without explaining all the coverages and their cost.

If an agent is accused of sliding, then the department will commence administrative hearings against that agent.

Handy Middle School Principal To Run In 96th House

Democrat Brian DuFresne, principal of Handy Middle School in Bay City, announced on Wednesday he will run in the 96th House District, where Rep. Charles Brunner cannot seek re-election due to term limits.

"We need someone who will continue to work to preserve Bay County as both a community and an economy," Mr. DuFresne said in a statement. "I've lived my whole life in Bay County, and I'm fortunate now to be raising my family here as well, but I remember what this community was and can be again. We need a leader to fight to bring back one of the strongest middle-class economies in our state, a leader who will tell Lansing to stop putting our economic troubles on the backs of our kids and the working class."

Mr. DuFresne said he is entering the race to offer "honest hometown leadership." He attended St. Joseph's Parochial Grade School and graduated in 1986 from Bay City Central High School. He earned an Associate's at Delta Community College, a Bachelor's at Central Michigan University and his Master's in Education Leadership from Saginaw Valley State University.

Mr. DuFresne is a member of both the Michigan Democratic Party and the National Rifle Association.

An announcement rally will take placed on September 26 at noon at the Local 362 UAW Hall in Bay City.

PSC Directs Clear Rate Communications To Provide Proof Of Services

The Public Service Commission has directed Clear Rate Communications, Inc., to provide proof it is complying with state law and PSC regulations requiring telecommunications companies to provide telephone service to deaf and hard-of-hearing residents.

After AT&T Michigan on May 28, 2014 sent letters to basic local exchange carriers in Michigan informing them of its intent to discontinue the telecommunications relay service (TRS) it provided to Michigan carriers, the PSC issued an order that, among other things, required local exchange providers to file customer outreach plans no less than 30 days prior to the transition of its relay customers and to notify the PSC within 10 days of making a change to a new relay service provider by filing a letter in that docket.

The PSC staff questions (case U-17951) whether Clear Rate customer have had access to TRS since February 7, 2015, and the Commission has not been able to determine if the company is providing TRS to its customers on its own, jointly with other basic local exchange providers, or by contract with other telecommunications providers, the PSC said in a statement about the case.

As such, Clear Rate is to file a response by 5 p.m. on October 8 to each of the PSC staff's allegations. That response is to explain whether it has entered into a TRS agreement, and shall be accompanied by pre-filed direct testimony, exhibits, work papers and affidavits supporting the veracity of its response, PSC said.

The company has also been directed to appear at a pre-hearing conference before an administrative law judge at 9 a.m. on October 29 at the PSC offices in Lansing.

MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION: The Public Service Commission on Wednesday also approved a settlement authorizing Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation to implement its energy optimization plan for 2016 and 2017, resulting in a decrease of 4 cents per month on the bills of residential customers using 100 ccf of natural gas per month. The decrease is effective January 1, 2016 (case U-17789).

Subscribers Please Note

A story in the Tuesday Report on HB 4248 to repeal certain outdated provisions of law has been updated to reflect changes made in the House prior to the bill coming before a Senate committee.

Supplemental Event Planner

Friday, September 25

U. S. Rep. Dan Kildee (D) Fundraiser, The Durant Hotel, 607 East 2nd Avenue, Flint, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, October 13

Rep. Jon Bumstead **(R) Fundraiser, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.**

Rep. Frank Liberati **(D) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.**

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Michigan Report for Thursday, September 24, 2015

Less Controversial Third Grade Reading Bill Hits House Floor

State Financial Leaders Present For Quadrant Roads Meeting

Nofs Continues Discussion On Electric Choice

Broken Tuition Caps Could Mean Changes For 2016 Budget

Committee Discusses Voting Reforms

House Panel Considers Independent Inspections For Prison Kitchens

Michigan Joins With Other States in Volkswagen Investigation

House Oks Bill Exempting Some Food Establishments From Inspections

Court Of Claims Rules For E.M. On Modifying Retiree Health Care

Ananich Urges Action On Flint Water Situation

Corrections Updates Purchasing Policy In Light Of Complaint

Senate Panel Reports Venture Investment Bills

Poll Finds Dead Split On Marijuana Legalization

House Panel Approves Presidential Primary As Regular Election Date

Unemployment Down Across State

Pscholka 'Good Samaritan' Prescription Drug Bill To Get Hearing

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Volume #54, Report #190 -- Thursday, September 24, 2015

Less Controversial Third Grade Reading Bill Hits House Floor

Legislation sent to the full House Thursday and designed to increase reading proficiency in elementary school students is less controversial than version lawmakers considered in 2014, but there's still a lot of work to be done before the chamber will vote on the bill, House Education Committee Chair Rep. Amanda Price said.

HB 4822, which aims to increase reading proficiency in elementary school students before they make it to the fourth grade, was reported 13-3, with Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), Rep. Tom Hooker (R-Byron Center) and Rep. Pat Somerville (R-New Boston) voting no. Rep. Christine Greig (D-Farmington Hills) abstained.

Mr. McBroom said he voted no because the bill is attempting a one size fits all solution for every student in every school with reading problems.

"I just think that that is ridiculous. It doesn't' work. And it has never worked well," he said. "We ought to come up with a plan that empowers local school districts and the Department of Education to customize their approach to individual students' needs, use the professionals in the classroom, in the administration, in the department, to help every student that needs help, and not pretend that somehow we can create a bill that is going to fix everything for every student."

But Ms. Price said the bill would not apply across the board to all school districts.

"It's a policy that we hope outlines a plan that gets kids to proficiency across the state," she said. "Some of the schools in my district are very high in proficiency levels. So they are doing a lot of good things. But in some areas of the state we are not there."

But Mr. McBroom disagreed: "Certainly there are elements of you could implement this provision this way in this school, and this way in that school. But it's still the same very specific ... way of doing things," he said.

Changes in the H-4 substitute version include more closely tying the policy bill to the appropriations piece in the budget; encouraging schools to offer summer reading camps for struggling readers before they reach the third grade; expanding distribution of read at home information to others who spend time with the child; and clarifying children need to be more than a grade level behind in reading for the smart promotion to apply.

The bill discussed last term originally included a provision requiring the retention of every third grader who could not read at grade level. Although that was later changed, the controversy regarding the automatic retention was never overcome and the House was not able to take up the bill.

"There's been so much stakeholder input, so much work with the governor's work group," Ms. Price said. "(This is) much less controversial. There's still a lot of resonance about making those kids stay back. But I always want to point out the emphasis has to be on interventions on K, 1, 2 and 3 and not about retention."

Under the current version, there are a variety of alternatives to retention. First, the bill attempts to provide intervention before the child gets to the third grade. Second, the bill provides a smart promotion where a student can be promoted to the fourth grade if they are proficient in other subjects and only receive reading instruction at the third grade level.

There is also a good cause exemption to retention outlined in the bill. The smart promotion piece of the legislation would not go into effect until the 2017-18 school year. However, some, including Rep. Winnie Brinks (D-Grand Rapids), would like to see the implementation delayed until the 2018-19 school year.

But Ms. Price said the longer the implementation is put back, more students will be left behind.

"The results I see on reading, we can't afford any more time pushing it back," she said. "We did push it back one year. I just keep thinking in my mind what kids are we going to lose if we push it back even further."

The reported version of the bill also addresses literacy instruction needs for English language learners; clarifies the type of personnel who may be asked to work with students who are retained; and makes changes to language regarding the good cause exemption for students with disabilities.

There were multiple testifiers last week concerned about the bill as it relates to students with dyslexia.

Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) said discussions are ongoing to address the issue more formally outside the third grade reading bill.

"I know we are having discussions with the other side of the aisle too, and potentially the lieutenant governor, to potentially do some more formal work on this process with regards to students with disabilities. We think it is larger than just things that impact literacy," Mr. Zemke said.

Rep. Andy Schor (D-Lansing) also expressed ongoing concerns about portions of the bill relating to students with individual education plans and special education students. He said he understands it's early in the process and more changes will be made, though.

"I expect a lot more work to be done," Ms. Price said, "because this is not an easy issue for a lot of folks. But at least on the Republican side, this is a caucus priority so I hope that conversations are very fruitful."

State Financial Leaders Present For Quadrant Roads Meeting

Although the legislative quadrant still did not have an agreement as of Thursday evening on a plan to fund roads, the presence of some of the state's top financial officials seemed to indicate that Governor Rick Snyder and legislative leaders may be getting closer.

Treasurer Nick Khouri, Budget Director John Roberts and Transportation Director Kirk Steudle were seen leaving the meeting together on Thursday.

"They're an important resource and we had good discussions on a number of topics," Governor Rick Snyder told media after the quadrant meeting, which lasted slightly more than an hour. "You can go through the list of things that people are concerned about roads, and it's good to have experts."

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) indicated the conversations are becoming more detail-specific,

even if those details have yet to be made public.

"I think we're having real conversations about actual real components of the plan and what it may look like," Mr. Ananich said after the meeting. "We haven't settled on anything yet but we're actually talking about things, so that's better than talking esoterically."

Joining the legislative leaders and Mr. Snyder were Treasurer Nick Khouri, Budget Director John Roberts and Transportation Director Kirk Steudle. Those leaders had not been seen at other quadrant meetings.

Mr. Ananich said the leaders were talking about aspects, looking at other states and best practices, and getting numbers on all ideas.

House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) characterized the meeting as "more progress" and said he felt the leaders were "getting closer all the time."

He said: "On a scale of productivity, it was up there. I think today was at least an eight (out of 10)."

Mr. Cotter said road funding discussions won't hold up other serious matters before the Legislature such as energy reform or repealing the prevailing wage, either. So far, nothing is contingent on roads.

Mr. Snyder seemed to have the same positive attitude, saying he was not ready to "talk about negative actions" such as vetoing bills that come to his desk before an agreement is reached.

"This meeting was constructive today," he said. "We've continued to have constructive meetings. More positive progress is going on, so I want to stay positive about this."

Nofs Continues Discussion On Electric Choice

The Senate Energy and Technology Committee adopted an S-1 substitute to a bill on electric choice that the committee chair said Thursday makes only technical changes and he assured observers the measure will not be the final version of the bill eventually reported to the full Senate.

"I'm a firm believer in the process, and I expect there will be a lot of changes before we arrive at an S-2 substitute," Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek), the committee chair, told another packed room of attendees to the meeting.

Perhaps the most substantial of language changes in the new substitute is the addition that, "A customer who fails to provide written notice as required under this subsection shall no longer be eligible to receive service from an alternative electric supplier and shall return to standard tariff service with the electric utility upon expiration of the customer's current electricity supply contract with an alternative electric supplier."

The substitute was adopted with unanimous approval. Sen. John Proos (R-St. Joseph) was absent from committee.

Thursday's committee saw a handful of alternative electric suppliers testify in opposition to the bill at hand, SB 437. Many felt the provisions would essentially end electric choice and brought undue burdens on the customers.

Craig Borr, president of the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association, had several concerns about the new Integrated Resource Planning practices for utilities, for example.

"We understand the necessity ... we certainly are not opposed to that process for (utilities) due to the fact they have a profit quota," Mr. Borr said. "However, we do not believe that a new, central generalization planning process is necessary or needed."

His group took issue with the changes to electric choice. Pointing to Wolverine Power Cooperative - one of its members - as an example, Mr. Borr said the company has successfully been working in the choice market and saved about $100 million since choice started.

"MECA supports several of the changes to electric choice being proposed in SB 437 but also believes there are provisions in the legislation that need to be modified or they will slowly choke competitive retail choice markets in Michigan," Mr. Borr said.

By contrast, Steve Kurmas, president and COO of DTE Energy, said it supported SB 437 and that the IRP process would ensure "a timely review by all stakeholders of new technologies as they evolve. Second, it will ensure a diversified energy portfolio is maintained. Third, it will allow Michigan to adapt to changing federal regulations."

"Finally, it will ensure fair prices for Michigan's families and businesses," Mr. Kurmas said.

On electric choice, Mr. Kurmas urged requiring capacity to be located in the same zone as the load served to ensure reliability.

"Michigan's utilities are responsible to ensure that reliable supply is always there for their customers. Alternative energy suppliers should be held responsible as well," he said. "They have options - build their own generation, enter into bi-lateral agreements with existing generators, or execute an auction for multi-year generation capacity."

Hillsdale College economics professor Gary Wolfram recommended legislative action to incent the state's utilities to do better at controlling costs, improving reliability, reducing pollution and creating better ratepayer outcomes. Mr. Wolfram recently completed a study for the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum, which supports an increase of the 10 percent electric choice cap.

"Michigan has the highest electricity costs in the region and it's the role of the Legislature to pass regulation to protect consumers and improve efficiencies," Mr. Wolfram said in a statement. "On their own, Michigan's monopoly utilities are not incentivized to make choices that are efficient. Through regulation and policy, the Michigan Legislature can make the market more efficient, reduce cost and increase economic activity."

Mr. Wolfram's testimony was criticized by Citizens for Michigan's Energy Future, which supports full regulation and largely represents incumbent utilities.

"Wolfram fails to mention that, on average, deregulated states pay 27 percent higher rates than regulated states," Kelly Rossman-McKinney, the group's spokesperson, said in a statement. "And he disregards the large subsidy that regulated customers in Michigan are forced to pay to cover open-access customers."

She continued: "While deregulation advocates continue to make dubious claims based on free market principles,

the truth is they're pushing for what amounts to a backdoor tax increase that falls hardest on low-income residents. Deregulation also makes electric rate more volatile, hurts reliability and gives alternative energy suppliers ample opportunity to cheat the system of massive profits."

It remains unclear how soon the committee may report the bill to the full Senate for consideration.

Broken Tuition Caps Could Mean Changes For 2016 Budget

There appeared general agreement among members of the House and Senate Appropriations Higher Education subcommittees that change was needed to the tuition cap for universities, but not necessarily agreement on how to go about that.

The two subcommittees heard Thursday from the presidents of Eastern Michigan and Oakland universities, the two that increased tuition more than the cap, on their reasons for those increases.

There was some concern raised about OU's increase given the institution had not first spent into its reserves. But the greater concern was that universities could ignore the current cap at will with apparently little negative effect.

"Tuition restraint as a measurement does not seem to be effective since universities can choose when to conform and then fall back inline," Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford) said.

Mr. MacGregor said he was inclined to find ways to make the universities stay within the caps.

Rep. Michael McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills), chair of the House subcommittee, questioned how the Legislature could better work with the institutions to gauge their needs.

"Most of the testimony I heard was a 4 percent increase was what the universities were looking for in that cap," he said. "How can we as a state work closer to understand these challenges?"

EMU Interim President Kim Schatzel said she did not oppose the tuition cap, but that legislators had to recognize it was a ceiling for periods where the university might, for other reasons, keep tuition and below the cap, but then need to rebuild revenue later.

She said EMU had increased its tuition to rebuild its cash reserves, which had fallen to about a tenth of what some similar institutions had.

And OU President George Hynd said universities are not ignoring the cap.

"We are all very cognizant and cautious of exceeding that tuition cap," he said. "There may be ways of thinking about a tuition cap that may be less punitive and more helpful to the institutions."

He said the current cap penalizes institutions like his that are growing. "We would favor a funding formula that includes a floor and leaves tuition to the institution," he said.

Oakland increased its tuition because needs were simply outpacing revenues, he said. But he said he would prefer to keep adding to cash reserves rather than spending into them given the recent trend of declining high school graduates.

Mr. McCready said the two subcommittees would likely be meeting in the future to discuss the implications of

the high school graduation trends.

Rep. Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) said the university's actions were expected. "I've been saying the last three years in this committee that we need to find a new source of revenue for higher ed," he said. "I'm surprised it took this long for you to go over the caps we gave you."

But Mr. Singh and Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton), chair of the Senate subcommittee, differed on whether the universities had been restored to pre-2011-12 levels when all took a 15 percent hit to balance the budget. Mr. Singh said none had, while Ms. Schuitmaker said the current budget restored 11 of the 15.

Mr. Hynd said his university had not been restored.

Committee Discusses Voting Reforms

The Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee on Thursday discussed three different approaches to delegating the state's Electoral College votes instead of the current winner take all system in a presidential election, but took no action as the committee chair said there is no real consensus from his caucus on change.

No change to the system Michigan has used since the 1800s is also likely for the 2016 election, said chair Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc).

Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) presented his proposal in SB 489 first, which would require one presidential elector be chosen from each congressional district and two be chosen at large based on which political party received the most votes for president. Two other states, Maine and Nebraska, have a system similar to what Mr. Green proposed.

"Something like this will encourage (candidates) to campaign in a state where there's an option of splitting the delegates," Mr. Green told the committee. "Some believe the winner-take-all system makes our state attractive, but I believe it's more important we allow all areas of our state to have a voice."

That argument was harshly criticized by Patrick Rose, an election lawyer with the Michigan Election Coalition. He said adopting a methodology other than one that would enter Michigan into a compact supporting national popular voting would take Michigan, and eventually the rest of the nation, back in time to a point where individual states each had different rules.

"It was chaos," Mr. Rose explained, saying that system was also determined by leaders at the time (the 1800s) to be corrupt.

As to the two other states that have a system similar to what Mr. Green proposed, Mr. Rose said that has so far only changed the outcome of one single electoral vote and that Nebraska, specifically, has been trying to reverse its system virtually since it switched to such a method.

Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) presented his proposal next, SB 197, which would allow presidential electors be allocated to a political party based on the percentage of popular votes. If the number of presidential electors for the leading party was not a whole number, then a fractional number of 0.5 or greater would be rounded up the nearest whole number, and a number less than that rounded down.

"I believe the fairest of all is when every vote is counted equally," Mr. Hildenbrand said.

His bill is tie-barred to SB 88, a bill by Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) that would enact the Interstate Compact to Elect the President by National Popular Vote and enter Michigan into the compact. The logic there, Mr. Hildenbrand said, is that his proposal would be used while other states join the compact with hopefully enough joining to make the compact binding.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) expressed reluctance to move into a system as described by Mr. Hildenbrand and later Ms. Warren because, Mr. Colbeck said, it values uniformity more than diversity.

"For me, this gets into this fundamental discussion of the concept of a pure democracy and just our 'add them up and the ones that get the top votes win' versus a constitutional republic," he said.

But proponents of the bipartisan plan say without it, four out of five votes cast in a presidential election are already being ignored. And while the argument of value in diversity seems valid, "When we take the Pledge of Allegiance, it's not one congressional district under God, it's one nation under God," argued Patrick Rosenstiel of the group National Popular Vote.

The committee did not vote on the bills, and, Mr. Robertson said he has no plan to do so in the immediate future.

"We're not going to make any changes for the 2016 election. But ... some of the perception has been, 'Clearly there must be a desire on the part of Republicans to make a change away from winner-take-all,' and others say, 'No, no, that shouldn't,'" Mr. Robertson said. "I can assure you there's no uniformity of opinion on the Republican side."

OPEN MEETINGS: The committee did, however, report HB 4182, which amends the Open Meetings Act to require the physical presence of each member of an elected public body who was voting on an issue. The committee adopted an S-1 substitute that made exceptions for those who are in the deployed in the military or for certain, specific emergencies.

House Panel Considers Independent Inspections For Prison Kitchens

Two bills requiring prison kitchens receive third-party inspections now that the Department of Corrections is receiving food services from a private provider heard testimony in a House committee Thursday, but some members of the House Oversight and Ethics Committee don't appear convinced that's necessary.

Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), chair of the committee, and Rep. John Kivela (D-Marquette), are the sponsors of HB 4749 and HB 4748, respectively. Mr. McBroom said in the 1970s, the state exempted its prison kitchens from the inspection requirement because the state was running the kitchens and already doing those inspections.

Now, the Department of Corrections still oversees inspections of the kitchens, but inspections are also done by the private company contracted with the state to provide the service.

Mr. McBroom said it makes sense to have a third-party, independent inspection done in prison kitchens just like restaurants and other facilities.

"Since the state is no longer providing those food services but is contracting that out, it makes sense that those inspections be brought back," he said. "This is not different than inspections at any other public institution."

Mr. Kivela said there are three prisons in his district, and he said he has been outspoken that he wasn't supportive of privatizing the kitchen services in prisons.

"I want to work toward making them work," he said. "When we look at how can we as a Legislature help improve the situation ... I think at the end of the day what would really assist the department ... is having an independent third party do the inspections like they do for any other food service entity."

Mr. Kivela said the contractor would pick up the fee to pay the local health department. However, Kyle Kaminski, legislative liaison for the Department of Corrections, said the state would likely pick up the costs, at least until the contract is renewed.

Mr. Kaminski also said the department is neutral on the bill.

But Nick Derusha, director of the Luce-Mackinac-Alger-Schoolcraft District Health Department, said they are more than capable of taking on the additional inspections. He said the twice-a-year inspections run anywhere from $200 to $600.

Rep. Joseph Graves (R-Linden) said he has heard from inmates and others in prisons that the food is good. He also was skeptical of the accuracy and need of these inspections.

And Rep. Lana Theis (R-Brighton) said she was concerned about making this change in the middle of the contract.

Mr. Kivela said the two inspections a year are scheduled in advance and won't take too much additional time from their process.

"I think the idea of having increased safety and transparency is well worth that small amount," he said.

Rep. Rose Mary Robinson (D-Detroit) said she was excited about the bills.

"It shows we have empathy," she said.

The committee did not discuss in-depth the issues of food service in the prisons during the last two years or the scandals related to those services. The department has recently switched from Aramark to Trinity for its food service after nearly 20 months with Aramark plagued with troubles, lowlighted by repeated concerns about maggots in the food.

Mr. Kaminski said eight contract monitors work for the department and are former food service inspectors. He said they visit facilities two-to-three times a month and conduct monthly inspections.

He said annually, a sanitarian conducts an unannounced inspection of the kitchens as well.

Still, Mr. McBroom said there "is a little bit of concern about what has been going on in midst of safeguards you said are in place."

"Representative Kivela and I have worked hard to make this about going forward and not looking back," he said. "But I don't think that it is entirely fair, then, to not follow some of your statements you just made by just expressing some of the troubling aspects that have recently happened, despite the safeguards you mentioned are

in place. ... This is not about drudging that up."

Mr. Kaminski said the department has no position on the bill, and added it is up to the Legislature to decide if the current approach is sufficient.

Ms. Theis also said some of the problems in the kitchens would not have come up without the current inspection process, but Mr. McBroom retorted: "I would contend that it wasn't always the inspection process that brought the issues," to which Ms. Theis agreed.

The committee did not act on the bills. Mr. McBroom said he would like some clarity on who would pick up the costs for the inspections before bringing the bills up for a vote.

Michigan Joins With Other States in Volkswagen Investigation

The scandal that has engulfed the world's largest automaker has led Michigan and 27 other states attorneys general to launch an investigation into Volkswagen.

Last week, the federal government ordered Volkswagen to recall diesel vehicles sold in the U.S. with doctored pollution controls that would show the vehicles meeting emission standards when they were tested but running at higher emission levels when they were not being tested.

The German-based company announced as many as 11 million vehicles sold all around the world were affected by the same computer-generated device. Already the company's chief executive officer has resigned, and on Thursday, credit rating agencies said Volkswagen had been put on credit watch.

A spokesperson for Attorney General Bill Schuette said the states will subpoena Volkswagen executives.

The states could choose to pursue the investigation through either their consumer protection or environmental protection laws, or both. Schuette spokesperson Andrea Bitely did not say how Michigan would pursue the matter.

Along with Michigan, the attorneys general that have so far announced they would participate in the investigation are from Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

House Oks Bill Exempting Some Food Establishments From Inspections

The House on Thursday passed an inspection exemption for low-risk foods served at temporary food establishments.

SB 144 passed the House 89-16. The House made no changes to the bill, which now heads to Governor Rick Snyder.

Under the bill, a local health department, based on a public risk assessment, could simply conduct an in-office consultation with the establishment instead of an on-site inspection.

The bill defines "low-risk foods" as:

- Raw or prepackaged food that is not potentially hazardous food;
- Potentially hazardous food that is prepared in a licensed facility and is not prepared on-site; and
- Commercially processed potentially hazardous food that is fully cooked and heated only for hot holding.

PHARMACY TECHNICIANS: The House also sent a bill that makes some changes to a law passed last year regarding the licensure of pharmacy technicians to Governor Rick Snyder.

Under SB 468, which cleared the House 104-1, certain applicants would be excused from the requirement to have graduated from high school or passed the GED test when applying for pharmacy technician licensure.

The bill also would increase the duration of a temporary license from 210 days to one year, and allow a person employed as a pharmacy technician for an employer with multiple locations to work as a limited license pharmacy technician at any of those locations.

Court Of Claims Rules For E.M. On Modifying Retiree Health Care

The former Allen Park emergency manager's decision to modify retiree health care for former city workers was lawful, the Court of Claims has ruled.

In an opinion issued this week, Judge Mark Boonstra granted the state's motion to dismiss the lawsuit brought by retirees of the city government, who challenged changes made to their health care in late 2012 and early 2013.

The challenge was two-pronged. It contested the ability of the emergency manager to modify retiree health care under PA 72 of 1990, the old local financial emergency law, because it contained no provision for what were known as emergency financial managers to modify contracts.

Joyce Parker was still operating under PA 72 of 1990 when she first began moving toward changes in retiree health care, putting retirees under a plan that for the first time would include deductibles and co-pays. By the time the change actually took effect, Ms. Parker was operating under PA 436 of 2012, which enhanced the powers of local emergency managers.

Mr. Boonstra, in his ruling, said the plaintiffs had no evidence that Ms. Parker actually implemented the new insurance under PA 72 of 1990 and so dismissed that portion of the case.

The plaintiffs also mounted a more wide-ranging attack against PA 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, claiming it is unconstitutionally vague.

To support their claim, the plaintiffs assert the act vests the entire "sovereign power" of the state in two executive branch employees, the treasurer and the emergency manager; declares city retirees "interested parties," but excludes them from the rest of the act; and gives the treasurer and emergency manager limitless power.

However, Mr. Boonstra said the claim meets none of the tests necessary to support a charge of unconstitutional vagueness and contains little support for the allegations.

Ananich Urges Action On Flint Water Situation

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich said Thursday he will continue working on raising funds to provide his

hometown with clean drinking water after medical data was released showing increased lead levels in children through the city of Flint.

Medical officials at the Hurley Medical Center used data from all blood lead levels at their facility to analyze differences between those collected between January 1, 2013 and September 15, 2013, prior to the city switching the resource for its water, and for the post-switch period of January 1, 2015 through September 15, 2015.

The results for children five years old and younger found that pre-switch, about 2.1 percent of children were found to have noticeable levels of lead in their blood (that is consistent with Department of Health and Human Services data at 2.2 percent, the officials noted). Post-switch, 4 percent of children tested were found to have lead in their blood.

As a point of comparison, the officials also analyzed the same periods for Genesee County children living outside of city of Flint zip codes. Pre-switch, 0.6 percent of children 5 and under were flagged as having lead in their system. That increased to 1 percent during the post-switch timeframe.

"The findings released today are alarming. Our top priority has to be doing everything we can and finding every available resource to ensure access to safe water for Flint residents," Mr. Ananich (D-Flint) said in a statement. "I will be leading an effort to raise state, private and philanthropic resources to deliver filters and clean water into the community as quickly as possible."

Children with high blood lead levels are at an increased likelihood of attention deficit disorders, having delinquent behaviors and arrests, or having hematologic, cardiovascular, immunologic, or endocrine issues, the officials noted in their presentation.

Mr. Ananich said anyone with concerns about their water should visit flintwaterinfo.com and contact their physician or the Genesee County Health Department immediately.

Corrections Updates Purchasing Policy In Light Of Complaint

Prison stores will have fewer free samples and Department of Corrections policies make it clear store employees are not entitled to personal use of those, a report received Thursday by the Board of Ethics said.

The report is largely attachments detailing the current contract with Keefe, the vendor for the store goods, and the new employee policies.

The report resulted from a complaint filed against Jim Kolb, a store supervisor the Michigan State Employees Association said was abusing his position in the use and distribution of free samples (See Gongwer Michigan Report, June 4, 2015).

The department said in the report that it had complied with the board's recommendation, also formally adopted Thursday, that it take no disciplinary action against Mr. Kolb, given the board's finding that there had been a history of such abuses in the stores that Mr. Kolb was merely continuing.

The department, in the report, revised its policies to make it clear the samples were not for the personal use of the store employees and said it would be contacting all employees annually to reinforce that policy.

The new policy takes effect Saturday under a shortened review process.

It also said it had since changed the contract with Keefe to limit the amount of free samples allowed. Under the new contract, only three samples per store item are allowed, and they are to be delivered only to the Prison Store Contract Committee, which decides what items will be offered in the stores.

FORESTERS: The board also formally adopted its June decision that two Department of Natural Resources foresters had not violated State Ethics Act because the department had the authority to allow them to take on supplemental employment and because they never actually took any outside work.

The Michigan Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters had argued that allowing Kevin LaBumbard, Ben Travis and Theresa Sol to take on outside work would be a conflict because they would be in a position to recommend themselves should land owners call the department for assistance.

Senate Panel Reports Venture Investment Bills

Legislation to ensure the state makes no more tax voucher grants to companies through the Early Stage Venture Investment Corporation were sent to the full Senate Thursday.

The three bills - HB 4195, HB 4196 and HB 4365 - were reported unanimously by the members of the Economic Development and International Investment Committee.

The committee also reported a bill changing how often the state has to certify what the taxable minimum wage will be under the employment security act. Democrats on the panel voted against that bill because it did not include a tie-bar to legislation to restore some unemployment benefits.

The early stage venture bills were made necessary when it was discovered the grants made after the corporation was set up in 2003 had failed to produce the economic development results hoped for, putting the state in a position of losing some $600 million. The discovery of that situation created a budgeting worry for the state which the bills are expected to help ease.

Under the legislation, the state could no longer issue any tax vouchers under the program and the total number of certificates available would be reduced to the $450 million already issued.

The bills also change the expiration date of the fund and the vouchers from 2054 to 2030.

The panel adopted an amendment stipulating that up to $154 million of any revenue the state recoups go to the General Fund, and that any monies after that go to the 21st Century Jobs Fund. Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) said the fund has helped finance companies that have grown and added more than 1,000 jobs to the state.

And Under SB 500, the state would no longer determine quarterly if the base taxable wage under which unemployment protection tax is paid is $9,500 or has to be reduced to $9,000 based on the financial condition of the state's unemployment compensation fund.

The bill would have the state make the declaration once a year, on June 30, if the wage remains at $9,500 or is reduced to $9,000.

Ms. Warren proposed tie-barring the bill to HB 4655, which would restore six weeks of unemployment benefits cut by the state in 2011. Jobless workers have not seen an increase in their benefits in nearly 40 years, and the bill would help provide benefits for those still unable to find work. The amendment failed along party lines.

Poll Finds Dead Split On Marijuana Legalization

With a good chance Michigan voters will act on at least one marijuana legalization proposal on the 2016 ballot, a poll shows voters are split dead even on the issue.

The poll conducted of Lansing-based Marketing Resource Group found 46 percent said they would support legalization for persons 21 years old and older, while 46 percent were opposed.

But of those most likely to vote, the scale definitely does not favor legal weed: 52 percent said they would oppose legalization to 42 percent backing it.

Groups are out now collecting signatures on proposed bills to legalize recreational use of marijuana for adults. Its medicinal use is already approved for those with certain medical conditions.

Opposition is led by self-identified Republicans, those 65 or older, and so-called "super voters" who vote in every election.

The poll was conducted earlier in September of 600 likely voters, with an error rate of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The poll also showed Democrats backing the idea with 60 percent support. Independents gave it 50 percent support, while just 29 percent of Republicans supported it.

Younger people also supported the proposal, with 66 percent of those between ages 18 and 29 backing it, while just 33 percent of those aged 65 and older backed it.

Geographically, support was highest in Detroit, where 75 percent backed the proposal, and it had stronger support overall in the Detroit-metro area (though it was too close to call how voting would go). In outstate and rural areas, support fell sharply. In West Michigan, it was opposed by 56 percent of those polled.

House Panel Approves Presidential Primary As Regular Election Date

Every four years, the state's primary elections and any local elections held in conjunction would move up to the date set for the presidential primary under legislation approved Thursday by the House Elections Committee.

The bill (HB 4904), which was reported without objection from committee and has support of the various local government groups, would allow other items than the presidential primary on that ballot and would provide filing deadlines to accommodate that shift.

The bill specifies it is intended to correct a Court of Appeals ruling that the presidential primary was not one of the state's regular election dates and so was not available for other issues.

The committee did strip off an enacting provision that delay it for 90 days out of concern the delay would have it

enacted too late to affect the upcoming elections.

Unemployment Down Across State

All 17 of the state's labor markets saw unemployment fall in August, a report Thursday from the Department of Technology, Management and Budget said.

The report said employment was up across the state, but the decline was in part due to people dropping out of the workforce across the state.

"Jobless rates around the state typically fall in August, and this year was no exception," Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, said in a statement. "Employment increased in August in a number of Michigan regions, however, (and) workforce levels fell in all areas from the June and July summer peak."

Employment increased in 12 markets from July and in all 17 from August 2014, but the total workforce fell in all 17 markets from July and in 10 regions from the year prior.

The lowest unemployment was 3.4 percent in Grand Rapids-Wyoming, down from 4.2 percent from July and 4.9 percent from August 2014, also the lowest rates for their respective periods.

Detroit-Warren-Dearborn retained its position as the highest unemployment rate at 6.2 percent, down from 7 percent from July and 8.9 percent from last August, both marking the highest employment for the state.

Among the counties, Mackinac had the lowest unemployment at 2.8 percent, while Schoolcraft had the highest at 9.6 percent.

Wayne County was third highest at 7.5 percent, Oakland County was 39th at 5 percent (tied with Van Buren and Saginaw), Macomb was 62nd at 6 percent (tied with Kalkaska), and Kent was third at 3.4 percent.

Pscholka 'Good Samaritan' Prescription Drug Bill To Get Hearing

Rep. Al Pscholka said Thursday his bill precluding individuals younger than 21 years old from facing prescription drug-related legal charges when reporting a medical emergency will get a committee hearing.

HB 4843, Mr. Pscholka (R-Stevensville) said, is similar to a recent public act providing immunity for those minors who report an alcohol-related medical emergency.

"We're talking about situations where people sit by and do nothing while lives are on the line," he said in a statement. "Well, guess what? That's the position we're in, too. We can sit by and do nothing, or we can pass this legislation before we lose another young person with a bright future."

The bill will see a hearing in the House Criminal Justice Committee on Tuesday, September 29, at 9 a.m.

Campaign Notes

MOOLENAAR BACKS RUBIO: Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio, a U.S. senator from Florida, secured his highest-profile Michigan backing yet with an endorsement Thursday from U.S. Rep. John

Moolenaar (R-Midland).

"Marco Rubio is a generational leader who has a bold vision for creating jobs in the 21st Century, and I am proud to endorse him for president," Mr. Moolenaar said in a statement. "Marco's plan for a New American Economy is exactly what Michigan and our country needs and I will do everything I can to help elect him."

MITCHELL ENDORSES FIORINA: Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina secured a notable Michigan endorsement Thursday when conservative business executive Paul Mitchell, a candidate in the 10th U.S. House District, said he is supporting her for president.

"Our next president must possess the experience to effectively lead our country - experience making tough real world decisions, and understand how the world works beyond the fishbowl of politics," Mr. Mitchell said in a statement. "Our next president must be able to communicate clear conservative solutions to the American people and possess the leadership skills needed to enact them into policy. I believe we have just such a leader seeking our nomination, from outside of government, with real world experience that is needed to move America in the right direction. I believe Carly Fiorina is that leader and I am proud to support her candidacy to be the next president of the United States."

AGEMA, TED NUGENT ENDORSING BILL SAGE IN 80TH: Republican National Committeeman Dave Agema and musician Ted Nugent are endorsing Bill Sage of Allegan in the 80th House District, Mr. Agema said Thursday on his Facebook.

Mr. Sage is one of the eight Republicans running in the 80th House District to fill the vacancy created by the expulsion of former Rep. Cindy Gamrat of Plainwell. Ms. Gamrat is also running.

Mr. Sage has said he is a constitutional conservative and wrote the "Constituting Michigan" resolution that was later passed at RNC. Mr. Agema noted that he helped get it passed at the RNC. The resolution requires K-12 education include certain documents, including the Bill of Rights.

Capital Notebook

MAC BOARD: Jerry Doucette of Alger County is the new president of the Michigan Association of Counties. Shelley Goodman Taub of Oakland County is now first vice president and Matthew Bierlein of Tuscola County is the new second vice president.

LOAN SETTLEMENT: Michigan residents saw $15.7 million in forgiven loans and $6.85 million in reduced or modified loans in the final accounting of a settlement with South Dakota-based Western Sky Financial, LLC and California-based CashCall, Incorporated, Attorney General Bill Schuette and Insurance and Financial Services Director Pat McPharlin announced Thursday.

The settlement for issuing loans without a license and for charging excessive interest rates still includes $2.2 million in refunds to customers who filed legitimate claims. The officials said the settlement administrator is resolving now how to divide those funds.

CHARITY GAMING: Ledge Meadows Poker Room in Grand Ledge will close as a charity gaming location on September 29 and 1 Eyed Jack Gaming Supplies will forfeit its license as a supplier after the Gaming Control Board found the supplier had made supplemental payments to the venue.

Statute requires charities to pay separately for the venue and the equipment and other services. Officials said Ledge Meadows was reportedly donating space for the games.

"Ledge Meadows acted like a casino by accepting gambling profits from the supplier," MGCB Executive Director Richard Kalm said in a statement. "The supplier and location made an illegal deal, allowing the location to skirt state law."

Officials noted 1 Eyed Jack was placed on probation for much of 2014 for paying fees to Ledge Meadows. It was also cited for allowing a dealer with a felony record.

Subscribers Please Note

A story on Michigan Works! successes incorrectly identified Ben Damerow in the story where Jacob Maas, CEO of West Michigan Works! should have been cited. The story has been updated online.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, September 30

Michigan State Housing Development Authority Board, Board Room, Fourth Floor, 735 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 1:30 p.m. (Agenda)

Thursday, October 8

Natural Resources Commission, Clark Township Hall, 207 North Blind Line Road, Cedarville, 2:30 p.m. (Agenda)

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Michigan News & Opinion For September 25, 2015

News

Doctors warn Flint of high lead levels in tap water (Associated Press, 9/25/2015)

Michigan prison reform gaining momentum in fall session (Bridge Magazine, 9/24/2015)

A readiness test: What if oil spewed into Great Lakes? (Detroit Free Press, 9/24/2015)

Lawmakers ponder bigger punishment for big tuition hikes (Detroit Free Press, 9/25/2015)

Lawmakers split on inspections for prison kitchens (Detroit Free Press, 9/24/2015)

Some state workers get break from reports (Lansing State Journal, 9/25/2015)

Michigan sales tax on Internet purchases to begin Oct. 1 (Macomb Daily, 9/25/2015)

Eastern Michigan, Oakland officials defend big tuition hikes as lawmakers debate state funding (MLive, 9/24/2015)

Medical Marijuana Act may be unfixable, says attorney (MLive, 9/25/2015)

Michigan panel debates changes to presidential election system, Electoral College votes (MLive, 9/25/2015)

Bill calls for crude shipment ban (Petoskey News-Review, 9/24/2015)

U.S. Rep. Moolenaar backs Rubio for president (The Detroit News, 9/24/2015)

Editorials

Prosecutor: Public safety should be top priority in prison reform (Bridge Magazine, 9/24/2015)

We should welcome Schuette's response to Iran deal (Detroit Free Press, 9/24/2015)

The "guns-under-any-circumstances" crowd is making a strategic mistake (Michigan Radio, 9/24/2015)

Mackinac oil won't mix with water - the lifeblood of craft-brew business (MLive, 9/24/2015)

Editor's Note: Part-time Legislature gets boost (The Detroit News, 9/25/2015)

Prognosis is poor for 600,000 Michiganians to keep health coverage (Toledo Blade, 9/25/2015)

Blogs

5,382 People Have Served In The Legislature, Most No More Than 2 Terms (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/24/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For September 28, 2015

News

Fiorina, Miller highlight GOP Mackinac Island conference (Detroit Free Press, 9/27/2015)

Michigan friends, foes of John Boehner praise service (Detroit Free Press, 9/25/2015)

New bills include increased transparency for DIA (Detroit Free Press, 9/26/2015)

Should guns be allowed in school? (Detroit Free Press, 9/26/2015)

Snyder fund still collects cash from undisclosed donors (Detroit Free Press, 9/26/2015)

Top of Michigan's '18 ticket could be historic first: All female (Detroit Free Press, 9/26/2015)

Michigan debates energy deregulation (Lansing State Journal, 9/27/2015)

Michigan Political Points: Cindy Gamrat, Todd Courser inspire re-election prevention bill (MLive, 9/26/2015)

First on the scene (Port Huron Times Herald, 9/26/2015)

Bill Clinton to headline Mich. fundraiser for Hillary (The Detroit News, 9/26/2015)

Detroit city clerk to challenge Conyers for House seat (The Detroit News, 9/25/2015)

Michigan facing $13B tab to maintain water systems (The Detroit News, 9/27/2015)

Here's what your foreign cars have done to Michigan (Washington Post, 9/28/2015)

Editorials

Snyder must act on Flint lead crisis (Detroit Free Press, 9/26/2015)

State data confirms higher blood-lead levels in Flint kids (Detroit Free Press, 9/26/2015)

Clemons: Rape culture change needs legislation (Lansing State Journal, 9/27/2015)

Snyder to address Middle Eastern commission (Lansing State Journal, 9/26/2015)

Clean Water Rule needs protection for Michigan rivers' sake (MLive, 9/27/2015)

Snyder taking right tack in wooing China trade (MLive, 9/25/2015)

Crops rot for want of immigration reform (The Detroit News, 9/28/2015)

Keep prevailing wage (Toledo Blade, 9/27/2015)

George Weeks: Continuing presidential campaign focus on Michigan (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 9/27/2015)

Blogs

Huizenga Scoops Everyone On Boehner Departure (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/25/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For September 29, 2015

News

Blind activist arrested at Capitol disability event (Detroit Free Press, 9/28/2015)

Violent crime drops in Detroit, Flint in 2014 (Detroit Free Press, 9/28/2015)

State confiscates gas pump card skimmers (Lansing State Journal, 9/29/2015)

House Speaker front-runner Kevin McCarthy recently spoke in Kalamazoo (MLive, 9/28/2015)

Michigan Dems propose $1 billion in tax credits aimed at alleviating 'middle class squeeze' (MLive, 9/28/2015)

The debate over Michigan's electricity deregulation (Petoskey News-Review, 9/28/2015)

Bill to cut repair costs for federal vehicles passes (The Detroit News, 9/28/2015)

Snyder urged to help Flint reconnect to Detroit water (The Detroit News, 9/28/2015)

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz plans Oct. 5 rally in Kalamazoo (The Detroit News, 9/28/2015)

Editorials

Correcting corrections would save money, but carry risks (Bridge Magazine, 9/29/2015)

Dark money: The hot stove politicians can't stop touching (Detroit Free Press, 9/28/2015)

Editorial: Regulations exist for a reason (Lansing State Journal, 9/27/2015)

Michigan Republicans get choosy in GOP presidential primary (Michigan Radio, 9/28/2015)

Letter: Next step for Cindy Gamrat should be reimbursement (MLive, 9/29/2015)

Governor Snyder's plan for clean power makes good business sense (Oakland Press, 9/28/2015)

Right to work for autoworkers (The Detroit News, 9/28/2015)

Blogs

Hold Onto Your Glasses (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/28/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For September 30, 2015

News

Bill would make coercing a woman into abortion a crime (Detroit Free Press, 9/29/2015)

Bill would punish so called 'sanctuary cities' (Detroit Free Press, 9/29/2015)

Bishop bill extends federal student loan program (Detroit Free Press, 9/29/2015)

Gov. Snyder says action coming on Flint's water woes (Detroit Free Press, 9/29/2015)

U-M attorney headed to Michigan Supreme Court? (Detroit Free Press, 9/30/2015)

Three picked for Civil Rights top job (Lansing State Journal, 9/29/2015)

Are state lawmakers running on your dime? Courser, Gamrat staffs weren't the only ones blurring that line (MLive, 9/29/2015)

Group launches ballot initiative to mandate paid sick leave in Michigan (MLive, 9/29/2015)

Ken Braun: New poll reveals union workers are unhappy workers (MLive, 9/30/2015)

Michigan AG Bill Schuette backs civil asset forfeiture reform package (MLive, 9/29/2015)

Teen prescription drug overdose inspires push for 'Good Samaritan' exemption in Michigan law (MLive, 9/29/2015)

Feds give state police $1.5M for heroin crackdown (The Detroit News, 9/29/2015)

Gov's office helps get water filters to Flint families (The Detroit News, 9/29/2015)

Snyder in talks on resettling Syrian refugees in Mich. (The Detroit News, 9/29/2015)

Snyder picks O'Brien for state Court of Appeals (The Detroit News, 9/29/2015)

Editorials

Hastening our race to the bottom (Battle Creek Enquirer, 9/29/2015)

Don't practice for leak, shut down pipeline (Detroit Free Press, 9/30/2015)

More Freedom of Information needed in Michigan (Holland Sentinel, 9/29/2015)

Our view: Laws taking effect a step toward fairness (Midland Daily News, 9/30/2015)

More jobs, fewer workers, less unemployment (Port Huron Times Herald, 9/29/2015)

Editorial: UAW members must face contract reality (The Detroit News, 9/30/2015)

Glenn: Keep energy choice alive (The Detroit News, 9/30/2015)

Robinson: Demystify the minimum wage (The Detroit News, 9/30/2015)

Blogs

Greimel, Trump May Kinda, Sorta Agree On Something (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/29/2015)

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Volume #54, Report #194 -- Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Cotter Said Now To Back $800M New Revenue For Roads

One of the key pieces for legislative leaders to resolve as they negotiate a road funding package appears to have cleared a key marker with several sources telling Gongwer News Service that House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } supports raising $800 million in new revenue.

There is no agreement, no deal, not even a framework, not yet, for the long-sought roads package.

But six weeks ago, when the House attempted to pass a plan relying on $600 million in new revenue and $600 million shifted from the General Fund to roads, it was plainly clear - from both House Republican sources and sources among others close to the negotiations - that $800 million in new revenue was not under consideration at that point in the House.

In fact, one source close to the negotiations said at the time that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } (R-West Olive) and the Democratic legislative leadership were willing to work toward a framework of $800 million in new revenue and $300 million shifted from the General Fund, but that Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) was not part of the talks leading to that conclusion.

Now, however, sources, who spoke on condition they not be named given the sensitivity of the negotiations, say Mr. Cotter is there on $800 million in new revenue. Exactly how much would come from the General Fund is less clear, but sources said the $400 million figure seems likely because it would mean not putting any additional pressure on the General Fund than it will devote to roads in the 2015-16 fiscal year that starts Thursday and it would meet the $1.2 billion figure long cited as the target for new road funding. The 2015-16 fiscal year budget contains $400 million from the General Fund for roads.

Mr. Cotter, asked Wednesday whether he has embraced an 800/400 dynamic, did not directly answer.

"There are a lot of variables, so we haven't settled on a framework just yet, but are working through all of the individual pieces of it," Mr. Cotter said in an interview. "We had a very good meeting today, and I think we are getting very close. Each meeting has been productive, but I think now we are down to a period of maybe a couple of weeks and we could have something."

The frequency of the meetings has picked up. Mr. Snyder and the Legislative Quadrant met twice Tuesday and again Wednesday.

If the leadership and Mr. Snyder can in fact check off the box on how much new revenue to raise, it leaves two major unfinished components.

One: what other bills and issues would be part of an overall deal? Two: once the complementary pieces come together, can Mr. Cotter and House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills) persuade enough members of their caucuses to vote yes to reach the 54 votes needed for passage?

Those following the issue say Mr. Cotter will likely want something in the vicinity of half his caucus, which has 61 members, before proceeding. And that would mean needing about half the Democratic caucus to get to 54.

Tinsley-Talabi Implicated In Bribe While On Detroit Pension Board

Questions about whether { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=259701&locid=1" } could face legal scrutiny in the wide-ranging federal criminal investigation of corruption in the Detroit pension system came roaring back to life Wednesday.

Roy Dixon, an investor who brought several investment proposals before the city's two pension boards, was sentenced to more than three years in prison for disbursing more than $244,000 in bribes to secure support from the pension boards for his proposals. Federal authorities concluded that Mr. Dixon embezzled millions from those investments for personal gain.

At the time of these offenses, Ms. Tinsley-Talabi (D-Detroit) was a member of the Detroit Police and Fire Retirement System Board. George Stanton, who was her chief of staff while she served on the city council and pension board, already has pleaded guilty to accepting a $20,000 bribe from Mr. Dixon and has cooperated with authorities.

Questions have lingered for years about whether Ms. Tinsley-Talabi herself might face trouble, but she has never been charged. In 2013, The Detroit News reported that Ms. Tinsley-Talabi took "a Caribbean trip, campaign cash and a donation from a businessman while supporting his $10 million city pension fund deal." At the time, Ms. Tinsley-Talabi said authorities had not contacted her, but she would cooperate if they did.

The sentencing memorandum from the U.S. attorney in Detroit, filed a week ago, sheds more light on what allegations have been leveled against Ms. Tinsley-Talabi. Mr. Dixon contributed $1,000 to Mack Alive, a nonprofit tied to Ms. Tinsley-Talabi.

And the sentencing memorandum for Mr. Stanton, who faces sentencing Thursday, was more specific. That memorandum says that in 2006, Mr. Stanton agreed to accept more than $100,000 from Anmar Sarafa, an owner of Steward Capital Management and Munros Capital, in exchange for Mr. Stanton helping Mr. Sarafa's $20 million Steward Capital investment proposal pending before the Police and Fire Retirement System Boad.

Mr. Sarafa is a member of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Executive Committee.

"Stanton passed on to Sarafa directions from Tinsley-Talabi," the memorandum from the government says. "Tinsley-Talabi directed Sarafa, through Stanton, that Sarafa needed to donate $3,000 to Tinsley-Talabi's political campaign. She also directed that Sarafa should give money to former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's Civic Fund in order to secure the votes of Treasurer Jeffrey Beasley and the votes of the mayoral bloc. Finally, Sarafa was told to give money to the Detroit Police Officers Association in order to secure the votes of co-defendant and Trustee Paul Stewart and Trustee Martin Bandemer."

The memorandum says the contributions were made, and the board approved his proposal.

The sentencing memorandum from Mr. Stanton's attorney indicates that Mr. Stanton at one point secretly recorded Ms. Tinsley-Talabi, but no incriminating information emerged.

A spokesperson for the U.S. attorney in Detroit did not respond to a message seeking comment about whether a decision has been to charge Ms. Tinsley-Talabi.

Ms. Tinsley-Talabi did not respond to a message left with her seeking comment, nor one left for her via a spokesperson.

Question Raised On Bush-Era Memo As Larsen Named To Court

Newly named Supreme Court Justice Joan Larsen was hailed by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } and others as an outstanding choice for the court, but her co-authorship of a memo during the administration of former President George W. Bush dealing with habeas corpus rights of terrorism suspects quickly came to the forefront with some individuals calling for her to disclose her role in the controversial actions following September 11, 2001.

During a press conference where she was introduced, Ms. Larsen was asked if she had been involved in any advice to the president on "enhanced interrogation techniques," and Ms. Larsen said she had "no role in interrogation techniques" and only learned about some of the controversy after she came to Michigan to teach at the University of Michigan.

However, after her appointment to the Supreme Court was official, the Michigan chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union released a list of memos the national organization had sought when it questioned whether the Bush administration had authorized torture and constitutionally questionable detention methods of Al Qaeda members and other terrorism suspects, many held at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Among those memos is one from March 5, 2002, co-authored by Ms. Larsen - who was then a deputy assistant U.S. attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel - and Gregory Jacob, an attorney advisor in the office of legal counsel, on the availability of habeas corpus rights to

detainees. The memo was addressed to other attorneys in the U.S. Department of Justice and the memo itself has never been released to the public.

Kary Moss, executive director of the Michigan ACLU, said the organization took no position on judicial appointments, but, "this appointment should be accompanied by full disclosure about the role Larsen played in the development" of policies that authorized "torture, warrantless wiretapping, indefinite detention and other abuses."

A spokesperson for Mr. Snyder - who was asked after the press conference if the governor was aware of the questioned memo when Ms. Larsen was selected - said in an email, "Justice Larsen was fully vetted and we are confident in the decision and her talent, background and abilities."

Ms. Larsen succeeds { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=298201&locid=1" }, who officially leaves the Supreme Court on Thursday. Ms. Kelly was the top vote getter for the court when she was elected in 2010, and Ms. Larsen will have to run in 2016 to complete Ms. Kelly's term on the court.

Ms. Kelly is resigning to return to private practice and advocate for juvenile justice issues.

Ms. Larsen's name caught many by surprise when it was revealed she was Mr. Snyder's top choice for the court. She has no judicial experience herself - but neither did { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=334301&locid=1" } (who Ms. Larsen described as a friend and one of her biggest backers for the court) nor { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=11701&locid=1" } when they were elected - and she said in a press conference it had been "years and years and years" since she had argued a case in court.

That should not matter, she said, since teaching and preparing lectures was described by a friend of hers as arguing in front of the Supreme Court.

Ms. Larsen is a graduate of the Northwestern Law School. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Northern Iowa. She clerked for U.S. Appeals Judge David Sentelle and then U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Ms. Larsen called them both great role models "in terms of thinking through the cases carefully, taking every case as if it is the most important case to be decided, treating the litigants with respect, knowing that their arguments are important to the litigants and to the court."

She also practiced law with the Washington, D.C., firm of Sidley and Austin.

Ms. Larsen joined the U-M law faulty in 2003, and her husband, Adam Pritchard, is also a faculty member. She joked that he was giving up his sabbatical to take over teaching her classes after her appointment to the court.

Asked about her judicial philosophy, Ms. Larsen said, "In short, I believe in enforcing the laws as written by the Legislature, signed by the governor. I believe in enforcing the text as written. I

don't think that judges are a policy-making branch of government, and our role is to serve the people by enforcing the laws in the way they were written by the Legislature."

But when asked if she was a member of the conservative law group The Federalist Society, her answer was indefinite and roundabout.

"So, that's a great and interesting question, and I'm not actually sure I know the answer to it. ... If you look on the web you'll see I'm on their speakers list; I occasionally do programs for them. But, whether I'm actually a member or I pay dues, I honestly don't know the answer. So, I, I'm not dodging the question, I just don't actually know the answer. I've done some events for them," she said.

Ms. Larsen has done some events for The Federalist Society, including one in which { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=75601&locid=1" } appeared.

She will also run for election for the first time in 2016 and said she did not think campaign contributions made to her would influence her.

Ms. Larsen was asked if she played any role in the controversy during Mr. Bush's administration on interrogation techniques. "The answer to that is none. I was in the Office of Legal Counsel at the time, but those national security measures in the Justice Department were classified and a close hold. And as you may have read how that process was run there, (there) were only certain people read in those things and I was not one of them. So, I read about the controversial memos when I got back to, when I was here in Michigan. I read them in the newspapers just like I assume you did."

She was not asked specifically about the memo on habeas corpus rights.

Mr. Young called her appointment a "perfect fit with a court that is second to none in its commitment to the rule of law and legal scholarship."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } also said Ms. Larsen would be a "strong voice for rule of law" in Michigan.

But the question of the memo she co-authored did raise hackles.

Lonnie Scott, executive director of the liberal activist group Progress Michigan, said her working in the Office of Legal Counsel during Mr. Bush's administration came at "one of the darkest chapters in American history," and "Michiganders deserve to know whether their new justice believes that torture is legal, that the 4th Amendment doesn't protect Americans from extensive secret government surveillance and that they can be imprisoned without trial."

Supplemental Sees $7M For State Police Lawsuit, $6M For BAM Continuation

The Department of State Police would receive the funds to pay out a massive $7.7 million settlement for a crash involving a State Police trooper broadsiding another vehicle while in pursuit, killing one woman and injuring the two other women in the vehicle under a supplemental appropriations bill approved Wednesday by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

It is the biggest single settlement or judgment in a single case involving the State Police in the data available online from the Senate Fiscal Agency, which goes back to the 1985-86 fiscal year. In most years, combined settlements and judgments involving the department amount to something in the low hundreds of thousands.

Last year, three women - Jacqueline Nichols, Precious Cochran and Ms. Cochran's daughter, Robbie - were driving to a beauty salon together when State Police trooper Timothy Fagin went in pursuit of an individual driving a car without a seatbelt. After signaling the driver to pull aside, the driver didn't stop, and the chase was on, according to a { HYPERLINK "http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/01/state_police_release_dashcam_i.html" \t "blank" } by MLive regarding the incident.

Eventually, the driver continued to speed throughout the backstreets of Flint, and Mr. Fagin, in pursuit, struck the vehicle with the three women. One of the women, Ms. Nichols, was thrown from the car and died. The other two women, including the driver, Precious Cochran, survived, albeit injured.

The Nichols family sought to sue the state for $50 million, according to news reports, and it appears from the supplemental ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB410201" }) approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee that the eventual payout among four separate cases all stemming from the incident - *Michael Nichols, et al v. Trooper Fagin; Michael Nichols, et al v. Michigan State Police, Robbie Cochran v. Trooper Timothy Fagin, and Robbie Cochran v. Michigan State Police* - that the settlement will cost the state $7,725,000.

An amendment was adopted to the bill (HB 4102) to allow $1 million of that to come from the Risk Management Revolving Fund rather than all General Fund. It was estimated that the fund had about $8.5 million and maximum that could be pulled for a settlement of this nature was $1 million, said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701&locid=1" } (R-Lowell), chair of the committee.

"We hope issues like this don't arise, but when they do, it's our responsibility to take care of them," Mr. Hildenbrand said in responding to a question from fellow committee member { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=95101&locid=1" } (R-Evart) about the situation.

Shanon Banner, spokesperson for the State Police, said she was unsure how the settlement would be divvied up, as that is something for their lawyers to decide. Mr. Fagin was previously cleared of any criminal wrongdoing by the Genesee County Prosecutor's Office, Ms. Banner said, though

the State Police did conduct an internal investigation and found that a violation of department policy had taken place and Mr. Fagin was disciplined accordingly. He remains a trooper.

Ms. Banner was unsure whether the settlement was the largest the State Police had ever seen, but admitted "we don't see settlements this large in our department."

"Michigan State Police does regret the tragic outcome, and while it doesn't change what happened, we hope it will provide some restitution to the affected families," Ms. Banner said.

BAM PROJECT: Also contained within the supplemental is boilerplate language for the Department of State is $6 million for the troubled Business Application Modernization project, which is to be re-appropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015.

An explanation states that provision re-appropriates the funds "as a result of vendor extenuating circumstances associated with the remaining contract deliverables impacting the department's legacy system."

Earlier this month, the state announced it had filed a lawsuit against HP over the project, arguing the company was not complying with requirements that it service the pieces it had completed. A termination of cause letter was issued on August 28, arguing a lack of progress on the project, but HP was to continue providing support for the project.

Hildenbrand Chief of Staff Fred Schaible said the money was appropriated because the BAM project is still going to move forward in some form and this would allow that to continue. Otherwise, those funds would lapse into the General Fund, he said.

Department of State spokesperson Fred Woodhams said none of the money is going to HP.

"The supplemental continues the money set aside for the BAM project. It is money that was not paid to HP due to nondelivery of project items," he said. "The money allows the department to support, to the extent we can, working portions of the project - our online services portal at ExpressSOS.com and the system that serves vehicle manufacturers."

He also said that another vendor had not yet been selected for the project.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY COMMISSION: Another $50,000 General Fund was also appropriated to the Legislative Council for its Criminal Justice Policy Commission. Officials with the Senate Fiscal Agency said the money is intended to pay for the commission work itself, not a staff member. The commission is chaired by Republican former Sen. Bruce Caswell of Hillsdale.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton) raised concerns about the funding, though, and it was ultimately cause for her to abstain from a vote on the S-1 substitute adopted to HB 4102, as well as abstaining from reporting the bill to the full Senate.

Appeals Court: Retroactive Exit From Compact Constitutional

Michigan violated neither its Constitution nor the U.S. Constitution when it retroactively withdrew from the Multistate Tax Compact in 2014 to avoid the possibility of losing as much as $1 billion in revenue, the Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

The court unanimously upheld a ruling issued late last year by the Court of Claims, in *Gillette Commercial Operations v. Treasury* ({ HYPERLINK "http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20150929_C325258_72_325258.OPN.PDF" \t "blank" }).

The decision, written by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=76101&locid=1" } and joined by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=152701&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77401&locid=1" }, encompasses cases brought by dozens of non-Michigan headquartered companies, including IBM.

Given the nature of the case, and what it could prove to be worth to both the companies and the state, an appeal to the Supreme Court is likely.

It was a decision involving IBM from the Supreme Court in July 2014 that led the Legislature to move quickly to take Michigan out of the compact.

In the 4-3 decision (it was a three-justice majority with one justice concurring, a technical issue that led some lawyers at the time to suggest the decision was not so sweeping), the Supreme Court held a non-Michigan based company could pass its income under the now-defunct Michigan Business Tax, which was an income tax and would allow companies to apportion their income under a three-step test. That meant the company's income was less and state budget and finance officials warned that the decision could cost Michigan's General Fund as much as $1 billion, which would have had to come from the 2014-15 fiscal year.

The Legislature passed a new statute in early September 2014 withdrawing retroactively from the compact so the companies could not claim the tax break for the years the MBT was in place.

In its ruling, the appeals court noted that the Supreme Court said the Legislature could have chosen to retroactively exit the compact when it enacted the MBT in 2007. The court also said it was following a U.S. Supreme Court holding that tax laws may generally be repealed retroactively, and that taxpayers have no vested interest in any tax law at any particular time.

The appeals court rejected arguments that the statute ending the state's presence in the compact violated federal and state constitutional provisions against impairment of contract. The compact was not enacted by Congress, the court said, so Michigan law governs its interpretation and it is not a contract between the states and the companies. Nor did joining the compact give the compact oversight body regulatory authority over the state and its tax laws.

The court said the compact specifically says that any state can withdraw unilaterally and without notice to the other states.

Nor did exiting the compact retroactively violate the companies' due process rights because the property rights in this instance were not vested. Quoting the U.S. Supreme Court, the appeals court said that taxes are not penalties nor liabilities but the way of apportioning the cost of government to those who derive benefits from its operations.

And the Legislature had a legitimate purpose in enacting the retroactive law, given the possible impact that the state would have to cut as much as $1.1 billion from the General Fund, the court said.

The court also rejected the argument the Legislature violated the constitutional provisions regarding separation of powers. The Legislature did not reverse the Supreme Court's *IBM* decision, the courts said; it enacted a new law. The law did not "impinge" on the Supreme Court, but corrected a mistake the Supreme Court itself noted.

Also rejected was an argument the law violated the Commerce Clause in the U.S. Constitution because the law does not overburden interstate commerce, nor is it discriminatory. While some legislators made comments in the press the plaintiffs said indicated an intent to discriminate, the appeals court said individual comments by legislators do not speak to overall legislative intent.

An argument that the law violated the First Amendment's right to free speech and to redress grievances to the government failed, the appeals court said, because there is no guarantee the speech or advocacy will persuade or be effective.

Federal Court Rejects Arguments Against New Bridge

Efforts by the owners of the Ambassador Bridge to get a federal court to block the Gordie Howe International Bridge failed Wednesday, as a U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C., rejected most arguments brought by the company.

The decision by Judge Rosemary Collyer, in *Detroit International Bridge Company v. Canada* ({ HYPERLINK "https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_public_doc?2010cv0476-222" \t "blank" }) did not dispute that construction of the new bridge would hurt the business of the Ambassador Bridge. But she rejected virtually every argument the company made that the 2012 decision between the Canadian government and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } amounted to an unconstitutional taking of the company's property, or that the Ambassador Bridge was affected by a presidential proclamation to build a new bridge.

She particularly rejected the arguments by the company that it had an exclusive authority to operate bridges between Canada and the Detroit area. The complaints failed to state a claim, Ms. Collyer said.

And Ms. Collyer said an argument by the Ambassador Bridge that any action to build a new bridge should be subject to judicial review would violate the separation of powers.

She rejected an argument that a federal law on international bridges - which allowed for the agreement on the bridge - unconstitutionally delegated powers of dealing with foreign governments. Ms. Collyer said Congress can delegate its authorities and has done so in foreign affairs to the executive branch, so there is no issue on which to base a claim.

Officials with the Ambassador Bridge company could not be reached for comment on the decision or whether they would appeal.

Snyder: Details On Flint Water Action Coming

With pressure growing to resolve Flint residents' concerns about their drinking water, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said Wednesday that later this week there would be more discussion on "more tangible action items" that will involve Flint city government and the federal government.

Mr. Snyder did not outline what will be discussed later this week except Mr. Snyder suggested that the action he and the state took to distribute water filters to Flint residents over the summer - which only came to light this week - may be part of the continuing action to assist the city until it can complete a system that will draw water from Lake Huron instead from the Flint River.

Asked if Flint officials - the city was under the control of an emergency manager appointed by Mr. Snyder - made a mistake is shifting their water system away from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to drawing water from the Flint River (as it is preparing to have a system drawing from Lake Huron), Mr. Snyder said it was possible the implications "weren't as fully understood" when the switch was made.

Water from the river has been found to have higher concentrations of lead, and many local activists have called for the city to switch back to the Detroit system.

On Wednesday, the Legislative Black Caucus called on Mr. Snyder to issue a state of emergency in Flint because of concerns with the water.

Bill Creating More Safety Requirements For Boats, Jet Skis Gets Pushback

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701&locid=1" } saw resistance from some Republicans on his bill requiring personal watercrafts with individuals in tow to display a flag to help others operating vessels in the water know to keep a look out.

Under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB453401" } , a vessel with a person in tow must display a bright or brilliant orange or red flag that is 12 inches by 12 inches and is visible from all directions.

"In tow" is defined in the bill as an extended towline attached to a vessel for the purpose of engaging in a water sport.

Mr. Kesto (R-Commerce Township) told the House Regulatory Reform Committee Wednesday that he generally is not in favor of additional regulations, but, "in this case I believe it is appropriate," he said.

In 2012, he told the committee, a friend of Mr. Kesto's who lives in his district was towing his three children on tubes from a jet ski. A boat then broke the towline and two of the children were killed and one severely injured.

The operator of the boat was not drunk and no charges were filed against him, Mr. Kesto said.

The vice chair of the committee, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=383601&locid=1" } (R-Eaton Township) said he does not think a flag will help. He also said the jet skier Mr. Kesto talked about broke a number of laws - particularly not having a spotter when towing his children. And, he said, the boater who broke the tow line was clearly not paying attention.

"I worry that we are regulating everybody," he said. "We're going to be forced to put these flags on, and I know on my vessels that I own right now ... I don't have any place to even put this flag."

Mr. Roberts also said of the more than 5,000 boating accidents last year, only 52 were related to towing.

Mr. Kesto said it's hard to tell if the flag would have helped in the 2012 incident.

"The question is if we can, and it's not overly burdensome, are we still going to say no because it is only 1 percent (of accidents)," he said. "If you save one life, is it worth it?"

The two lawmakers exchanged a lengthy back and forth discussing if an operator of a vessel would see the flag and how effective it might be.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292701&locid=1" } (D-Calumet) wondered if the bill should regulate how many people a person can tow, saying the man towing three of his children was maybe towing too many.

But { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322001&locid=1" } (D-Lansing) said he thought the bill was a good idea.

The committee did not act on the bill.

TEAM PHYSICIANS: The committee did report { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB479201" }

, which would allow out-of-state sports team physicians to legally treat their team when traveling to the state for competitions.

Board Approves Contracts Despite Protests Over Protest Process

State officials were warned Wednesday that they could see Freedom of Information Act requests multiply after the Administrative Board's decision to reject protests over two contracts.

The primary focus at Wednesday's meeting was a contract to develop a funding adequacy study for education in the state, but those involved in a bid for incontinence supplies for the Department of Technology, Management and Budget also objected to the abbreviated time to review and protest those bids.

Officials with DTMB said both the bids and the FOIA process were followed for both contracts. Bidders under the current process have five days to file a protest once the bid is announced, and FOIA provides five days for the subject agency to respond to the request.

Both Alex Rosaen, director of public policy and economic analysis for Anderson Economic Group, which had bid in the education adequacy analysis, and Len Wolfe, an attorney with Dykema Gossett representing one of the unsuccessful bidders on the incontinence supplies contract, said they had essentially three days to decide on and file a protest because there was a weekend during the five days to file the protest.

And both said they did not receive requested documents on the winning bid until after the protest deadline had passed.

"The official right to protest this contract has been a sham," Mr. Rosaen said. "No one outside the government knows what was in the winning bid."

Mr. Wolfe said the result in the two contracts would mean more work for the state on future bids. "You are basically creating a FOIA problem," he said. "If you going to basically tell people you've got to file a FOIA ... you're going to have vendors file FOIAs."

Officials said bids were ripe as subjects for FOIA requests once the bid submission deadline passed. Both Mr. Rosaen and Mr. Wolfe indicated they filed requests after the contract winner was announced.

Mr. Rosaen said there had also been concerns raised that the legislation requiring the education cost review had been designed to exclude certain bidders.

The concern was sufficient that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" }'s representative on the board said he was abstaining from voting on the education review contract. He supported approval of the remaining contracts before the board.

MSHDA Board Approves $3M Toward Improvements In Detroit

In two separate projects, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority approved $3 million total aimed at improving the housing market and economy in Detroit.

But officials said the projects were essentially pilots for ideas that could be used in other communities.

The new programs are designed to boost home values that in many areas of the city are held artificially low by the lack of sales, MSHDA Executive Director Kevin Elsenheimer told the board.

"We have an opportunity coming up that we don't want to let go to make some strategic investments in the city of Detroit," Mr. Elsenheimer said.

The first program, the Detroit Mortgage Program, will use $1.5 million in MSHDA funds, as well as federal funds and grants from philanthropic groups, to back mortgages that banks would otherwise not be able to issue in the city.

The program is not related to the subprime lending situation that led to widespread foreclosures during the recession, Frank Altman, president of the Community Reinvestment Fund, a lead partner in the project, said. "This is a program primarily for conforming borrowers and nonconforming properties," he said. "We're going to look for borrowers who have the ability to repay it."

But he said the mortgages could be for as much as 150 percent of the value of the house.

In addition to improving values by helping owners rehabilitate their homes, the project is also designed, through using first mortgages for the purchase and second mortgages for the rehabilitation, to increase the number of housing transactions in the city, Mary Townley, director of the MSHDA Home Ownership Division, said.

Part of the reason for the low values, she said, is the lack of comparables real estate appraisers use to set a property value.

Ms. Townley said the agency is working with as many as 10 banks for the program, and Mr. Altman said six banks had committed to issue a total of 1,000 loans.

The board approved $1.5 million for the coming year, but Mr. Elsenheimer said the agency could need to spend as much as $6 million over the next five years to keep the program going.

With other funds considered, Mr. Altman said the program had a total potential value of $250 million.

And Mr. Elsenheimer said it could expand to other cities if it works as hoped.

"We hope this will be proof of concept here in Michigan," he said. "We have some other cities that have similar problems."

Another $1.5 million was approved for the Public Spaces Community Places Initiative.

The MSHDA funds would be matched by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and expanded through a crowdfunding program, supporters said.

The program would provide communities with traditional downtowns to apply for grants for community facilities.

"Michigan's done a phenomenal job for setting our communities on a path to planning and placemaking," Katharine Czarneki, MEDC Community Development Director, said. "The funds are for brick and mortar public spaces."

"It aligns with what our division is currently doing," Tiffany King, placemaking development consultant for MSHDA, said.

Mr. Elsenheimer said cooperation between MSHDA and MEDC makes sense.

"MEDC does some community development things that are very similar to the community development things we do here at MSHDA," he said. "We think it's time to talk seriously about how do we best leverage our resources as well as MEDC's."

RESTRUCTURING: Mr. Elsenheimer told the board in his first quarterly report on the agency's activities that he had made some structural changes that should save money but also make the agency a better place to work.

A first action, he said, is cutting back some on grants from MSHDA's foundation funds. Mr. Elsenheimer said the agency is running a "technical deficit" that he and his administration are working to erase.

"We are in no way running a general deficit," he said. "Our position is very, very strong."

But he said much of the agency's funds are restricted or committed, leaving them unavailable for general operations or certain grants.

Among other key changes is a new travel policy and a new procurement office, he said.

The travel policy, spurred in part by the excesses that caused the resignation of Mr. Elsenheimer's predecessor, included a move to the state's system from the in-house system the agency had been using, he said. It also has cut travel expenses by some 25 percent.

The new procurement office is overseeing about 120 contracts for the agency and is also producing some savings, he said.

But Mr. Elsenheimer has launched an Office of Employee Services and is developing a formal employee engagement process that he said is designed to make the agency a "destination" workplace in the state.

State: No Long-Term Health Effects Expected From Breathing Oil Spill Chemicals

Those living around the 2010 oil spill into the Kalamazoo River should not expect long-term health effects from breathing the chemicals released by that spill, the Department of Health and Human Services said in its final report on the issue Wednesday.

The report acknowledged that those living near the spill did experience health effects, including headaches, nausea, respiratory discomfort, and eye irritation, near the time of the spill in July 2010.

"By August 18, 2010, concentrations of oil-related chemicals in the air had fallen below human health screening levels that protect the public, including vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with preexisting illnesses," the department said in releasing its { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,4612,7-132-54783_54784_56159-263152--,00.html" \t "blank" } on the issue.

The report said additional testing in 2011 and 2012 showed no oil-related chemicals in the air around the spill zone at levels exceeding human health protection limits.

Howrylak Offers Bill To Re-open Maxey

With the 2015-16 budget taking effect Thursday, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=317301&locid=1" } introduced a supplemental appropriations bill Wednesday that would re-open W.J. Maxey Training School for juvenile offenders, which was closed under the budget approved earlier this year for the fiscal year that starts Thursday.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB492501" } was sent to the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Howrylak said the school specialized in treating youth with mental health illnesses, and he doesn't believe the two public facilities, nor a private facility, will help those previously in Maxey.

He said at Maxey there was exceptionally low turnover, highly qualified staff and statistics proving their work was effective.

"Closing Maxey, I am quite certain, is going to help increase the possibility that these kids are going to end up in prison in the long term," he said.

He said those who were advocating for the Maxey closure do not have a plan and are simply hoping it won't be a regrettable decision.

Mr. Howrylak said some of the youth would end up in prison because of the closure, but Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson Bob Wheaton said no youth are being placed in prison, from Maxey or the other school, because of the closure.

The 48 youths in Maxey have been sent to one of the other two state facilities - Shawono or Bay Pines - independent living facilities, step-down facilities or "half-way houses," or private residential facilities, Mr. Wheaton said.

He said those who were in Maxey have been assigned to a variety of placements by the judges based in part on recommendations from the department on which facility would best meet the needs of the youths and provide the services that the youths need to rehabilitate.

"The closing of Maxey has resulted in no youths from Maxey going to prison or jail. And no youth were sent to prison or jail from Shawono to make room for youth from Maxey," Mr. Wheaton said.

Mr. Wheaton noted Shawono was not at capacity before the Maxey closure, but it is at capacity now.

He also said some who were in Maxey, and who have completed their treatment, have been sent home. But he said they would have been sent home even if Maxey hadn't closed, because their treatment was finished.

Mr. Wheaton said all of the youth have been transferred to new placements as of Wednesday, the last day of the fiscal year. He said the transfers have been taking place for months since the final decision to close the center was made.

The department will continue to have a small crew of staff members remaining at Maxey to finish closing the facility down, he said.

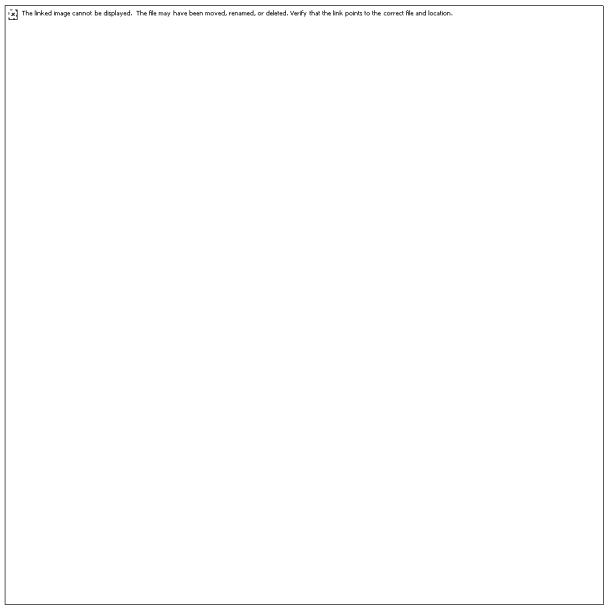
Senate Appropriations Renames Room For Gast

Former Sen. Harry Gast's memory as chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee will live on after the committee on Wednesday officially renamed the room to honor of the Southwest Michigan native that served some 32 years in Lansing, 18 of which were spent working on the budget.

Mr. Gast died at the age of 92 at the end of July (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541490101" }).

"He always kept the local focus. If you wanted to meet with him, you'd hope that you could meet with him on his tractor," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph) said of Mr. Gast on the Senate floor as it adopted a concurrent resolution of tribute ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SCR1601" }

). "This family is a unique family - they gave their dad up for us, to have his great service in our chamber."



Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee gather for a picture to rename the room after the late former Sen. Harry Gast, whose daughter (blue coat) was also present for the ceremony.

Once session adjourned, most of the committee members met in their room, joined by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=323601&locid=1" } (R-Berrien Springs), to recall memories of Mr. Gast, who served in both the House and the Senate. Mr. Gast's daughter, Barbara Curtis, was also present.

"With term limits, none of us on this panel got the privilege to serve with Senator Gast. I had an opportunity to meet Senator Gast ... to this day, I have no idea what the meeting was about because I was so nervous," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701&locid=1" } (R-Lowell), chair of the committee, said. "I'll never forget the impression he left on me because of the respect he had of this place ... and how influential he was."

The panel was treated to a history lesson from a Capitol tour guide about the significance of the Senate Appropriations Room, which of course used to be the room for the Michigan Supreme Court to hear cases.

"If we had a Mount Rushmore for public servants, Harry Gast would be on that mountain," Mr. Pscholka said. "He was one of a kind."

Mr. Pscholka later spoke on the House floor at it adopted the Senate's resolution.

Mr. Proos gave one more story about when he spoke in front of Mr. Gast for { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=2401&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph), and how after that, Mr. Gast "pulled me by the tie and said, 'you don't have enough damn gray hair yet,'" Mr. Proos said. "And by that, he meant, listen and learn."

Ms. Curtis gave a statement to Mr. Proos to read on behalf of her family and made only a quick comment about her father after.

"He strongly believed there were the right things to do and he could facilitate those things ... by bringing the right people together to talk about those things and the issues for both sides," she said.

Two signs indicating the official name of the room will be split, with one directly outside of it and the other inside, Mr. Hildenbrand noted.

Senate Approves Electronic Proof Of Insurance

Legislation enabling drivers to present electronic proof of auto insurance was approved by the Senate on Wednesday and sent to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s desk.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB419301" } would ensure that Michigan is no longer the only state in the Midwest that does not allow drivers to use a phone application for insurance validity. The bill saw unanimous approval from the chamber.

"This legislation simplifies life for Michigan drivers by allowing them to present proof of insurance on their phones and other devices, which they always have with them," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=282201&locid=1" } (R-Lawton), sponsor of the bill, in a statement. "There are many benefits to allowing electronic proof of insurance, including the fact that electronic coverage is more difficult to falsify, so cases of insurance fraud will go down."

Currently, those who do not have proof of insurance during a traffic stop may later reduce the amount of a fine or fee by visiting the local courthouse with a paper copy of their insurance documents. But with electronic proof, Mr. Nesbitt said, people will save time and money by not having to drive to a courthouse after a traffic stop.

"This bill utilizes the best technology available so drivers don't have to jump through so many hoops if their insurance information is not correct in the LEIN system," he said. "It also allows law enforcement and the SOS to identify people who are skirting the law, which will make our streets and highways safer and save law-abiding motorists money. It's time to bring our insurance enforcement into the 21st century."

Heise To Run For Plymouth Township Supervisor

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001&locid=1" } announced Wednesday he is running for the Plymouth Township supervisor post in 2016.

Mr. Heise (R-Plymouth) cannot seek re-election in the House due to term limits.

"Plymouth Township I really think is on the wrong track right now on many levels," Mr. Heise said on why he running for the post.

Mr. Heise said his skill-set and education - he has two law degrees and will soon be in his 25th year as an attorney in the state - set him up to bring accountability to the position. He said the current board is more worried about politics than professionalism.

Mr. Heise said he will be challenging Shannon Price, the current supervisor, who was appointed in April. Mr. Heise said the interview and selection process was controversial. Mr. Price is well-known in Republican circles and is a former Wayne County commissioner, setting up a big-time battle for the GOP nomination.

If elected, the term lasts from 2016 until 2020. Mr. Heise said at this point he is not interested in running for attorney general in the future.

"I am really more of a local government guy," he said. "I think this would be an exciting new chapter of service."

Capital Notebook

MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE: The state might have to make some changes in the management of some of its lands in eastern massasauga rattlesnake territory if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enacts proposed rules naming the snake as a threatened species.

But those changes would be minimal, Dan Kennedy, endangered species coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources, told Gongwer News Service, because the DNR has been preparing for the federal rules since they were first recommended in 1999.

"The DNR's been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service on massasauga conservation for 16 years," he said.

The department is in final negotiations on management plan that would allow the state to continue most of its work with some changes, mostly in timing of activities, since it would become illegal to kill the snakes, Mr. Kennedy said.

For instance, the department would have to time prescribed burns to have the least impact on the snakes.

Mr. Kennedy said he did not know what effect the federal rule, expected to take effect in September 2016, might have on private land use in the region.

Massasaugas prefer swampy areas with nearby grasslands and are declining across their range (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada) largely due to loss of habitat.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE: The DNR launched a new { HYPERLINK "https://youtu.be/HoqJRfZkl4k" \t "blank" } Wednesday explaining the neurological disease in deer and how it will affect hunters with the archery season beginning Thursday.

ONLINE SHOPPING: The Department of Treasury reminded online shoppers Wednesday that, beginning Thursday, they would need to keep any receipts from their purchases.

New legislation takes effect October 1 that clarifies which online businesses have to collect sales tax and, where the business does not, the customer is required to pay use tax on the purchase.

"It is important for individuals to understand that this is not a new tax; Michigan's tax on these types of sales has been on the books for more than 80 years," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=393601&locid=1" } said in a statement. "The new provisions simply mean that various on-line and remote sellers, that will now be deemed to have some presence in the state, will begin collecting tax on the sales they make into Michigan."

CLEAN FUELS MICHIGAN: Nearly 30 companies and organizations in Michigan on Wednesday announced the formation of Clean Fuels Michigan, a new 501(c)(6) organization aimed at maintaining Michigan's position as a global leader in automotive manufacturing by advancing a "clear vision, strategy and advocacy centered on advanced powertrain technology and innovation," the groups said in a statement. "The overall goal is to promote investment, job growth and sustainable technologies in Michigan."

Michigan is one of relatively few states with no incentives supporting the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles, the group cautioned, and the state must act quickly so it can capitalize on that developing marketplace and improve its overall economic competitiveness.

"Our members collectively believe in economic opportunities that stem from developing this technology and markets in Michigan," Eric Clinton, Manager of NGV Business Development at DTE Energy, said in a statement.

The group will advance clean fuel neutral policies, such as electric, natural gas, propane and hydrogen fuel cell technology, as well as advise policymakers and help commercialization efforts.

GRAND HAVEN EXPANSION: GLASSource, a specialty glass and mirror facility in Grand Haven, will expand its facility with the help of $209,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for infrastructure improvements heading to the city of Grand Haven.

The street is in very poor condition, a statement from the Michigan Economic Development Committee indicated, and needs to be reconstructed before an expansion can take place. The project - expected to generate nearly $2 million in private investment and create 21 jobs - will result in the reuse and development of an old manufacturing facility.

MEDC also announced Michigan Strategic Fund approval of $152,119 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the city of Grand Haven to make facade improvements for buildings located in downtown Grand Haven. The project will generate private investment of $69,835.

Signed by the Governor

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=364301&locid=1" } RECORDING REQUIREMENTS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB6201" }, PA 131

Modifies recording requirements to include electronic signatures.

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: December 29, 2015

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB28101" } FILING FEES ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" })

Provides for reallocation of portion of certain filing fees paid to the Wayne County retirement system for bailiffs in the thirty-sixth district court under certain circumstances.

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: December 29, 2015

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&bill

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101&locid=1" } PHARMACY TECHNICIAN ({ HYPERLINK

Modifies eligibility for licensure of pharmacy technicians and requirements for limited license pharmacy technicians.

id=2015S
B46801" }
, PA 133

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: September 30, 2015

{ HYPERLINK PUBLIC OFFICERS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001&locid=1" }) Creates incompatible officers exception for public safety positions.
"http://www.go
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x.cfm?link=legi
slation_billdetai
l.cfm&billid=20
15HB407001" }
, PA 134

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: December 29, 2015

Supplemental Event Planner

Thursday, October 1

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358901&locid=1" } (D) Fundraiser, 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 1200, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 3

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 4050 Vanstone, Commerce Township, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 225 Washtenaw Street, Lansing, 8 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=356701&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 5 p.m.

Michigan Senate Democratic Fund, Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Drive, Detroit, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266701&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 8 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353601&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 8

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355201&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.

House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D) Fundraiser, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266801&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 14

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322001&locid=1" } (D) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 15

Canceled: ~~{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=359101&locid=1" } (R) PAC fundraiser, Michigan Restaurant Association, 225 West Washtenaw Street, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.~~

Wednesday, October 21

University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute presentations by Wolverine Caucus, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, October 8

Board of Dentistry, Conference Room 3, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/2015_10-8_Agenda_Dentistry_Full_501419_7.pdf" \t "blank" }; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/2015_10-8_Agenda_Dentistry_DSC_501418_7.pdf" \t "blank" }))

Tuesday, October 13

Accessibility Advisory Council, Flynn Pavilion, Picnic Way and Loiter Way, Belle Isle Park, Detroit, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Oct_13_2015_Agenda_501346_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 1

~~**Canceled: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=94101&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=337" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=325701&locid=1" }, 373-8538), Room 519, House Office Building, 9 a.m.**~~

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB483601" } **LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284201" }) Provides for establishing partnership programs under federal law.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=93601&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=328" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601&locid=1" }, 373-1260), Room 521, House Office Building, 9 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB10301" } EDUCATOR EVALUATIONS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801" }) Revises performance evaluation requirements for teachers and school administrators.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=94301&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=343" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371201&locid=1" }, 373-2002), Room 308, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

- **Presentation by Chet Gryczan, project director of Defense Brake Systems**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701" } VETERANS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701" }) Provides for employment protections for National Guard members who work outside of the state where they mobilize.

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{ MILITARY VEHICLE SAFETY ({ HYPERLINK
HYP "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371201" **})** A resolution to
ERL urge the United States Congress and the U.S. Department of the Army to accelerate federal
INK funding to improve military vehicle safety from rollover accidents.
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({ HYPERLINK
"http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=348" \t "blank" }),
(Chr. { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=86701&locid=1" }, 373-8474),
Amway Grand Plaza, Hotel Heritage Hill Room, 187 Monroe Avenue Northwest, Grand Rapids, 4:30 p.m. or after session

- **Presentations given by Experience Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Chamber, City of Grand Rapids, Kent County and ArtServe/ArtPrize**

Tuesday, October 6

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=89201&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/judiciary.html" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" }, 373-1721), Room 110, Farnum Building, 3 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4155901" } **WEAPON-FREE ZONES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288101" }) Expands waiver for certain individuals to carry weapons in weapon free zones to include certain corrections, probation and parole officers.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm" } **IGNITION INTERLOCK SERVICING CENTERS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" }) Revises motor vehicle service and repair act to provide interlock servicing center to be included within the definition of motor vehicle repair facility.

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{ IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" **}**) revises guidelines **ERLI** for crime of knowingly providing false information concerning an ignition interlock **NK** device.
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ndex.
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{ IGNITION INTERLOCK SERVICING CENTERS ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" **}**) Provides for **ERLI** department of state oversight of ignition interlock servicing centers.
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{ **OPERATING WHILE INTOXICATED** ({ HYPERLINK
HYP "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Amends certain
ERL definitions and procedures of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or a
INK controlled substance, or both.
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{ **ALCOHOL IGNITION INTERLOCK MECHANICS** ({ HYPERLINK
HYP "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" }) Includes breath
ERLIalcohol ignition interlock mechanics and servicers in motor vehicle service and repair act.
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{ **ROADSIDE DRUG TESTING** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701" }) Creates pilot
RLIN program for preliminary drug testing at roadside stop.
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{ **WEAPON-FREE ZONES** ({ HYPERLINK
HYP "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Expands waiver
ERLI for certain individuals to carry weapon in weapon-free zones to include certain corrections,
NK probation and parole officers.
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{ **ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Authorizes the
RLIN state court administrative office to establish electronic filing system.

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{ JUDICIAL ELECTRONIC FILING FUND ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801" **}**) Establishes **RLINK** judicial electronic filing fund.

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{ ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO COURTS ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" **}**) Allows court or **ERLI** court funding unit to charge certain fees for electronic access to courts.

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on_bil ldetail .cfm& billid =2015 SB53 301" }

Wednesday, October 7

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=88301&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/education.html" \t "blank" }), **(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" }, 373-5314), Room 110, Farnum Building, 8:30 a.m.**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB405901" } **PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219601" }) Eliminates sunset on the allowance of retired public school employees to be employed at a reporting unit under certain circumstances without forfeiting retirement or health care coverage.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53301" } **ECONOMICS CREDIT** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353601" }) Allows 1/2 credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy economics credit required for Michigan Merit Curriculum.

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{ ALTERNATIVE TEACHING CERTIFICATION ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801" **}**) Modifies **RLIN** provisions relating to alternative teaching certification. **K**

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{ STUDENT ONLINE PERSONAL PROTECTION ACT ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801" **}**) Creates student **RLIN** online personal protection act. **K**

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Subscribers Please Note

The Draft Biden organization circulated a news release Tuesday with the wrong Michigan legislator backing Vice President Joe Biden running for president. Former Rep. Fred Durhal Jr. is supporting Mr. Biden, not his son, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358001&locid=1" }. The release the Draft Biden organization circulated listed Fred Durhal Jr., but described him as a current, first-term member of the House who is an assistant minority leader (which Mr. Durhal III is). However, it is his father, Mr. Durhal Jr., who is backing Mr. Biden.

A campaign note in the Tuesday Michigan Report incorrectly claimed that the Great Lakes Education Project endorsed Mary Whiteford in the 80th House District in the 2014 Republican primary. While GLEP is endorsing Ms. Whiteford in the upcoming special election, it made no endorsement in the 2014 Republican primary.

A story in the Tuesday Michigan Report incorrectly described the penalties for coercing a woman into having an abortion under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB478701" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB483001" }. The level of the crime would be tied to the actions constituting the coercion.

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 1, 2015

News

Morouns lose on virtually all counts in bridge lawsuit (Detroit Free Press, 10/1/2015)

Traffic stops might become easier with bill passage (Detroit Free Press, 10/1/2015)

Jones to state employees: Put a ring on it for bennies (Lansing State Journal, 10/1/2015)

State rep: DHHS should track foster kids' credit (Lansing State Journal, 10/1/2015)

Big trucks not bad for Michigan roads, truckers say (MLive, 10/1/2015)

New Michigan Supreme Court justice facing questions over 'indefinite detention' memo (MLive, 10/1/2015)

Why a retired Michigan State Police traffic expert is backing 80 mph speed limits proposal (MLive, 10/1/2015)

8 Mich. lawmakers urge Obama to extend Great Lakes aid (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Flint water woes seep into city, state politics (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Mich. to allow drivers to show insurance by phone (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Rep. Bishop gets first bill passed among Mich. freshmen (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Rep. Tinsley-Talabi linked to Detroit corruption case (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Snyder picks UM law professor Larsen for Supreme Court (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Editorials

Editorial: Another assault on women's rights (Battle Creek Enquirer, 10/1/2015)

Don't give in to corporate blackmail to pay for roads (Macomb Daily, 10/1/2015)

Let's block attacks on sports referees before they happen (MLive, 10/1/2015)

Editor's Note: Tougher waiver for shots is working (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Editorial: Adding Larsen should make good court better (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Finley: Keep politics out of taxes (The Detroit News, 10/1/2015)

Blogs

A Commission By Any Other Name … (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/30/2015)

For Exiled Ex-Legislators, Offenses Preclude Usual Tributes Upon Death (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/30/2015)

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:27 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Thursday, October 1, 2015
Attachments: 151001dayplan.htm; Oct1Senate.htm; Oct1.htm; Oct1House.htm

Michigan Report for Thursday, October 1, 2015

Pressure Mounts On Flint Water; Snyder Prepares Actions

Cotter Monitoring Tinsley-Talabi Situation

Educator Evaluations Clear Latest Hurdle, Head To House Floor

Presumptive Parole Clears House With Schuette Still In Opposition

Engler Goes To Bat For Storey In 80th House

Cotter On Prevailing Wage: If Votes Are There, We'll Take It

Controversy Develops In Senate On Taxable Wage Base Bill

Senate Energy Expects One More Week Of Testimony On Bill

PSC Reports $4.2B In Savings From Efficiency Programs

Calley Heads To India For Trade Mission

Capital Notebook

Activity Reports

House

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Senate Activity for Thursday, October 1, 2015

PASSED

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Provides for supplemental appropriations for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

30-5; Immediate Effect; Earlier advanced to Third Reading; Earlier adotped committee substitute S-1 and amendments

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015HB410201&date=10/1/2015" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322301" }) Elimiminates requirement of hard copy tax rolls if maintained on computerized disks.

34-1; Immediate Effect

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=364301" }) Regulates

RLINK solicitation of a fee for providing a public record.
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{ PARENTAL RIGHTS ({ HYPERLINK
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RLINK for termination of parental rights under certain circumstances.
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{ TAXABLE WAGES ({ HYPERLINK
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RLINK benefits provision related to taxable wage base reduction.
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GREG WHITE RETIREMENT ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=57701" }) Tribute offered to honor Greg White upon the completion of his term on the Public Service Commission.

voice vote

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BUY NEARBY DAY ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=226701" }) Designates October 3, 2015, as Buy Nearby Get Caught Blue-Handed Day.

voice vote

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ADVANCED TO THIRD READING

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306001" }

PUBLIC NUISANCE ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306001" }) Modifies evidentiary support standard to establish and abate a public nuisance.

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IDENTITY THEFT ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353701" }) Modifies identity theft prevention act to include uniform forfeiture reporting act requirements.

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PROPERTY FORFEITURE ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=291201" }) Requires reports of disposition of certain forfeited property and provides a penalty for failing to report.

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{ PROPERTY FORFEITURE ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701" **})** Enacts uniform
RLIN forfeiture reporting act.
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{ PROPERTY FORFEITURE ({ HYPERLINK
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RLIN evidentiary standard for certain drug forfeitures.
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PROPERTY FORFEITURE ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=366501" }) Amends public health code to require reports of disposition of certain forfeited property and provides penalty for failing to report.

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PROPERTY FORFEITURE ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355201" }) Requires seizure and forfeiture of property for abatement of nuisance to be reporting to the Department of State Police under the uniform forfeiture reporting act.

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450701" }

REPORTED

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=89801" }:

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB445801" } **COMPLETE STREETS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353701" }) Repeals Complete Streets Advisory Council.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB456201" } **HIGHWAY** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289301" }) Designates a portion of M-37 as the "Brian Derks Memorial Highway."

INTRODUCED

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" } **TAX TRIBUNAL MEMBERSHIP** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Revises tribunal membership and provides other general amendments. Amends 1973 PA 186 by amending 21, 22, 25, 32, 34, 35a, 47, 49, 51, and 62 (MCL 205.721, 205.722, 205.725, 205.732,

K 205.734, 205.735a, 205.747, 205.749, 205.751, and 205.762), section 22 as amended by
"htt 2008 PA 127, sections 32 and 35a as amended and section 47 as added by 2008 PA 125,
p:// section 34 as amended by 1980 PA 437, section 49 as amended by 2008 PA 126, and
ww section 62 as amended by 2008 PA 128.
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{ **ESCHEATS** ({ HYPERLINK
HY "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701" }) Streamlines
PERuniform unclaimed property act audit process. Amends 1995 PA 29 by amending sections
LIN 2, 30, and 31 (MCL 567.222, 567.250, and 567.251), section 2 as amended by 2008 PA
K 208, section 30 as amended by 2012 PA 292, and section 31 as amended by 2013 PA 148,
"htt and by adding sections 4a and 31b.
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{ PROMISE ZONES ({ HYPERLINK
HY "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" **}**) Allows additional
PER promise zones and modifies their administration. Amends 2008 PA 549 by amending the
LIN title and sections 5, 7, 9, 11, 17, and 19 (MCL 390.1665, 390.1667, 390.1669, 390.1671,
K 390.1677, and 390.1679), sections 5, 7, 11, and 17 as amended by 2013 PA 210, and by
"htt adding sections 4 and 4a; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.
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{ STATE EDUCATION TAX ({ HYPERLINK
HY "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601" **}**) Modifies
PER distribution of state education tax. Amends 1993 PA 331 by amending section 5 (MCL
LIN 211.905), as amended by 2004 PA 443.
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The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

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Volume #54, Report #195 -- Thursday, October 1, 2015

Pressure Mounts On Flint Water; Snyder Prepares Actions

A coalition of Flint and state organizations asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday to order a switchover of the Flint water system with the Detroit Water and Sewerage system, in what is one of the most striking actions in the controversy. The demand came as state officials plan to announce a series of actions on Flint on Friday dealing with the water problems in the city.

One legislator - who also complained he had been denied documents from the state dealing with the switch from the Detroit system to using water from the Flint River (a state official said the wrong documents had been requested) - said there had been a general discussion, but no specifics about what Mr. Snyder might announce. Rep. Phil Phelps (D-Flushing) said he expected the state would provide more filters to residents to help curb lead in the water. Filters will be helpful, Mr. Phelps said, but not enough.

Governor Rick Snyder will not be at the event, to be held at Kettering University, but Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, along with Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant, Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon, Urban Initiatives Director Harvey Hollins and the state's chief medical officer, Eden Wells, will speak on the initiatives being pursued.

The presentation will be at 1:30 p.m.at the university's Innovation Center, 1300 Bluff Street.

The controversy over the water in Flint has grown exponentially since indications that lead levels, caused mainly by antique pipes and their connections, were elevated in children who were tested. Researchers said they could not absolutely say the elevated levels were from the water, but the measures showed the increase since the city made the switch. Also on Thursday, it was announced that the city had received donations to provide some 5,000 water filters to help contain the lead.

Prior to the discovery about elevated lead levels, the controversy over the system dealt largely with the smell and taste of the water. Flint switched from using Detroit water to drawing water from the Flint River in 2014 as the city prepared to build its own system that would draw water from Lake Huron. The switch was made largely because Flint and Detroit could not agree on a short-term contract to use the water, and the city, under a state-appointed emergency manager because of financial problems, did not want to pay the cost of Detroit water.

In a press conference on Wednesday, Mr. Snyder acknowledged that in making the switch, not all factors were probably considered.

The request for the EPA to order both the city and state to make the switch to Detroit water came with a variety of city and state groups, including the Concerned Pastors for Social Action, the

Flint Water Study Team, the Michigan Nurses Association, the NAACP-Michigan State Conference, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Michigan branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, getting involved.

The request charged that neither the state nor Flint were doing enough to fix the problem and urged that both be ordered to immediately have Flint's water system reconnected with the Detroit system, and that city residents be provided with a free source of water that meets EPA standards.

Mr. Phelps, meanwhile, complained that the Department of Environmental Quality denied and the Department of Treasury ignored a Freedom of Information Act request for documents related to the city's switch from Detroit water to river water. Anytime there is a change in water systems of the course of water, the community has to apply to the state for that authority.

But Brad Wurfel, with the DEQ, said Flint did not have to file that application because the city had always listed the Flint River as its back-up should it need it for a water supply.

However, there are other documents that are available - to Mr. Phelps or anyone - dealing with the process the city and state took preparing for the switch, Mr. Wurfel said.

Mr. Phelps said a DEQ official contacted him and said there were documents available and that they would be sent to him. The official asked that he drop his FOIA request, Mr. Phelps said.

On the advice of his lawyers, Mr. Phelps said he did not drop the request. But he had also asked the department for any documents that might have to do with the switch. After his request was denied, he received several documents dealing with the system, but the documents were from 2007 and did not have to do with the switch.

Mr. Phelps was surprised by the refusal and was planning what steps to next take.

In terms of what the state should do to help in the situation, Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) told reporters after session on Thursday that he thought the state should first help with distributing filters to residents, especially those who may be most vulnerable, listing pregnant women, children, women that are nursing, those with immune system issues and the elderly among them.

"That should be done immediately," Mr. Ananich said. "I think we need to have corrosion control put in place as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, I think we need some independent, outside testers to come in and develop the confidence level that's just not there with traditional people in place. And I think we need to have a serious look at reconnecting with Detroit. I think the state needs to help us find a new source of water."

He said he would reserve judgment about how well the state has responded to the situation until after the administration makes its recommendations and remains unsure about any estimates on how much it might cost for Flint to reconnect to Detroit water.

"There's been some negotiations going on at the local level, but I think it's important to get the real cost because it's a public health issue. And I'm hopeful we'll find that. I would hope that all folks, with an issue of this magnitude, would not try to gouge a community that's been suffering the way they are," Mr. Ananich said. "I think we need to all, at the state level, make sure people are negotiating in good faith."

And Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) said he is unsure what the state's role should be in terms of helping Flint. The Senate did, on Thursday, include a $100 placeholder to deal with Flint's water crisis in an appropriations supplemental it passed, but that was to keep the conversation going, Mr. Ananich said (see separate story).

"I don't know that we really have a solution there yet," Mr. Meekhof said after session. "We could use revolving funds maybe. I don't think the city of Flint is in as bad of financial trouble as the city of Detroit, so if they need to bond for something, they would have assets with which to bond and maybe fix the problem. There's lots of options that are out there."

Cotter Monitoring Tinsley-Talabi Situation

House Speaker Kevin Cotter said Thursday he is watching for further developments involving the allegations against Rep. Alberta Tinsley-Talabi that she solicited and accepted bribes while a member of a city of Detroit pension management board, but at this point has no plans of the House pursuing action against her.

The difference between Ms. Tinsley-Talabi (D-Detroit) and former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, who were put through expulsion proceedings (Mr. Courser resigning and Ms. Gamrat getting expelled), is that the investigation into the conduct in question started with an outside agency, Mr. Cotter said.

"I have been aware of this for some period of time ... just monitoring," Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) told reporters. "I know this is being investigated at the federal level. If we are called on at any point in time to assist or just called for information or things of that nature, we would certainly cooperate."

Sentencing memoranda filed in the past week by the U.S. attorney in Detroit involving two defendants in a wide-ranging probe of corruption in Detroit government suddenly brought new life to the allegations against Ms. Tinsley-Talabi that first surfaced two and a half years ago.

According to the memos filed by federal prosecutors in the cases against Roy Dixon and George Stanton, Ms. Tinsley-Talabi's chief of staff when she served on the Detroit City Council, Ms. Tinsley-Talabi allegedly helped orchestrate a bribery scheme to ensure an investor with a proposal before the Detroit Police and Fire Retirement System Board of Trustees won approval for his proposed investment. Through that scheme, the investor contributed $3,000 to Ms. Tinsley-Talabi's city council campaign via Mr. Stanton.

Additionally, the memos accuse her nonprofit of receiving a $1,000 bribe from Mr. Dixon.

Ms. Tinsley-Talabi has not returned calls for comment. She would only answer "nothing" Thursday to an MLive reporter who approached her on the House floor.

Calls to the spokesperson for U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade about whether the federal government continues to investigate Ms. Tinsley-Talabi have not been returned the last two days. The Detroit News, without citing sources, reported that she does remain under investigation.

Ms. Tinsley-Talabi might have a legitimate beef with the U.S. attorney accusing her of soliciting and accepting bribes in a sentencing memorandum, but not actually charging her, at least not yet, said Peter Henning, a Wayne State University law professor and former federal prosecutor.

"This can be problematic because it's accusing her of a crime without going through all of the usual requirements, presenting evidence to a grand jury, having a determination," he said. "Certainly, Tinsley-Talabi has a fair claim that, 'If you think I did something wrong, accuse me of it.'"

While the sentencing memorandum presents the bribery allegations as fact, all it really constitutes "is a statement by a witness as to what that person claims happened," Mr. Henning said.

The other major question is one of statute of limitations, Mr. Henning said. In general, federal crimes have a five-year statute of limitations. The alleged wrongdoing occurred in 2006 and 2007. Ms. Tinsley-Talabi left the council in January 2010 after losing her 2009 re-election bid.

Perhaps a charge under the federal RICO statute, which has flexibility on statute of limitations, is a possibility, Mr. Henning said. It's also possible the government long ago charged her and did not unseal the indictment or a defendant might agree to a tolling agreement where the statute of limitations is lifted, he said.

The government also might lack sufficient evidence to pursue charges or might have obtained the evidence too late for the statute of limitations and decided to at least air publicly what it had, Mr. Henning said.

"It may be that the government's memorandum is trying to send a message - not that it's going to charge in the crime, but to the citizens and perhaps even to the state House," he said. "I would think if we were going to see a charge against Tinsley-Talabi, we would have seen it already."

Educator Evaluations Clear Latest Hurdle, Head To House Floor

The House Education Committee on Thursday reported its second piece of major legislation in two weeks in sending teacher and administrator evaluations to the House floor after four months and four previous committee hearings with no action.

The legislation crafted by Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair) has been slightly controversial in the House after Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) and now-Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) spent much of last term creating statewide evaluation standards and training requirements that

saw support some education interests. And when the bill cleared the Senate earlier this year, Mr. Zemke and Ms. O'Brien both expressed disappointment in the changes that had been made (Ms. O'Brien voted against it on the floor).

But on Thursday, SB 103 cleared the committee 14-2 with Rep. Pat Somerville (R-New Boston) abstaining. Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) and Rep. Thomas Hooker (R-Byron Center) voted no. The bill includes both training requirements and options for school districts and public school academies to develop their own evaluation tool or make modifications to an existing tool.

Mr. Pavlov has emphasized the importance of local control in the evaluation process, but those in opposition to his original bill asserted it did not do enough.

Under the H-7 version of SB 103, the Department of Education would have to establish and maintain a list of teacher and administrator evaluation tools, and the list would have to, at the very least, include the tools recommended by the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness in 2013. The tool utilized by districts does not have to be the same for teachers and administrators.

For teachers, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, 40 percent of the year-end evaluation shall be based on student growth, with half coming from the state assessment and half coming from a local assessment.

Ms. Price also said new members of the House are not familiar with the issue, so there's still a fair amount of work to be done before a vote can be taken with the full chamber.

For administrators, beginning immediately, 25 percent of the annual evaluation shall be based on student growth and assessment data. The data is an aggregate of student growth data used in teacher evaluations in the district where the administrator works.

Training for teachers and administrators on evaluation tools is also required. School districts and PSAs could create a consortium of two or more to conduct the trainings. All evaluators and observers would also be required to receive training from a person who has expertise in the training tool.

A school district or public school academy could also develop its own tool, and the department would promulgate rules for how a district would submit its own tool for placement on the list. Also required under the bill is for the district or PSA to publish on its website a variety of information about the evaluation tool and the evaluation process beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Of that information, a district or PSA would have to outline why its local evaluation tool or modification is appropriate, as well as the qualifications of the author of the tool or modification.

Mr. Zemke said the version of the bill reported from the committee gets the legislation closer to what he and Ms. O'Brien introduced last term. He would not comment on if he hopes to see additional changes made to the bill, only saying he was happy enough with the bill that he voted for it in committee.

Administrator evaluations would be conducted by the superintendent or chief administrator of a PSA, or their appointed designees. The board or board of directors would evaluate the superintendent or chief administrator.

If an administrator received an ineffective or highly ineffective rating, they would be required to create an improvement plan. For both teachers and administrators, if they received three consecutive ineffective or highly ineffective ratings, they would be let go.

For both teachers and administrators rated highly effective or effective for three consecutive years, their evaluations could move to biennially. The evaluations would move back to annually if the teacher or administrator received a lesser rating.

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, districts would be required to either not allow a teacher with three consecutive minimally effective or ineffective ratings to teach the same subject area to the same pupil for two consecutive years or tell the parent why it cannot comply.

Also for teachers, at least two classroom observations are required each year, with one unscheduled, unless the teacher has been rated effective or highly effective for two consecutive years. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the administrators responsible for the evaluation must conduct at least one observation.

Finally, beginning July 1, 2018, the superintendent of public instruction shall not issue an initial professional teaching certificate unless the person has taught for at least three years and has received three effective or highly effective ratings either consecutively or nonconsecutively.

Ms. Price said there weren't many conversations with Mr. Pavlov in regards to the latest version of the bill, but she said she believes he will be able to accept it.

Mr. Pavlov's chief of staff, Brenda Resch, said Mr. Pavlov is pleased to see the bill move.

"Schools need to have certainty on this issue - the ones we've been hearing from have been preparing for current law," she said. "This has statewide impact on every teacher in every district, so it's important to get it right. He looks forward to the House completing this quickly so schools can move forward with setting policies that ensure quality for kids and fairness for educators."

Presumptive Parole Clears House With Schuette Still In Opposition

More prisoners would be presumed, absent compelling reasons, to not be a menace to society after serving minimum sentences and be released from prison under a bill that cleared the House on Thursday despite continued opposition from Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Mr. Schuette has long opposed presumptive parole and says the legislation will jeopardize the safety of Michigan residents.

HB 4138 cleared the chamber 67-39, with 21 Republicans and 18 Democrats voting no on the bill. Thirty-nine Republicans and 28 Democrats voted in support.

Rep. Kurt Heise (R-Plymouth), the bill's sponsor, said there are safeguards in place to ensure a person is not released from prison that would still be a danger to society.

"The parole guidelines are not being changed here at all. All we are saying is if you meet the thresholds for release, you are going to be released," he said on the House floor. "And even then, the Michigan Department of Corrections can still say 'nope.' There are safeguards in place. This is not on autopilot. That's a great bumper sticker, folks: 'this is not on autopilot.' This is a very well thought out process that we have put into place."

Mr. Schuette, however, continued to say in a statement that the presumptive parole measure allows the "the automatic and early release of violent criminals without the parole board determining the risk and safety dangers of violent criminals."

But the House Fiscal Agency analysis states plainly, "this would not be automatic." Under the bill, compelling reasons against presumptive parole include: objective and verifiable evidence that a victim would be caused hard by release; the prisoner has a pending felony charge; and the there is evidence the prisoner would be a danger to society if released, among other reasons.

The bill will now go to the Senate for consideration. Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) said there are pieces of the bill he does like.

"But also, when we convict people here in Michigan of felonies, only about 20 percent of them go to prison," he said. "So that means people that are in prison are bad people. We have people which we're scared of and people we're mad at, and maybe we can do some different things with people with which we're mad at. Maybe we can have their debt to society paid in a different way."

Rep. John Chirkun (D-Roseville) and Rep. Vanessa Guerra (D-Bridgeport) spoke in opposition to the bill. Mr. Chirkun described an offender in his district that was found guilty of armed robbery and is a dangerous offender but would still qualify for release under the bill.

While he was speaking, House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) was visibly shaking his head no to signal that the person would not qualify.

Mr. Meekhof said he doesn't think there is intent in the legislation to let violent criminals out of prison.

He said the state "can do a better job of making sure that when they come out, they have a place to go, they have jobs of which they can go to and maybe turning away from a life of crime is a better option for them. That would be what we'd like."

Mr. Heise said in the 1980s and 1990s, to be "tough on crime," the state began putting more people in prison and toughening sentences.

"Did that work? Instead we've got thousands of people in prison right now who really don't need to be there," he said.

Mr. Cotter said he is happy with the reforms put in place and noted the bill is not retroactive.

"This is something that will be well-known at the time that sentencings are set. As I have been saying throughout this process, a minimum sentence has got to mean something," he said. "Why are we giving a minimum, why are we giving a range if that is not serving as a minimum for those who are model prisoners?"

Mr. Cotter did not say if Mr. Schuette called him about the bill, saying only they talk often. He also said he believes any concerns on legislation are often justified.

"It is something he obviously has strong opinions on. And we do too. So it's just a difference of opinion," Mr. Cotter said.

Chris Gautz, spokesperson for the Department of Corrections, said the department's projections show the bill in 10 years could lead to a decline of 3,000 prisoners. That would lead to savings of about $80 million annually after year 10, he said.

Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), the only Upper Peninsula representative to vote yes on the bill, called the tactics against it, "fear-mongering." He said the stories of tragedy told have happened under the current system.

"To use the current system's tragedy as an argument against trying to fix the system ... is kind of a nonsensical argument," he said.

ROLL CALL: Republicans voting no: Rep. Tom Barrett of Potterville; Rep. John Bizon of Battle Creek; Rep. Lee Chatfield of Levering; Rep. Triston Cole of Mancelona; Rep. Laura Cox of Livonia; Rep. Ray Franz of Onekama; Rep. Joseph Graves of Linden; Rep. Thomas Hooker of Byron Center; Rep. Holly Hughes of White River Township; Rep. Larry Inman of Williamsburg; Rep. Nancy Jenkins of Clayton; Rep. Joel Johnson of Clare; Rep. Dan Lauwers of Brockway; Rep. Tom Leonard III of DeWitt Township; Rep. David Maturen of Vicksburg; Rep. Aaron Miller of Sturgis; Rep. Peter Pettalia of Presque Isle; Rep. Jim Runestad of White Lake; Rep. Jason Sheppard of Temperance; Rep. Lana Theis of Brighton; and Rep. Henry Vaupel of Handy Township.

Democrats voting no: Rep. Charles Brunner of Bay City; Rep. John Chirkun of Roseville; Rep. Scott Dianda of Calumet; Rep. Gretchen Driskell of Saline; Rep. Pam Faris of Clio; House Minority Leader Tim Greimel of Auburn Hills; Rep. Vanessa Guerra of Bridgeport; Rep. John Kivela of Marquette; Rep. Robert Kosowski of Westland; Rep. Marilyn Lane of Fraser; Rep. Bill LaVoy of Monroe; Rep. Derek Miller of Warren; Rep. Jeremy Moss of Southfield; Rep. Sheldon Neeley of Flint; Rep. Phil Phelps of Flushing; Rep. Sarah Roberts of Saint Clair Shores; Rep. Charles Smiley of Grand Blanc; and Rep. Henry Yanez of Sterling Heights.

POLL: Hours before the House action Thursday, the Citizens Alliance on Prisons and Public Spending released a poll that showed not only support for the changes in HB 4138, but a reversal in public attitudes toward crime and corrections.

"There's a complete 180 degree turnaround by voters," Ed Sarpolus, executive director of Target Insyght, which conducted the poll. "The priorities have switched."

The poll showed 64 percent support presumptive parole for eligible inmates. And incarceration ranked last among the options for reducing crime, with 34 percent saying long-term incarceration works. Mental illness treatment topped the list, with 82 percent saying it would reduce crime, followed by early childhood education at 80 percent.

Those polled also saw crime as a low priority for the state, with only 7 percent ranking it as their top concern. Road and bridge repair was the top priority for 25 percent, followed by the economy and jobs as top for 18 percent.

Some 70 percent said the state should be spending less on corrections.

The poll also saw 83 percent support for ending the mandatory two-year incarceration for felony firearm and giving discretion to the sentencing judge.

The poll, conducted September 15-17 of 800 likely voters, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

PROBATION: Another criminal justice reform bill (HB 4137), approved by the House 101-5, would make various changes to probation policies, including creating swift and sure probation programs, which target high-risk felony offenders who have a history of probation violations or failures. Those offenders would receive intense supervision under the program.

Under the bill, a judge would be charged with carrying out the requirements of the program.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: The House also approved a bill allowing any local elections held in conjunction with the presidential primary to move up to the date set for the primary.

The bill (HB 4904), cleared the chamber 105-1 and would allow other items than the presidential primary on that ballot and would provide filing deadlines to accommodate that shift.

It specifies it is intended to correct a Court of Appeals ruling that the presidential primary was not one of the state's regular election dates and so was not available for other issues.

ABLE ACT: Legislation that would allow individuals to open a savings account to pay qualified disability expenses of a designated beneficiary without having that money used against them for disability benefits also passed the House unanimously Thursday.

HB 4542, the primary bill in a three-bill package, would require an individual or designated representative to enter into an agreement with the Michigan Achieving a Better Life Experience

Program when opening an account, and then allow contribution to an account up to limits imposed by the Internal Revenue code and rules promulgated by the state treasurer (the idea for an ABLE savings account began in Washington, D.C., last December).

The bill limits an account balance to the amount allowed for an Education Savings Program account and allows income tax exemptions for contributions to an ABLE savings account as well as qualified withdrawals from an account provided in the Income Tax Act, addressed in HB 4543.

HB 4544 requires the state to disregard money in a designated ABLE account when determining a person's financial ability to qualify for other benefits.

Engler Goes To Bat For Storey In 80th House

Republican Jim Storey of Holland picked up a big-name endorsement Thursday in his special election bid for the 80th House District when former Governor John Engler urged voters to support him.

Mr. Storey, an Allegan County commissioner, is one of eight Republicans vying for the GOP nomination in the race to fill the vacancy left by the House's expulsion of former Rep. Cindy Gamrat. And besides Ms. Gamrat, he is one of two Republicans (the other being Mary Whiteford of Casco Township) with early traction.

Mr. Storey held several posts during Mr. Engler's time as governor, most notably as an appointee to the Liquor Control Commission, but he also headed up efforts to aid the surrounding communities when the U.S. Department of Defense shuttered the Wurtsmith and K.I. Sawyer Air Force bases and served as president of the Michigan Strategic Fund.

"Jim Storey provided outstanding results in every assignment to which I appointed him during my administration," Mr. Engler said in a statement. "I know him well, I trust him and so can the voters of Allegan County. My association with Jim dates to my own time in the Michigan Senate when he headed the House Republican press office. He was knowledgeable, hardworking, and highly effective. It is that combination of experience and conservative values, in my view, that Michigan sorely needs in the era of term limits, especially given the events of the last few weeks."

Mr. Storey said he got to know Mr. Engler in 1979. Then-House Minority Leader Bill Bryant had named Mr. Storey as House Republican press secretary, and Mr. Engler had just won election to the Senate after eight years in the House. Mr. Engler frequently stopped by the House Republican leadership office, and the two both worked on Peter Secchia's bid for Republican National committeeman.

Sources in Capitol community said Mr. Engler has been asking some members of his former administration to help Mr. Storey, and Mr. Storey said he has seen signs of it.

"I'm very grateful - very grateful - to the governor for giving me the visibility in Lansing that I may not have had because I haven't been in Lansing for the past few years," he said.

Mr. Storey said having the endorsements of the district's two representatives prior to Ms. Gamrat (former Reps. Bob Genetski II and Fulton Sheen), plus former Sen. Wayne Kuipers (who represented adjacent Ottawa County) and Mr. Engler should send a message to voters.

"All three say that I can be effective in delivering results for Allegan County and its communities," he said.

Cotter On Prevailing Wage: If Votes Are There, We'll Take It

House Speaker Kevin Cotter said Thursday to the call from prevailing wage supporters to allow the issue to go the 2016 ballot that the Legislature has the right to act on the initiative.

"I think there is broad support within our caucus to make the change. And if the votes are there, I plan on taking the vote," he said to reporters after House session.

The comments are similar to those Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) made to Gongwer News Service two weeks ago.

Mr. Cotter also said he hopes to hold a vote on roads sometime this month.

"We are at a period now of weeks. We are not talking months. I have been saying for some time now I want to get this on the floor in October, and I think we are on pretty good pace for that," he said.

Mr. Cotter also again addressed whether he supports $800 million new revenue, $400 million General Fund framework for roads. Several sources have indicated he is embracing the outline.

"For me it's not just about the proportion, how much is new revenue, how much is General Fund, but all the other details that make up a package," he said. "Where is it coming from and at what degree? And also what other pieces of the package exist."

Mr. Cotter, when asked if a Health Insurance Claims Assessment fix is still on the table as part of an agreement, said he would like to keep the package focused on roads as much as possible.

"Obviously HICA is an ongoing issue whether it is part of a roads plan or not. I am hesitant to complicate one priority with another," he said.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said this week as far as what Democrats are negotiating for as part of a road funding deal, there are two camps: one looking for assurances prevailing wage won't be repealed and another looking for tax relief for middle class families.

LEGISLATIVE FOIA: On some legislative Democrats calling for the Legislature to be subjected to the Freedom of Information Act, Mr. Cotter said the House has posted a variety of financial and salary information on its website.

He said House members deal with a lot of personal constituent information and he worries about that being made public. He noted the House Business Office report into former Rep. Cindy Gamrat and former Rep. Todd Courser accidentally published two former staffers' social security numbers.

Controversy Develops In Senate On Taxable Wage Base Bill

A bill that would require an annual, rather than quarterly, determination of the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Fund to set the taxable wage limit prompted a debate among Senate Republicans and Democrats about how much the state pays out in benefits and for how long.

SB 500 would also provide for the determination to be based on the fund's balance as of the previous June 30, and require the taxable wage limit to be reduced from $9,500 to $9,000 for the calendar year if the balance was $2.5 billion or higher on that date and projected to remain that level for the next quarter.

The Unemployment Compensation Fund is dedicated to paying unemployment benefits when due and is funded by employer contributions.

Senate Minority Floor Leader Morris Hood III (D-Detroit) offered an amendment to the bill that would have tie-barred the Senate bill to SB 525, which raises the maximum unemployment weekly benefit rate and indexes it to inflation. It would also restore the maximum timeframe for benefits from 20 to 26 weeks, Mr. Hood said in a speech on the floor.

"While I believe the goal of adjusting taxable wages based on a healthy trust fund was well-intended, I didn't support it then and I don't support it now," he said. "Considering the fact that it's been 13 years since we last adjusted the maximum weekly benefit and there have been so many other slashes to this program, I think my amendment is more than reasonable."

But his amendment was defeated largely along party lines, as was an amendment proposed by Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) that would have tie-barred the bill to HB 4655 that restores the additional six weeks of unemployment cut by the Legislature and signed into law in 2011.

"Our trust fund got into some trouble, we had to borrow money from the federal government ... and the fact that we're standing here with a healthy reserve is a testament to the hard work we've done in policy to make sure the trust fund is sound," Ms. Warren said. "If it is sound, let's ... give them just a little bit more."

SB 500 cleared the Senate on a 26-9 vote along party lines. Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren), Sen. Goeff Hansen (R-Hart) and Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) were absent from session.

SUPPLEMENTAL INCLUDES PLACEHOLDERS FOR FLINT, U.P.: A $100 placeholder for Flint water services and another dedicated to "rent and state office facilities" were included in the final version of HB 4102, a supplemental appropriations bill that passed the Senate on Thursday.

"The rationale is we wanted to make sure we had an accurate number. We didn't want to put too much in or not enough and have to come back," Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said of the placeholder for Flint. "We want to get an accurate understanding of what it's going to cost to get us the help we need. My colleagues have been very good about allowing this first step.

House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) said he is still reviewing the placeholder, though, and is not sure yet if the state has a responsibility.

"Obviously it is critical that we all have access to clean water, but at what point does it become a state responsibility is the question," he said.

The other amendment to HB 4102, offered by Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba), is to continue the conversation on costs associated with the closure of the Department of Health and Human Services office in Alger County, Senate Republican spokesperson Amber McCann said.

Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton), Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), Sen. Joe Hune (R-Whitmore Lake), Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) and Sen. Judy Emmons (R-Sheridan) voted against the bill, leaving the final tally at 30-5.

The supplemental includes more than $7 million for the state to settle a lawsuit involving the death of one and severe injuries of two others after a State Police trooper struck their vehicle while in pursuit of another vehicle. Records going back to the 1985-86 fiscal year show no other single case with a judgment against the state or settlement that high.

DEED SCAMS: The Senate also passed a bill, SB 366, regulating the solicitation of a fee for providing a public record.

The bill by Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) arose after a constituent complained to Mr. Hertel, who was at the time Ingham County's Register of Deeds, about paying an exorbitant amount of money for a deed that turned out be a scam. The sender claimed to be a local records office and required the recipient to pay way more than one should for a public record like a deed, or else (See Gongwer Michigan Report, July 1, 2015).

Senate Energy Expects One More Week Of Testimony On Bill

After another three-hour committee meeting Thursday, Sen. Mike Nofs told Gongwer News Service he expects to have one more week of testimony on legislation to update the state's energy laws before a substitute can be presented with "four or five issues" that could see some changes.

Mr. Nofs (R-Battle Creek), the committee chair, did not get into too many details about what those items would be, though at least one came up in testimony on Thursday, which is the issue of pre-payment of fees for alternative electric supplier companies. One of those companies, Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative, said such a provision seemed "punitive," as it was solely focused on alternative electric supplier companies given that "no other utility in Michigan is being obligated to do this," said Kim Molitor, president and CEO of the company.

SB 437 - the focal point of Thursday's debate - requires an alternative electric supplier to pre-pay its contracts for the required periods if it relied on power purchase contracts for any portion of its demonstration of capacity supply. And if an alternative supplier relies on capacity that was the result of a wholesale market auction for any portion of its demonstration of capacity supply, the purchases cannot exceed 5 percent of the AES's capacity requirements.

Instead, Ms. Molitor recommended the committee consider subjecting AES companies to rules set forth by the Midcontinent Independent Systems Operator, which oversees power supply for Michigan and other Midwest states, as a way to ensure capacity. By MISO's rules, a company can either participate in a capacity auction or submit a fixed resource planning option to demonstrate that they are able to serve their load of customers as well as reserve requirements.

"It's not feasible for any AES company to pay those pre-payment fees," Ms. Molitor said. "The most appropriate method would make the AES utilities follow the same rules as the utilities, and that is the MISO rules. I think making them live in that world levels the playing field for all electric providers in the state."

Another issue Mr. Nofs was willing to divulge is that of capacity, who should oversee that matter and how much is necessary to keep the grid reliable and affordable for ratepayers.

"You hear that we're putting some costs or concerns on capacity and that's a question that's still open that we're still looking at," he said. "How can we facilitate our concern of capacity for an AES to be able to report, that we feel comfortable, that the Public Service Commission will feel comfortable, and therefore we're not going to be subjected to penalties coming from MISO if they were short?"

Mr. Nofs said he does not plan to introduce a new substitute to either of the bills next week, and when asked if last week would be the last week for testimony, he said, "We're hoping so," but reiterated he will take as much time as is necessary for everyone to have a say.

"The process is important to me, and giving people the opportunity to speak is important to me, so we try to take in all the cards we get that day and try to take care of them," he said. "There are a lot of good recommendations coming from the participants and they're offering the language. I'll go to the very end if someone has got a better idea than what we've thought about here and it will make it that much stronger."

Mr. Nofs said he, the governor and Rep. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton), chair of the House Energy Policy Committee, are all hoping to have work completed on this energy package by the end of the year.

PSC Reports $4.2B In Savings From Efficiency Programs

Michigan energy customers in 2014 have been able to save $4.2 billion from the state's energy optimization programs that began in 2009, the Public Service Commission announced Thursday.

The revelation came as the PSC released its report on the state's energy optimization programs and the cost effectiveness of PA 295 of 2008. The report showed that overall, 2014 energy optimization program savings achieved for electric utilities were 141 percent of the target and 130 percent of the target for natural gas utilities. Those targets were set in the original act.

"The cheapest energy is the energy never used, and this has proven to be the case again with Michigan's energy optimization programs in 2014," PSC Chair John Quackenbush said in a statement. "Because they focus on reducing energy waste, energy efficiency programs benefit all utility customers. For every dollar spent on these programs in 2014, customers can expect to realize $4.38 in savings - more than any year since 2010. Customers who take advantage of energy efficiency programs personally benefit even more."

For measures installed in program year 2014, electric savings total more than 1.4 million megawatt-hours, and natural gas savings total over 4.8 million Mcf, the PSC said. And aggregate energy optimization program expenditures of $257 million in 2014 by all natural gas and electric utilities in the state are estimated to result in lifecycle savings to customers of $1.12 billion.

The PSC also said the downward pricing trend for renewable energy resources and the continued low cost of energy optimization has resulted in a combined weighted cost of $37 per megawatt-hour - which is less than any new generation, including new natural gas combined cycle plants, it noted - when compared to the Energy Information Administration levelized plant costs for 2014.

Calley Heads To India For Trade Mission

In an effort to expand markets for Michigan-made products and encourage more job creation for foreign direct investments in the state, Lt. Governor Brian Calley will lead a delegation of state and business leaders on a trade mission to India starting on Friday, the governor's office said Thursday.

"We are using this opportunity to build strong partnerships with India, creating trade and business opportunities for Michigan companies," Mr. Calley said in a statement. "We will be delivering the message that Michigan is more business-friendly than ever and the best state in the North American market to compete and grow while creating jobs."

Mr. Calley is set to meet with Devendra Fadnavis, the chief minister of the state of Maharashtra, as well as other government officials, the governor's office indicated. He will also provide remarks at the India-Michigan Global Summit, a new initiative launched by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The lieutenant governor will also meet with executives from Indian automotive companies, as

well as Michigan companies with operations in India. The trip also will include meetings with Indian automotive suppliers and high-ranking government leaders.

The companies participating in the trade mission are Argo BioMedical from Auburn Hills, FutureNet Group from Detroit, Hosco Fittings from Wixom, Managed Programs from Auburn Hills and Orion Test Systems, also from Auburn Hills.

India is the 11th largest economy in the world with a sizable and rapidly growing domestic market, the governor's office indicated in its statement, as well as growing financial markets. In 2014, Michigan companies exported $296.7 million in goods and materials to India, which included chemicals, machinery, computer and electronic products, and transportation equipment.

The mission is Mr. Calley's fifth since taking office in 2011. He previously led missions to Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico and the Netherlands.

Capital Notebook

PRESIDENTS COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW NAME: The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, is now the Michigan Association of State Universities.

"We have evolved over the decades from a council of university presidents into a full service association, where a wide array of higher education stakeholders come together to share best practices and collaborate in ways that make our universities stronger," Daniel Hurley, the group's CEO, said in a statement. "The association will remain the state's convener for the presidents and chancellors of Michigan's public universities, and many other groups of institutional representatives to collaborate and share expertise."

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Click the ▫ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Michigan Report for Friday, October 2, 2015

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Volume #54, Report #196 -- Friday, October 2, 2015

State To Contribute $1M As Part Of Flint Water Fix

In the short term, Flint residents will have access to water filters, some purchased with state funds, and in the longer term the city will be improving its corrosion controls to keep lead out of water supplies, state and city officials said Friday in unveiling a plan to address recent water safety concerns in the city.

Moving Flint back to getting water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage System is also still on the table for both state and local officials but will require negotiations, both sides said.

Both sides said the water itself is not the source of lead and the city will be working in the coming years to replace the lead service lines that are the source.

"We're working around the clock on every level with so many partners to address the immediate health concerns," Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said at a media event Friday to announce the plan. "We're now all working on a common response plan."

"We are focused on helping ensure safe, clean, accessible drinking water and addressing and mitigating concerns and protecting public health," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, who did not attend the event, said in a statement. "Today's action plan builds upon ongoing work with local, state and federal agencies and our partnership with city and community leaders. Together, we are working to ensure that all Flint residents have accurate information and know that help is available to address potential problems."

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said the state still had substantial work to do.

"Filters and corrosion control additives are first steps, but anything less than an aggressive, comprehensive response is still unacceptable," Mr. Ananich said in a statement. "Our top priority remains ensuring Flint families have safe drinking water. I will continue to work to make that happen."

"We can't just rely on the kindness of strangers to protect our children," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358901&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said, noting recent contributions toward water filter purchases. "The governor and Department of Environmental Quality need to make this an urgent priority."

And { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=349901&locid=1" } (D-Flushing)

said help needs to happen sooner rather than later. "This is a public health crisis, and our children are in danger," he said.

Mr. Phelps had been pushing the state and the city for more information on the water switch and its effects to little avail (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541950101" }).

The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter urged that part of the plan be an executive investigation into why the DEQ did not act more quickly on the issue.

"The governor, finally, is assuming direct responsibility for responding to a crisis that every day is damaging the health of Flint's children," David Holtz, chair of the group, said in a statement. "His actions should be much stronger, however, and he needs to find out how we got to the point where Flint children are drinking lead and what the DEQ's role was in those decisions and actions."

The key elements of the plan, from the Snyder administration's perspective, are to continue testing and, in the short term, provide filters for those who need them, Environmental Quality Direct Dan Wyant said at the media event.

The state and the city will provide free water testing for anyone in the city, he said, and both entities are working to provide residents with water filters.

The state also will be testing the water in all schools in the city, Mr. Wyant said.

"We're working closely with public and private partners to provide water filters," Health and Human Services { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=392601&locid=1" } said.

As part of that effort, the state will be providing $1 million and a number of charitable groups are providing filters or funding toward them, but Mr. Lyon said officials were also working with retailers to provide free or low-cost filters.

United Way, General Motors and the Making Our Children Smile Foundation announced Thursday a joint contribution of $105,000 toward purchase of filters.

Mr. Walling said filters would be available beginning Saturday morning.

Mr. Lyon warned, though, that the filters might not resolve the increase in blood lead levels found in recent testing.

"We cannot say conclusively water is the source of this," he said, noting that lead paint in older homes, and the remnants of it in the surrounding soils, continues to be the leading source of lead poisoning.

Mr. Lyons did not take issue with Genesee County's move Thursday to issue a water emergency for the city but said his agency would not be joining. "This is certainly an issue that deserves attention," he said. "I do not believe that it rises to the level of a statewide emergency. We are here with our resources."

Eden Wells, chief medical officer for the state, said two high-risk zip codes in the city did see increased blood levels in tested children after the city switched its water source, but she said levels in those areas, and citywide, were already at least twice the levels found in the rest of Genesee County and only increased significantly in one of the high-risk regions.

In the two highest-risk zip codes, blood lead levels were averaging 2.7 times averages for the county as a whole. After the water source switch, those averages climbed to 3.2 times the rest of the county. But for the city as a whole, lead levels were 2 times the rest of the county, she said.

Mr. Wyant argued the problem was the switch and not the water source. He said one of the state's efforts is to ensure the city has sufficient corrosion controls in place so when it switches sources again away from the Flint River, the problem does not reoccur.

"Every time we tested the water, it was non-detect for lead," Mr. Wyant said of the state's quarterly testing. "So our issue is lead service lines."

Mr. Wyant said the DEQ would be part of a new Mayor's Safe Drinking Water Advisory Committee that would also include officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"With the mayor's help, we're going to expedite those corrosion controls," Mr. Wyant said.

"At this point we have confidence that we can put additional corrosion controls in place and it will be effective," he said.

Mr. Walling said the city also needs to step up its efforts to replace the lead service lines.

"We have a gap in our capital improvement plan that needs to be filled and we need to replace lead service lines in our city," he said.

Mr. Walling said the city was still considering switching back to Detroit water while efforts to finish an agreement with Karegnondi Water Authority are completed. But he said the switch would cost the city up to $2 million a month.

"The city is not in a position to afford that cost, but I am looking to Lansing for additional funding and financing so that option could be available," he said.

Mr. Wyant, asked if the state would cover those costs, said only that the state had committed $1 million already toward the problem.

Mr. Snyder said during an earlier media call he was mediating discussions between the city and the Detroit system.

"It's just something that's currently in process ... I'm looking at this as an alternative to go with all these action steps," Mr. Snyder said. "We trying to help everyone get the facts: What is the data on what would be involved with potentially switching back? What would be the cost parameters? That's one of the reasons for the technical advisory council, to make sure we would see better results with switching back."

"I'd like science to make that determination," Mr. Wyant said of the need to change water supplies. "It's our sense that corrosion controls are going to be needed in either case."

In addition to assistance on the ground, the state launched a website, { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/flintwater" \t "blank" }, with information about the state plan and other efforts to address the water issue.

House 80th Race Between Storey, Whiteford, Gamrat

While it is still believed a long shot for former Rep. Cindy Gamrat to come out of the House 80th District special election primary, the possibility is still there with an eight-person field.

But Ms. Gamrat faces tough competition with Allegan County Commissioner { HYPERLINK "http://www.storeyforallegan.com/" \t "blank" } and Allegan County GOP Vice Chair { HYPERLINK "http://www.votemarywhiteford.com/" \t "blank" } who are seen as frontrunners.

Mr. Storey of Holland appears to have the momentum one his side, at least this week, as he received an endorsement from former Governor John Engler. He also has the endorsement of former Rep. Bob Genetski and former Rep. Fulton Sheen.

The primary special election is November 3. The election comes after Ms. Gamrat of Plainwell was expelled from the House after participating in an extramarital affair with former Rep. Todd Courser and then being found through an internal investigation to have misused taxpayer resources for personal and political gains.

Mr. Sheen said voters in the district are looking for someone who has experience, and Mr. Storey has that in both the public and private sector.

"He's a known commodity," Mr. Sheen told Gongwer News Service Friday.

But he said Ms. Whiteford of Allegan is very much in the race as well, and is leading the field in signs around the district.

One issue with Ms. Whiteford, Mr. Sheen said, is her background is very similar to Ms. Gamrat's. He said they both tout their backgrounds as moms and nurses.

But Ms. Whiteford said that was an issue during the last campaign as well, and is not new to her. She said she tried to focus on her success as an emergency pediatric nurse. Ms. Whiteford noted she is not even sure where or how long Ms. Gamrat actually worked as a nurse.

Another factor for Ms. Gamrat, Jason Watts - who is also involved with the local party - said is that former Allegan County Commissioner Bill Sage, who has the endorsement of Republican National committeeman Dave Agema, will take some votes from the Gamrat camp.

Mr. Watts said he is not aware of Mr. Agema physically helping Mr. Sage in the district. Mr. Sage was also a part of a lawsuit the pair brought against Allegan County schools and the city after they brought a person into a school to talk about the "dangers" of Islam, but were shut down after law enforcement discovered the person may have had a $25 million bounty on their head. The case was dismissed earlier this year.

Mr. Watts also said Democrats in the district may be attempting to get Ms. Gamrat through the primary so their sole candidate, David Gernant, has a chance in the general.

Ms. Gamrat said she was not sure how re-connecting with the voters would go for her after the "negative media" during the last six weeks, but she said it has been going well.

"A lot of people have said my personal life is none of their business and that what Lansing did was wrong," she said.

So far, the candidates said there has not been any mail. But all three candidates interviewed Friday said they will begin issuing mailers soon. Mr. Sheen said the Allegan County Tea Party sent out emails including a Ms. Gamrat piece with a photo of her looking angry and criticizing those in Lansing for expelling her.

There have been phone surveys and messages. Ms. Whiteford said she sent a message last night but has also heard two others without disclaimers.

Ms. Gamrat said there was one telephone push poll that was negative against her, and did not include a disclaimer.

Ms. Whiteford said she is focusing on herself and is not going to go negative against Ms. Gamrat.

Mr. Storey and Ms. Whiteford said they have been knocking on doors and attending several meetings.

Mr. Storey said voters are upset they even have to participate in the special election.

"They are not happy that we face this," he said. "But they are also not at all interested in anything other than sending someone who can restore respect for this county to Lansing."

Ms. Whiteford agreed, saying voters are concerned about having good representation in Lansing.

Ms. Whiteford said if elected, her priority is to create relationships and vote conservatively.

"My priorities are to build relationships and vote conservatively for the people of this county," she said. "And take advantage of being in the majority Republican caucus. I really want to bring a voice for our farmers and out educators."

Ms. Gamrat was kicked out of caucus four months into her term.

Ms. Gamrat said she believes people are underestimating voters in the district and their frustration with Lansing politicians, who passed the state's largest budget but still are exploring a tax increase to pay for roads.

"One of the things voters ask all the time, they say why do they flip, why do people say one thing while they are campaigning and they get into office and they do something else/" she said. "I have a strong record that shows I will stand for the issues against increasing taxes and stand for limited government, for life and for the second amendment."

Mr. Storey said his priorities would include reducing the size of government and fulfilling special projects for Allegan County.

"First of all my priority will be ... to restore respect for Allegan County and value for our voice," he said. "To build the kind of coalitions that is necessary to get anything done."

19-Year MPSERS Error Results In $112M Refund To Seven Universities

The recent discovery of an error in how the state calculated payments to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System from seven universities prompted a $112 million refund to those schools.

The state's Office of Retirement Services was in the middle of a review of a new accounting standard to assist the seven universities gradually phasing out of the MPSERS system when staff realized MPSERS had overcharged the universities going back to 1996, said Caleb Buhs, spokesperson for the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

Seven universities began to phase out of MPSERS starting in 1997 and received a refund September 30: Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Ferris State, Lake Superior State, Michigan Technological, Northern Michigan and Western Michigan.

As part of the phase-out - in which new employees were not put into MPSERS - the state allowed the institutions to spread their full retirement liabilities across all employees but made a miscalculation in the process, Mr. Buhs said.

So difficult to detect was the mistake that multiple regular independent audits and peer reviews never discovered it, Mr. Buhs said.

As soon as Office of Retirement Services staff discovered the error, they alerted their superiors who advised universities of the situation, Mr. Buhs said.

The $112 million is equal to just 0.25 percent of total MPSERS assets, he said, and so the refund would have no effect on the system's stability.

Poll Suggests Support To End Prevailing Wage Is Tepid

While a plurality of voters favor ending Michigan's prevailing wage statute, it may not be enough support to prevent voters from blocking its repeal should it go to an election, a poll released Friday showed.

The poll, from Lansing-based Marketing Resource Group, showed that 49 percent of those asked supported repeal of the act, while 39 percent opposed it. Another 5 percent had no opinion and 11 percent did not know.

The results come from a poll done of 600 likely voters, with an error rate of plus or minus 4 percentage points. The poll was conducted from September 9 to September 14.

The issue of voter support may be moot if the Legislature approves an initiated act outlawing prevailing wage. Repeal supporters have turned in petitions signatures, which are still be reviewed by the state's elections officials.

If the Legislature does not approve the initiated act, then it would go before the voters in the 2016 election.

Perhaps one of the most surprising findings in the poll was that respondents who identified themselves as part of a union household were relatively split on the issue. While 43 percent were opposed, a surprising 39 percent were in favor of repeal.

Overall, those identifying as Republicans were strongest in support for repeal, with 60 percent in favor of ending the law. Democrats and ticket-splitting individuals were strongest against, with 53 percent against repeal.

And non-union households split dead-on, with 47 percent both supporting repeal and opposing repeal.

Insurance Code Changes To See Committee Meeting This Week

The House Insurance Committee will take up legislation designed to improve competition in the insurance industry and increase company flexibility in developing new products for consumers, and unsurprisingly, the Michigan Association of Health Plans said it is supporting the bills.

The lead sponsor of the bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB493301" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB493401" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB493501" }

) is { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=325701&locid=1" } (R-DeWitt Township), who said last week the association met with him on the concept and suggested the legislation.

The committee is meeting on the legislation, also sponsored by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601&locid=1" } (D-Westland) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371201&locid=1" } (R-Potterville).

The association said the package of bills is the first major update of state health insurance laws in more than 20 years. Over that time, insurance policies, consumers' needs and the insurance marketplace has changed dramatically. This package seeks to keep state laws strong, including those protecting consumers, while recognizing those changes in state and federal law.

"The health insurance industry is rapidly changing, and it is vital that state laws recognize those changes to allow companies to meet the needs of consumers," said Rick Murdock, executive director of the association, which represents virtually all state health insurance companies. "After discussions with Rep. Leonard, state regulators and consumer organizations, we believe this package addresses key issues while ensuring the state maintains strong solvency and consumer protection policies."

The bills, according to the association, would:

- Update the insurance code to give health insurers the ability and greater flexibility to develop new products in response to market demands;

- Streamline sections of the law that regulates health maintenance organizations to reflect changes in state and federal policies that now apply to all insurers;

- Clean up the code by eliminating duplication and outdated sections. For instance, Chapter 36, originally intended to regulate group disability policies, is now duplicated by Chapter 34, which originally regulated individual policies but has been amended over the years to include group insurers and HMOs. It also clarifies that several insurance mandates currently in law only apply to health insurance, and not to auto, life, or property and casualty insurers;

- Modernize the law to recognize electronic means of communications. For instance, it will allow insurance sales through websites without use of an insurance agent, while setting strong consumer protection standards to allow delivery of notices and forms to insureds and enrollees by electronic means if consumers desire;

- Recognize that virtually all insurers today are required to provide services that used to be provided mostly by HMOs, eliminating most special requirements on HMOs.

- Reduce regulatory requirements by streamlining the readability scoring process conducted by state regulators in certain cases where products are similar;

- Add language that addresses situations where policyholders sign up for coverage, use coverage, but never pay the premium;

- Revise the Code to conform to federal law prohibiting pre-existing condition exclusions and follow federal law for processing grievances, simplifying compliance for consumers and insurers; and

- Update the Patient's Right to Independent Review Act to enable Michigan to maintain its own external review process, rather than defaulting to the federal process.

Senate Legislation Seeks To Expand Promise Zones

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501&locid=1" } and at least 12 other senators from both sides of the aisle have introduced legislation to expand promise zones and make some technical amendments for the Department of Treasury to better manage the program.

The bills, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB54001" }, consolidate current statute related to the program first created under former Governor Jennifer Granholm and inspired by the Kalamazoo Promise, which allows high school graduates from Kalamazoo Public Schools to attend certain universities or community colleges tuition-free within 10 years of graduation.

The main goal, Mr. Hansen's (R-Hart) legislative assistant Anna Mooney said, is to "continue to improve access to higher education for students across the state." The bills are already slated to have a committee hearing next Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Economic Development and International Investment Committee chaired by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179301&locid=1" } (R-Frankenmuth).

Mr. Hansen is the lead sponsor on SB 539, which contains the major components of the package. It allows a governing body, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the public, to declare its intent to establish a promise zone by resolution. That body must then set a date for a public hearing on the adoption of a proposed resolution at least 20 days and not more than 40 days before the date of a hearing, which also must be published twice in a newspaper of general circulation, the bill reads.

At least 15 days after the public hearing, if a governing body intends to proceed with the creation of a promise zone, it must submit an application to the Department of Treasury, which will

review the application and determine if the area is eligible to participate. If it is, SB 539 requires Treasury to certify the eligibility to establish a promise zone.

There were 10 promise zones created during the Granholm administration, but the Jackson Promise Zone recently dissolved and the Muskegon Promise Zone is still under development. Under the bill, 15 governing bodies of eligible entities may be established as promise zones.

"It would be expanding the number ... but also to make technical changes on how it's administered from Treasury's end," Ms. Mooney said.

She said Mr. Hansen and his staff have been working very closely with Treasury on the issue and there are no known issues at this time. They are hopeful that the bills will move quickly through the Legislature, but that of course remains to be seen.

"Some of the changes that are needed in this bill will allow for some Promise Zones to get off the ground," she said. "We believe the timing is pretty essential for some of these zones."

A promise zone is required to fundraise privately for the first two years to distribute scholarships. After that time, if it can raise enough money to show a valid public interest in the program (and thus be sustainable), the zone is able to capture half of the growth in the state education tax as determined by the formula outlined in the bill.

Mr. Hansen's bill also gives local school districts the option to not participate in the resolution set forth by promise zone governing body and lays out a process for dissolution of a promise zone by a governing body.

Cities, townships, counties, local school districts or intermediate school districts not eligible by state standards may also still create a promise zone under Mr. Hansen's bill, but would not be able to capture revenue from the state education tax.

The bill creates some reporting requirements for Treasury to assess how well the program is working. Under the bill, the report is due no later than February 15 of each year and must include:

- The number of students who received financial assistance pursuant to the approved Promise Zone Development Plan during the prior calendar year;
- Of those students, the number who successfully completed a certificate or associate program, a bachelor's program, or a postgraduate or professional program;
- The number who withdrew from classes during the prior calendar year;
- The number of students who initially reached successful completion of more than the equivalent of 223 semester credits during the prior calendar year and the average time that took; and

- The graduation rate for students who first received financial assistance during each of the six prior calendar years.

The other bill in the package, SB 540, sponsored by Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint), amends a section of the State Education Tax Act to align it with the other bill.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701&locid=1" } (R-Escanaba), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=95101&locid=1" } (R-Evart), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301&locid=1" } (R-Sheridan), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161201&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), Sent. Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=364301&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing0, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=57701&locid=1" } (R-Battle Creek), Sen. Jim Marleau (R-Lake Orion), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=308601&locid=1" } (D-Dearborn Heights), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=209301&locid=1" } (D-Southfield) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph) are listed co-sponsors for both bills.

Court Rejects City's Action To Change Retiree Insurance

Harper Woods could not simply change retiree health care benefits that were established contractually, the Court of Appeals ruled Friday.

In sending the case, *Harper Woods Retirees Association v. Harper Woods* ({ HYPERLINK "http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20151001_C318450_61_318450.OPN.PDF" \t "blank" }), back to the trial court, however, the appeals panel also said the retirees will have to show they have a vested interest in the health care benefits that would extend beyond the limit of any contract.

In an effort to cut costs, Harper Woods notified retirees that it was changing its health care benefits plan to one that would impose larger deductibles and co-pays than the plan the retirees were using and had been included in their contract.

The retirees formed an association and sued, but the trial court found for the city.

Judge Michael Gadola, joined by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=76401&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=152701&locid=1" }, held the city could not simply change the terms of the contract because it could save money.

The first principle of changing a contract is that a change be mutually agreed to, the court said. And even though the proposals to change the contract could appear reasonable, that is an invalid reason to unilaterally change a contract.

The court also rejected the argument that a 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling allowing a community to change a contract was a governing ruling. State courts do not have to abide with the findings of U.S. courts that are lower than the Supreme Court, the appeals panel said.

Court Throws Out Gag Order In Wayne County Jail Case

A gag order blocking anyone who might be involved in a trial involving the failed Wayne County Jail was thrown out by the Court of Appeals, which called the order overbroad, vague and constituting a prior restraint of the press and free speech.

The decision reversed the Wayne Circuit Court, in *People v. Sledge* and *People v. Collins* ({ HYPERLINK "http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20151001_C324680_79_324680.OPN.PDF" \t "blank" }).

The case revolves around the decision to halt construction of a new jail after only about a quarter of the structure was built and was running more than $100 million over budget.

Carla Sledge was the county's former financial director and Steven Collins was the county's assistant corporation counsel, and both were indicted of two common law offences and two counts of willful neglect of duty.

The trial judge ordered proceedings in the case sealed, and further ordered that no one involved in the upcoming trial speak to reporters.

The Detroit Free Press protested and filed an action, arguing the orders were a violation of the constitutional right of freedom of speech. Following a hearing, the judge unsealed the proceedings but kept the gag order in place.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=152701&locid=1" }, joined by Judge Michael Gadola and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=190101&locid=1" }, held the gag order was an unconstitutional prior restraint on the freedom of the press.

In addition, it was unclear in its writing as to who might be considered a person participating in the trial, the appellate judges said. There are times when gag orders are permitted, the court held, but in this case the trial judge failed to meet the strict standards that would permit such an order.

Capital Notebook

WILDLIFE GRANTS: The Department of Natural Resources this week awarded $910,000 in grants for habitat improvement projects around the state.

The largest of the grants was $99,400 to the Michigan United Conservation Clubs for projects across the Lower Peninsula, followed by $81,095 for projects in Crawford and Oscoda counties.

The grants are funded with hunting and fishing license revenue.

CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION: Following adoption of new certificate of need standards, the Department of Health and Human Services has designated Accreditation for Cardiovascular Excellence and Corazon, Incorporated as the two accrediting bodies for cardiac catheterization services in the state.

ACTIVE SHOOTER: With the recent spate of mass shootings around the country, the Michigan Occupational Health and Safety Administration is participating in an active shooter training seminar hosted by the Delta College School of Criminal Justice.

"This training will focus on helping organizations develop strategies for effective crisis management to prepare for, manage, and recover from the aftermath of workplace violence, traumatic accidents, fatalities and workplace emergencies," the agency said in an email announcing the free training.

Those interested can register by contacting Dawn Jurik at (989) 686-9176 or { HYPERLINK "mailto:dawnjurik@delta.edu" \t "blank" }.

Appointments By The Governor

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION: State Police { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=303901&locid=1" } of Brighton succeeds David Andrews to represent experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental, or public safety services; Heidi Magyar of Laingsburg succeeds LaMont Campbell to represent experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental, or public safety services; Michelle Rabideau of Grand Rapids succeeds Janet Lawson to represent experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental, or public safety services; and Julie Calley of Portland, Robert Collier of Grand Rapids, Bob Kolt of Haslett, David Price of Lansing and John Truscott of Okemos are reappointed.

All of the appointments expire October 1, 2018 and are not subject to Senate advice and consent.

EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Shirley Stancato of Detroit succeeds Roy Roberts, who resigned, for a term expiring August 8, 2017, and Mike Morris of Northville is reappointed for a term expiring August 8, 2019. The appointments are not subject to Senate advice and consent.

MICHIGAN AUTISM COUNCIL: Jeff DeLay of Davison succeeds Scott Gilman to represent Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans and Community Mental Health Services Programs and Diane Heinzelman of Petoskey, Anthony Ianni of Novi and Amy Matthews of Grand Haven are reappointed, all for terms expiring September 30, 2019. The appointments are not subject to Senate advice and consent.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Jason Gold of Ypsilanti and Beverly Burns of Detroit are reappointed for terms expiring July 22, 2019. The appointments are not subject to Senate advice and consent.

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES: Karen McPhee of Lowell, senior education policy advisor to the governor; State Board of Education member Eileen Weiser (R-Ann Arbor); and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=393401&locid=1" } of Okemos are appointed for terms expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

MIDWEST HIGHER EDUCATION COMPACT: Steven Ender of Grand Rapids, Ms. McPhee and Mr. Whiston are appointed for terms expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION: Pamela Jarvis of Hastings succeeds Dennis Schornack, who resigned, for a term expiring November 15, 2016, and David Doyle of Okemos is reappointed for a term expiring November 15, 2018. The appointments are subject to Senate advice and consent.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 6

Veterans Trust Fund Board of Trustees, Veterans Trust Fund Central Office, Fifth Floor, 222 North Washington Square, Lansing, 10:30 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/MVTF_Agenda_2014_451554_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Thursday, October 8

Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Committee, Clark Township Community Center, 133 East M-134, Cedarville, 6:30 p.m. (Following Natural Resources Commission; { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/EUPCAC_2015_October_8_Agenda_501422_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, October 6

Michigan Laborers' Training & Apprenticeship Institute's Mobile Training Unit Event, Capitol Building exterior, Lansing, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 10

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, Tavern and Tap, 101 South Washington Square, Lansing, 5 p.m.

Monday, October 19

82nd House District Candidate Jake Davison (R) Fundraiser, Cavelli's, 44 West Park Street, Lapeer, 5:30 p.m.

124 West Allegan Street, Suite 1200
Lansing Michigan 48933
Phone: 517−482−3500 | Fax: 517−482−4367 | Email: { HYPERLINK "mailto:gongwer@gongwer.com" }

{ HYPERLINK "mailto:smiller@gongwer.com" }, President | { HYPERLINK "mailto:amiller@gongwer.com" }, Vice President | { HYPERLINK "mailto:jwlindstrom@gongwer.com" }, Publisher | { HYPERLINK "mailto:zgorchow@gongwer.com" }, Editor | { HYPERLINK "mailto:cklaver@gongwer.com" }, { HYPERLINK "mailto:demerson@gongwer.com" }, { HYPERLINK "mailto:kasbena@gongwer.com" }, Staff Writers

Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 5, 2015

News

Prevailing wage backers push for public vote on repeal (Associated Press, 10/3/2015)

Prevailing wage law: Backers ask for public vote on repeal (Battle Creek Enquirer, 10/3/2015)

Only two cases remain in more than dozen filed over new bridge to Canada (Crain's Detroit Business, 10/4/2015)

Bill Schuette on race for reelection (Detroit Free Press, 10/5/2015)

Bills target property tax cuts for 'big box' stores (Detroit Free Press, 10/3/2015)

Candidates for Courser seat gather for forum (Detroit Free Press, 10/2/2015)

Michigan Legislature: Bills on helmets, puppy mills, more (Detroit Free Press, 10/3/2015)

Michigan AG Bill Schuette to unveil new book, share 'Big Lessons from a Small Town' (MLive, 10/5/2015)

Michigan Political Points: Vice presidential speculation begins for Gov. Rick Snyder (MLive, 10/5/2015)

Courser, opponents debate gun control at forum (The Detroit News, 10/3/2015)

Former aides sue ex-Reps. Gamrat, Courser (The Detroit News, 10/2/2015)

Jeb Bush plans return to Michigan for fundraiser (The Detroit News, 10/2/2015)

Editorials

Avoiding tap water has become a way of life in Flint (Detroit Free Press, 10/3/2015)

For Flint, vindication -- for Snyder, more questions (Detroit Free Press, 10/2/2015)

The case against term limits in the Michigan Legislature (Detroit Free Press, 10/4/2015)

Help Michigan schools and economy: Expand -- don't end -- electricity choice (Midland Daily News, 10/4/2015)

Ken Braun: Proposed laws would bring sensible speed limits and phantom student funding (MLive, 10/4/2015)

Rick Haglund: Gov. Snyder working hard to build future trade relationships (MLive, 10/4/2015)

Feds: Proposed pipeline rules could have prevented Michigan and other spills (Petoskey News-Review, 10/2/2015)

Drews and Johnson: Lobbying gone awry in Lansing (The Detroit News, 10/5/2015)

Editorial: Finish rape kit tests statewide (The Detroit News, 10/5/2015)

Blogs

Amash Gets A Nod From Conservative Publication (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/2/2015)

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:18 PM
To: 'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com'
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com';'wndywendyj@aol.com';'hocketwn09@yahoo.com';'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Please distribute broad and wide. See below for details.

God bless!

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
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Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services logo

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

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Current MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location to obtain a free, certified home water filter. Residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices located at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be onsite at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

"Ensuring that families in the Flint area have access to resources that will help reduce the potential for lead exposure is our top priority," said Nick Lyon, director of the MDHHS. "I want to thank our partners who have mobilized to make water filters available – a point that highlights the importance of continued collaboration at the local, state and federal level as we move forward."

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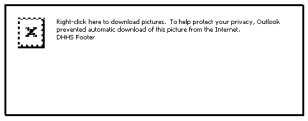
- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf



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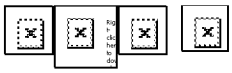

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From: InterScan MSS Notification <AV1@Michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:18 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: Mail could not be delivered
Attachments: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

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Unable to deliver message to <hocketwn09@yahoo.com>.

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:18 PM
To: 'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com'
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com';'wndywendyj@aol.com';'hocketwn09@yahoo.com';'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Please distribute broad and wide. See below for details.

God bless!

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

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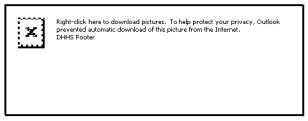
- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf



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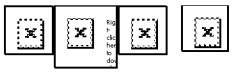

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:47 AM
To: 'wndywendyj@aol.com';'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com'
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com';'hocketwn09@yahoo.com';'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Of course, you are very welcome! Please help, Wendy, pass this along to any family that may be in the infected area, are a Flint resident, and is in dire need of the filter.

JNG

From: wndywendyj@aol.com [mailto:wndywendyj@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:14 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>; Salemflintpaster@gmail.com
Cc: salemlutheranflint@gmail.com; hocketwn09@yahoo.com; annadutcher@gmail.com
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Jeremy:
Thanks for the update. A few folks have asked me about the filters since my announcement in church on Sunday. Hope that you, Anna and Bobby are well.

-----Original Message-----
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
To: 'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com' <Salemflintpaster@gmail.com>
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com' <salemlutheranflint@gmail.com>; 'wndywendyj@aol.com' <wndywendyj@aol.com>; 'hocketwn09@yahoo.com' <hocketwn09@yahoo.com>; 'annadutcher@gmail.com' <annadutcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, Oct 5, 2015 4:18 pm
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Please distribute broad and wide. See below for details.

God bless!

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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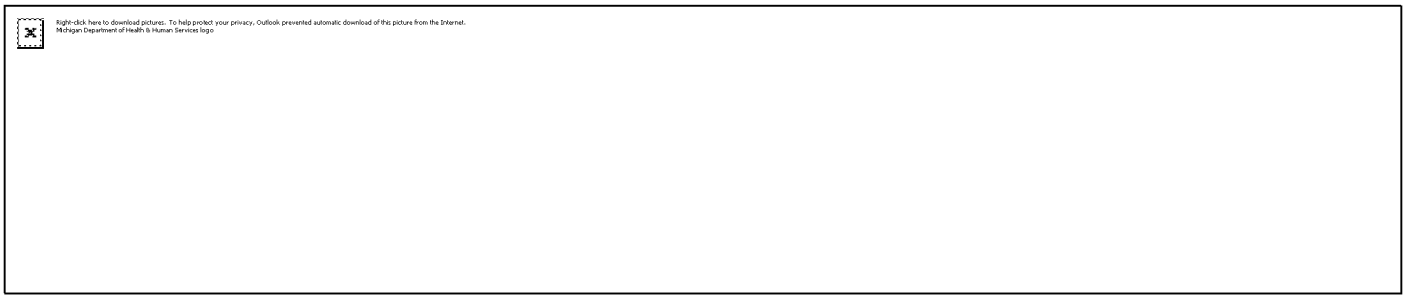

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Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:44 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 6, 2015

News

Prevailing wage backers push for public vote on repeal (Associated Press, 10/3/2015)

Stepped-up drunken driving patrols lead to 100s of arrests (Associated Press, 10/6/2015)

Senators urge NASA to continue monitoring Lake Erie (Detroit Free Press, 10/6/2015)

Advocates call for Michigan gun control (Lansing State Journal, 10/6/2015)

Sorting out accountability in Flint water issues is "relatively complex" (Michigan Radio, 10/6/2015)

Michigan AG Bill Schuette takes a tip from Taylor Swift in releasing book of life lessons (MLive, 10/6/2015)

Roads deal 'close,' says Michigan House Speaker, with plan 'on pace' to hit floor in October (MLive, 10/6/2015)

Snyder talks job creation, STEM and auto careers at Michigan Works conference (MLive, 10/6/2015)

Ted Cruz in Michigan: 'Nothing short of crazy' to take in Syrian Muslim refugees (MLive, 10/6/2015)

State plans Flint water filter giveaway Tuesday (The Detroit News, 10/6/2015)

Editorials

John Bizon: Biologic medications offer great promise (Battle Creek Enquirer, 10/6/2015)

Try again, try harder to get FCA deal for UAW (Detroit Free Press, 10/6/2015)

Judy Putnam: Doctors trump insurance in new model (Lansing State Journal, 10/6/2015)

McBroom: Courser, Gamrat expulsions warranted (The Detroit News, 10/6/2015)

Moore: Anti-sanctuary bill wrong for Detroit (The Detroit News, 10/6/2015)

Our Editorial: Toughen proposed forfeiture reforms (The Detroit News, 10/6/2015)

Rep. Forlini: 'Michigan penalty' harms taxpayers (The Detroit News, 10/6/2015)

Blogs

Dantonio's Forward For Schuette Book Irks Some Democratic Spartans (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/5/2015)

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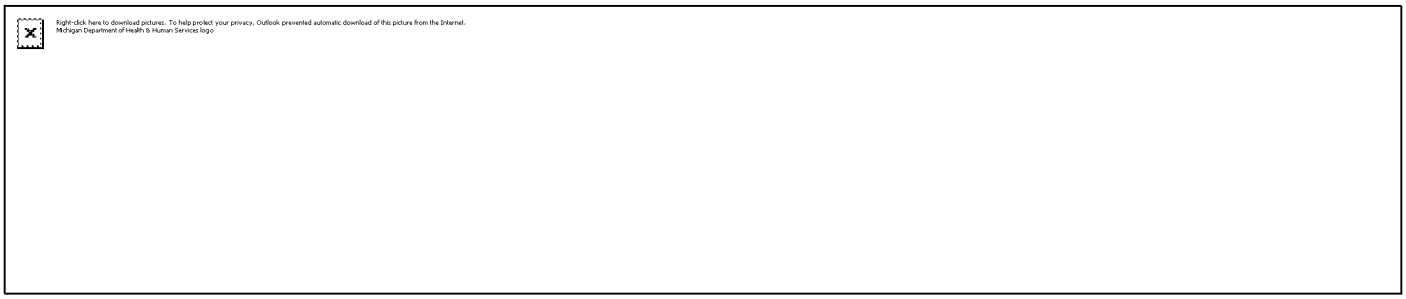
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:51 AM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: State offering extended, weekend hours for water filter distribution at Lippincott GCCARD



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2015
CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

State offering extended, weekend hours for water filter distribution at Lippincott GCCARD

Nearly 5,000 NSF certified filters issued by MDHHS to Flint residents since Monday

LANSING, Mich. – Flint residents and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients with a city of Flint water bill will now be able to take advantage of extended hours this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department 2727 Lippincott location. Extended hours will be offered at the Lippincott facility only, and will run until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The other three locations will maintain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. operating hours, Monday through Friday, for filter pick up.

Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive, reemphasized that the Brita SAFF-100 filters being distributed by the department and GCCARD do meet the NSF/ANSI 53 standards for drinking water treatment units.

“The Brita faucet filtration system that we are distributing to residents are National Sanitation Foundation certified to reduce lead in drinking water,” said Dr. Eden Wells. “When connected appropriately, these filters improve water quality by filtering out contaminates including lead, chlorine, benzene and other chemicals.”

Since Monday when MDHHS announced that free water filters would be distributed at four Flint locations, the state and GCCARD have partnered to issue approximately 5,000 free NSF certified

water filters to residents that are on the city of Flint water system. The distribution of filters is part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area. These NSF certified water filters remove lead in the water administered through water taps in homes.

MDHHS clients and residents with a city of Flint water bill may take advantage of the extended hours at the Lippincott GCCARD. During the regular business hours, MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location; residents on Flint water who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the GCCARD offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw. Staff will be onsite at all four locations to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their city of Flint water bill to a GCCARD location.

MDHHS is urging all residents do their part to prevent elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information on prevention, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and resources, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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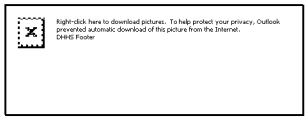
- Flint Extended Hours Press Release 10715.pdf



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Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:43 PM
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Michigan Report for Wednesday, October 7, 2015

House OKs Medical Marijuana Shops, Edibles

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Volume #54, Report #199 -- Wednesday, October 7, 2015

House OKs Medical Marijuana Shops, Edibles

Medical marijuana patients would pay a 9 percent tax on the drug, but would be allowed to purchase it from a licensed dispensary and be permitted to use topical or edible forms of the drug legally under bills approved by the House Wednesday.

The bills, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB420901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB421001" }, cleared the House with huge margins, 95-11 and 96-10, respectively, after months of negotiations.

HB 4209 outlines an entirely new regulatory structure that includes five different types of licenses for growers, processors, testing labs, secure transporters and dispensaries. Local communities would have to pass their own ordinances allowing provisioning centers.

Local governments would get a portion of the revenue from the taxes and be allowed to set up an annual licensing fee. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will also set a licensing fee.

The bill would set a 3 percent excise tax on the provisioning center's profits along with the 6 percent sales tax patients would pay at point of sale.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284701&locid=1" } (R-Nashville) said he is confident the Senate will act on the legislation, as the workgroup negotiating the bills has included law enforcement since the beginning of this term. Mr. Callton said law enforcement opposition is what killed the bill in the final days of lame duck last term.

"They were more cooperative to come in because of the real possibility of legalization. They saw it happen in Colorado; they saw it happen in Washington; and they started saying, 'It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when,'" he said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he expects to take up and report the legislation. But he said he did not support reducing the excise tax to 3 percent from 8 percent.

"I think that was a mistake and we'll revisit that ... because there has to be enough money to make everything work right," he said. "I'm going to make sure that Michigan State Police, the sheriffs and the prosecutors are on board, so I may have to tighten it up a little bit, but I do anticipate passing the bills."

Mr. Callton said legislative Democrats wanted to see the tax reduced. He said the fee to get a medical marijuana card has produced excess revenue for the state and he believes the tax would "more than" pay for the regulations.

Under the bill, the excise tax would disappear if medical marijuana is legalized. Mr. Callton said if the drug is legalized in the state, he would like to see medical marijuana go tax free.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=274601&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor), who did not support the 8 percent excise tax, voted yes on the bills Wednesday. He said they were imperfect, but workable.

The legislation stipulates LARA would be tasked with promulgating rules to implement and enforce the act. The department would also set certain standards, including the minimum levels of insurance operators must carry and testing, qualifications and limits for those who operate facilities.

The bill also would regulate quality, chain of custody, chemical storage, transport and storage. A five-member board would also be created to deal with licensing.

HB 4209 would restrict marketing geared toward minors and, under an amendment approved Wednesday, would bar edible marijuana products from taking a shape that would be attractive to minors.

HB 4210 would allow use of non-smokeable forms of the drug, but would prohibit butane extraction in a residential area.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284201&locid=1" } (R-Alto), sponsor of the bill, said the package is not about whether someone is for or against marijuana or even medical marijuana. She said it is about getting the most effective form of treatment to patients, especially children and elderly who likely cannot smoke.

"This is not a criminal justice issue, this is a health issue, and even more it's a moral issue," she said on the House floor. "Put yourself in these peoples' place. What would you do if it was your child?"

The third and final bill in the package, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB482701" } , which passed 99-7, would create a seed-to-sale tracking system.

The Michigan Cannabis Development Association praised the passage of the legislation, calling it a historic step toward protecting patients and providing a clear framework for businesses.

"Michigan businesses committed to serving our patients and upholding the highest standards applaud the House for ending seven years of chaos and confusion that have affected patients, caregivers, local communities and law enforcement," Willie Rochon, MCDA secretary, said in a statement. "Michigan is now in position to have one of the strongest, most responsible medical

marijuana frameworks in the nation that will promote accountability, transparency and safety. Once signed into law, these safeguards will provide tremendous relief and certainty to patients while eliminating the bad actors who put people and communities at risk."

Mr. Callton said he has been working on the issue for four and a half years and feels good about its passage.

"It's a step toward acceptance of medical marijuana for certain classes of patients," he said.

Mr. Callton also noted the issue has brought both libertarians and liberals together. He said those who have committed against new taxes voted yes on the medical marijuana legislation, including the tax. He said Democrats lobbied for a decrease in the excise tax.

"We saw a lot of things flipped on their head here," he said.

Forfeiture Changes Clear Senate

The Senate unanimously on Wednesday passed a package of bills overhauling how law enforcement uses civil asset forfeiture support.

The forfeiture legislation ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB449901" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450001" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450301" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450501" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450601" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB450701" }) was last taken up at the end of August in the Senate Judiciary Committee (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541630103" }) but saw few changes.

The bills impose reporting requirements on law enforcement agencies for all forfeitures to increase transparency and raise the evidentiary standard for drug forfeiture and public nuisances from the current "preponderance of evidence" to "clear and convincing."

Holly Harris, executive director for Fix Forfeiture - a coalition that includes the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and Americans for Tax Reform, among others - applauded the passage of the legislation that will now head to { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } for his signature.

"It is said that sunshine is the best disinfectant and today the Michigan Senate put a bright light on their state's civil asset forfeiture procedure, which will go a long way in protecting innocent property owners," she said in a statement. "Now the state will have a uniform reporting system, bringing transparency and ultimately fairness to the process."

And Jason Pye, director of justice reform at FreedomWorks and partner with Fix Forfeiture, said in a statement that the package was "grounded in common sense."

"The reforms will offer significant protections to innocent property owners from government overreach and bring much-needed transparency to the process," he said.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" } (R-Grand Ledge), chair of Judiciary, said he will continue to work on the issue as supporters say more reforms need to be made to asset forfeiture laws. And he defended law enforcement, which came under heavy criticism for abusing the civil asset forfeiture process.

"I think if they're given adequate direction, they will do their job appropriately," he said.

Mr. Jones also brushed off criticism that the police just have a profit motive.

"It's always easy to throw rocks at law enforcement. You could say they're writing too many tickets because there's a profit motive," Mr. Jones said. "I think for the most part, the average police officer or sheriff deputy wants to go out and do their job to the best of their ability, and they're not in it for profit."

MCOLES: The chamber also passed a package of bills codifying the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), and prescribed the powers and duties of that commission.

All the bills in the package ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB9201" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB9301" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB9401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB9501" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB9601" }) saw unanimous approval.

The bills put into statute MCOLES, created long ago under a governor's executive order, and update and consolidate various statutes and executive orders currently governing their operation.

"The commission ... is responsible for setting professional standards for law enforcement officers, creating curriculum for law enforcement training, licensing law enforcement officers and administering the Justice Training Fund and training to locals fund," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton), the primary sponsor of the package, said on the Senate floor. "Perhaps now more than ever, it is important to ensure that our law enforcement officers are held to the highest standards and that they are qualified for the important work they do."

She also said the legislation would clearly define which individuals with law enforcement authority are licensed and regulated by MCOLES, and it also gives the commission the ability to "hold officers accountable when they violate the public trust."

Senate Panel Reports Retired Teacher Legislation

After some initial hesitation about allowing retired teachers with a background in subjects that have a critical teacher shortage to serve as substitutes, the bill cleared the committee with unanimous support and an S-5 substitute.

The substitute to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB405901" } would re-enact, until July 1, 2018, expired provisions that allowed a public school retiree to work in an area identified as a critical shortage discipline as a substitute teacher, instructional coach or school improvement facilitator without losing his or her pension. Until that time, the reporting unit in a critical shortage area at which a retiree was hired would be required to pay 100 percent of the contribute rates for unfunded actuarial accrued liability for retiree health care and pension for that employment.

In order to be hired back, a person would have to have retired between June 30, 2010, and September 1, 2015. A retired individual (as of after June 30, 2010) who was rehired back and met certain conditions would have to forfeit his or her pension and health care benefits for the entire month in which he or she was re-employed by a reporting unit.

And the Department of Education must post a listing of critical shortage disciplines on its website.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=80001&locid=1" } (R-Troy) raised some concern as to why an individual who retired would go back to work, namely on a full-time basis, but a teacher from Saginaw ISD said if there was a need to service multiple schools for one discipline, especially during a time of shrinking budgets for schools, that might be a district's only option.

The S-5 substitute was adopted with unanimous approval, and the bill was reported similarly.

INTERIM CERTIFICATIONS: Without any discussion, the committee also reported { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB49101" }

(the S-2 version it had adopted at previous meeting), which allows the board of a school district or ISD to hire a non-certificated, non-endorsed teacher to teach a course in writing, journalism or health sciences, or a course in a discipline designated as a critical shortage discipline.

More specifically, an individual's service as a full-time instructor in a field of specialization at the college level would be considered occupation experience in that field of specialization.

The bill also requires an alternative teaching program, for an interim teaching certificate, to include training in classroom management, and it eliminates the grade point average requirement for those holding a master's or doctorate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in order to receive an interim teaching certificate.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=308601&locid=1" } (D-Dearborn Heights) registered the sole vote in opposition of the bill.

HIGH SCHOOL ECONOMICS: The committee also discussed but did not report a bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB439001" }) that would allow the half-credit economics requirement for a high school diploma to be satisfied by completion of a one-half credit course in personal economics.

"What I'm seeking to do is not only bring greater awareness for financial literacy, but also to allow more flexibility for our students," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353601&locid=1" } (R-Clarkston), sponsor of HB 4390.

Several members of the committee expressed an interest in making such a course a requirement rather than an elective, but Mr. Tedder greeted that idea with caution.

"I think it's critical we allow flexibility," he noted.

ONLINE PROTECTION: The committee also began taking testimony on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB51001" }, which would create the Student Online Personal Protection Act to establish certain prohibitions and requirements that would apply to an operator of an Internet website, online service, online application or mobile application with actual knowledge that the site, service or application is used primarily for K-12 purposes.

Such an "operator" would be prohibited from knowingly engaging in certain targeted advertising, using information gathered by the operator to amass a student profile or selling a student's information. They would also be prohibited from knowingly disclosing covered information - or personally identifiable information or material in any media format - unless the disclosure was made for certain purposes.

"My intent is to be able to protect the kids in our educational system. We're gathering more and more data on our kids and I don't think the opportunity to sell this data should be possible," {

HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } (R-St. Clair), the committee chair and sponsor of the bill, said. "We need to make sure this doesn't go too far and become an enterprise."

Advisory Committee Recommends Returning Flint To Detroit Water

An advisory committee reviewing the water situation in Flint has recommended that the city return to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department as part of an effort to resolve lead and other contamination issues in the city.

In a tweet, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said he would make an announcement regarding the Flint water system although he did not offer any detail as to the details of that announcement.

The city moved to taking water from the Flint River last year in an effort to cut costs, but residents initially complained about taste and clarity and recent tests have shown increased blood lead levels in some areas of the city.

"Reconnecting to the Detroit water system is the right next step if it restores confidence among Flint residents about the quality of drinking water. The lead levels reported in Flint's water are unacceptable and Flint residents deserve access to safe water," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306801&locid=1" } (D-Flint), a key proponent of returning to Detroit water, said in a statement.

"However, reconnecting to Detroit does not entirely solve the problem," Mr. Kildee said. "The state's previous decision to go to the Flint River source, and the corrosive nature of its water, could have already done permanent damage to the city's water distribution system. Flint's infrastructure, already aging and in need of repair, very well likely needs major investments."

Mr. Walling said last week that returning to Detroit water was on the table as an option, but, given the $1 million monthly price tag, would likely require state assistance (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541960101" }).

Mr. Snyder at the time committed to a one-time $1 million grant, but not to any long-term assistance on the issue.

Michigan Radio quoted members of the advisory panel saying the switch back would take at least two weeks to complete.

House Appropriations Considers Regulating Large-Scale Dog Breeders

Large-scale dog breeding kennels with 15 intact female dogs used for breeding would be regulated in the state under a bill in the House Appropriations Committee, but members were concerned the $25 fee in the legislation was not high enough and that breeders would not register with the state.

Under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB489801" } , large-scale breeders would be required to register with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and pay a $25 fee. However, James Averill, state veterinarian, said the fee is not enough for the department to do inspections.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316901&locid=1" } (R-Bloomfield Hills), sponsor of the bill, said the bill is essentially a consumer protection measure. He said people buy puppies, with cash, for hundreds or thousands of dollars and won't find out until later if there are genetic defects.

"You only have to set one foot in those facilities and you know it's wrong," he said. "There's no gray area that gets in the way of our action. What's happening in those places is disgusting, unethical and inhumane. It has to stop."

The idea is to eventually inspect the facilities, so members wanted to see the fee at least cover that service. Under the current bill, inspections would be complaint-based rather than annual.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville), chair of the committee, noted that passing legislation to increase a fee is usually difficult.

He also said in a statement released later that the existence of "puppy mills" is a result of public demand for good family pets, but a lack of oversight and regulation only exacerbates existing problems with overpopulation and conditions for those animals who are not adopted into a loving home.

"We need to think of unadopted or otherwise homeless dogs, cats, or other domestic animals from the perspective of their potential to be a pet in our homes," he said. "The difference between the ones on the streets and the ones in these mills isn't a big one, and the one thing they definitely both have in common is that they're better off in a loving family than in conditions like these. We have a moral imperative to act."

Vicki Deisner, legislative director for the Midwest region with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the fee in Ohio is $100.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276301&locid=1" } (R-Clayton) said the Legislature had to increase fees for the Agriculture department this budget year because the fees were not covering the services from the department.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=274601&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor) said he thinks the large breeders would simply not register with the state.

The bill does not have an incentive to register with the state, but there is a $1,000 fee per violation for those are caught not registering, Mr. Averill said.

Currently, the department is neutral on the bill, but those with the department said they are confident they can get to a position of support.

The bill would also require a breeder to wait until a puppy is eight weeks old before adopting it out, or it would be required to adopt it out with the mother. The bill also limits each facility to 50 intact females.

Ms. Deisner said 30 other states regulate large-scale breeders. She said when neighboring states pass large-scale breeding regulations, some breeders who do not want to comply will move to states without the regulations.

"With Michigan now surrounded by states with regulations, you could see an influx of breeders from Ohio and other Midwest states who want to operate without oversight," she said.

She said dogs from large-scale breeders, like one in Lake City, have a variety of problems including behavioral and health issues. At the breeders found and shut down in Lake City, the dogs lived in poor environmental conditions and did not have food or clean water, she said.

The committee did not act on the bill, but will bring it up again next week.

Natural Resources Gets Back To Aquatic Invasive Species

A local government would be able to adopt an ordinance to prevent, control or eradicate aquatic invasive species in waters within the its boundaries and impose fees if an aquatic invasive species were present in the waters under legislation discussion by the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday.

The fees collected - which could be for invasive species prevention, control or eradication; using a boat launch or boat washing station; or parking a motor vehicle and trailer used to haul a boat - would be required to be deposited in a restricted fund for expenditure on aquatic invasive species prevention, control and eradication.

And while most who testified on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB10401" } were supportive of its provisions, the Department of Natural Resources took no position on the bill as written, stating that while it can appreciate the intent behind the bill, it does not want to discourage boaters from using any of Michigan's numerous inland lakes.

The ordinance could not impose fees totaling more than $10 per boat per day or $45 per boat per year, a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of the bill states. And the ordinance would have to exempt a pesticide applicator, lake management consultant, or other person engaged in aquatic invasive species management activities from payment of a fee, as well as a government entity or a nonprofit organization.

The DNR also had questions about how the bill would be enforced if it did in fact become law.

But members of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance and the Michigan Aquatic Managers Association said something needs to happen sooner rather than later.

"We've been concerned about the members of Michigan living around the lakes having to bear the brunt of the invasive species war," said Bob Frye, president of the group. "It's very challenging when you have a number of public launch sites at our different lakes and the public contributing to the problem, but the public not given a chance to confront the problem."

Questions arose over how much of a fee would be appropriate and in what manner but to no consensus.

The Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Counties and Michigan Municipal League were among supporters of the bill, as was the Michigan Environmental Council (though the latter said more needed to be done to figure out how to get more funds to the table to address the issue overall).

The committee did not report the bill.

LIQUID INDUSTRIAL BY-PRODUCT: The committee did, however, report three bills related to changing liquid industrial by-product laws to bring them up to speed with federal laws. S-1 substitutes making mostly technical changes were adopted to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB40001" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB40101" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB40201" }.

The bills would refer to what is now liquid industrial waste instead as liquid industrial by-product instead, and exclude from the classification of such a material that is used or reused as an ingredient to make a product and meets certain criteria otherwise.

The bills also eliminate a requirement that a generator of liquid industrial by-product use a site identification number when necessary for transportation and pay the Department of Environmental Quality a $50 fee for deposit into the Environmental Pollution Prevention Fund for each number the generator uses.

SB 400, specifically, also allows required records and documents to be maintained in an electronic format and allows a transporter to dispose of septage waste or liquid industrial by-product on land if authorized by the DEQ.

The department, at the last committee hearing, was in support of the legislation, and the bills were reported Wednesday with unanimous approval.

State Pays DeBoer, Rowse Attorneys $1.9M

The price of the state of Michigan's defense of its now nullified prohibition on same-sex marriage is $1.9 million.

On Wednesday, the state completed payment to the attorneys for April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, the lesbian couple from Hazel Park who challenged the state's limitation of marriage to couples of the opposite sex. The U.S. Supreme Court, ruling on their case and others, struck down such laws and held that gay couples have the right to marry.

The attorneys had filed during the summer for $1.9 million in attorneys fees. On Wednesday, both the plaintiffs' attorneys and the Department of Attorney General agreed to stipulate in the U.S. District Court that they had agreed to dismiss the motion on attorneys fees.

Carole Stanyar, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys in the case, said the total cost of the case was between $2 million to $3 million. They did not bill the state for costs and some attorneys fees. Donors picked up the rest.

Andrea Bitely, spokesperson for the Department of Attorney General, said the department had no comment on resolution of the legal fees matter.

Supporters of allowing same-sex couples to marry had heavily criticized { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } for deciding to defend the state's limitation on marriage in court. Officials in other states decided not to defend their bans.

Commission Urges Cautious Reaction To Sentencing Guidelines Ruling

The Criminal Justice Policy Commission will study the effects of a recent Supreme Court ruling that makes statutory sentencing guidelines advisory to trial judges, but it urged the Legislature to avoid, at least for now, trying to correct the ruling.

But the commission also recommended that sentencing guidelines be retained as a way to reduce disparities in sentencing.

The commission named making sanctions within the guidelines as one of its three top priorities for the coming months.

The guidelines ruling, in *People v. Lockridge* (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541480102" }), was in line with recent U.S. Supreme Court rulings on guidelines, Solicitor General Aaron Lindstrom told the commission. In both rulings, the courts held that the statutory guidelines allowed factors to affect sentencing beyond the facts determined by the jury, which violates the Sixth Amendment right to trial by jury.

The result, Mr. Lindstrom said, was greater disparity in sentencing in federal courts since the first ruling in 2005. But he noted that the departures from the federal guidelines have tended to

be downward, as federal judges rejected some of the lengthy sentences, particularly for drug crimes.

Mr. Lindstrom did not expect as much deviation from the state guidelines, which the Michigan Supreme Court said judges would still have to consider. "I think people have more of a perception that the state guidelines are more where they should be," he said, though he added the burden would be high for a defendant, or a prosecutor, to show that a sentence was improper.

"I don't think that the reasonableness test is going to lead to overturning many decisions," he said.

Though in its second recommendation for Wednesday it urged maintaining guidelines as a way to ensure some consistency in sentencing, the commission still, in its first recommendation, called on the Legislature to do nothing for now. Rather, the commission said it would track sentencing patterns in the wake of the ruling and make future recommendations based on that data.

As part of the commission's charge to review sentencing, members will be working through the recent recommendations from the Council of State Governments to the Law Revision Commission.

Among the first of the seven CSG findings the commission will tackle is that the guidelines should be structured to produce more consistent sentencing.

CSG had recommended that the state narrow the cells in the guidelines to provide more narrow sentencing recommendations based on the score for a particular conviction.

While commission members agreed there was some need for consistency, they also argued for some room for trial judges to make decisions based on the particular case and local conditions.

Tied to that, the commission will be discussing CSG's finding 6, that the state has to monitor sentencing practices.

To do that, commission members said, the state is going to have to provide the commission with some funds for staff.

Several commissioners argued the state also needs to create a new sentencing commission to meet the federal guidelines ruling. "I don't know if the Court of Appeals is going to say our guidelines are reasonable when they haven't been updated since 1998," St. Joseph Circuit Judge Paul Stutesman said.

Barbara Levine said the policy commission was charged with determining whether the guidelines are proper.

Former Sen. Bruce Caswell, chair of the commission, said discussions on funding for the commission were happening behind the scenes, but he urged members to come together on some

of the recommendations that might involve funding quickly if they are to be factored into the 2016-17 budget.

The commission will also be discussing the recommendation that the state concentrate its funding on programs that reduce recidivism.

But that will first require setting a definition for recidivism, Kent County Sheriff Larry Stelma said.

The state also needs to find ways to better track services provided to inmates after they are released. Both Kyle Kaminski with the Department of Corrections and Andrew Verheek with the Michigan Association of Community Corrections Advisory Boards said there currently is little tracking of people who switch between state and county corrections systems.

Mr. Kaminski said the responsibility lies with the counties.

"We're responsible for them while they're placed under our supervision, but they're not our people, they the community's people," he said.

Mr. Verheek said many counties do not have the capacity to collect the data the commission will need.

Sheryl Kubiak, who represents the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence on the commission, said the commission's recommendation also has to touch on implementation of the programs.

"The department and community corrections have looked at the programs and have for the most part tried to bring those programs to Michigan," Ms. Kubiak said. "It's in the implementation. ... It's not just here's an evidence-based program."

MEETING TIMES: It was unclear at the end of Wednesday's meeting whether the commission might change its regular meeting times. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park) urged a change to avoid conflicting with Senate session.

Mr. Johnson said he would have liked to comment on some of the commission's recommendations, but had to leave for session before voting began.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township), who joined the meeting after session (Mr. Johnson did not return), said the meeting times were fine for him and he would ask to have some committee meetings adjusted to avoid the commission meetings.

Committee Continues Discussion On Safety Flag For Towing Watercraft

The Department of Natural Resources said Wednesday it is neutral on a bill that would require personal watercraft with individuals in tow to display a flag to help others operating vessels in the water know to keep a look out.

The House Regulatory Reform Committee held its second meeting on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB453401" } Wednesday and did not report the legislation.

The department said it was neutral because there are both positives and negatives associated with the legislation.

Trevor VanDyke, legislative liaison with the department, said some believe the bright colored flag will help, while others believe it could actually distract a boater from looking at the water.

Mr. VanDyke also told the committee anyone born in 1996 or after is required to take a boater safety course before operating a vessel.

Nicki Polan, executive director with the Michigan Boating Industry Association, said if passed, the new requirement could deter those interesting in boating from doing so, as it is another regulation.

MMA AND BOXING REGULATIONS: The committee also took up a pair of bills regulating professional boxing, professional or amateur mixed martial arts or similar "unarmed combat."

The responsibilities of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission are revised in { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15201" }, and that commission, alongside the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, would have jurisdiction over all boxing or MMA contests. The legislation also revises and establishes new regulations concerning the conduct of the events, as well as revises fee amounts for licenses to have such events.

Among the regulations are ensuring a contestant has been drug tested and having an on-site inspector. Women would also be required to submit a negative pregnancy test before competitions.

The committee did not vote on SB 152 or { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15401" }, but will next week, said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701&locid=1" } (R-Onekama), chair of the committee.

PSC Opens Natural Gas Safety Inquiry

As Public Service Commission staff have become aware of a number of gas service lines servicing residential or commercial gas customers connected directly to gas storage field,

transmission pipelines, regulated and unregulated gathering lines, oil and gas wells, and gas processing facilities, the commission has opened an inquiry into gas safety issues.

The inquiry on natural gas distribution utilities, gas gathering or transmission pipeline operators and gas storage system operators seeks to determine three major points:

- The number and locations or residences or other structures receiving gas under the same or similar circumstances as previously outlined;
- The specific type of interconnection and source of gas for each connection to a residence or other structure; and
- The safety equipment currently installed at each connection.

The connections often occur when the pipeline or storage field operator provides natural gas to a property owner in exchange for paying for a right-of-way or easement across the property, the PSC said in a statement, and such facilities may not be compliant with the Michigan Gas Safety Standards.

Providers will have until December 1 to submit their responses to questions in the table in attachment two of the order (case U-17585), and providers that do not have connections as described in the order shall respond by indicating so, the PSC said.

ALPENA POWER COMPANY: The PSC on Wednesday also approved a settlement agreement authorizing Alpena Power Company to implement its 2016-17 energy optimization plan resulting in a decrease of 7 cents a month on the bills of residential customers using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, effective January 2016 (case { HYPERLINK "http://efile.mpsc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17770&submit.x=0&submit.y=0" \t "blank" }).

Johnson Announces Funds Double Prior Candidates

Lon Johnson, the former Michigan Democratic Party chair running for the 1st U.S. House District, announced Wednesday on Twitter that he had raised more than $350,000 in the most recent quarter.

Mr. Johnson, who is challenging former Kalkaska County Sheriff Jerry Cannon for the Democratic nomination in the seat, posted a graphic that showed Mr. Cannon had raised only $130,000 during his first quarter as an announced candidate for the 2014 election. For third quarter of 2013, Mr. Cannon reported $130,390 and reported $104,495 on hand (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=522040102" }).

The graphic showed Mr. Johnson had also raised more than Gary McDowell in his second bid against { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=246701&locid=1" } (R-Crystal Falls) in 2012. The graphic showed Mr. McDowell brought in $156,000 during that first

announced quarter. Mr. McDowell reported raising $156,674 during third quarter of 2011, with $154,213 cash on hand (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=502040103" }).

Quarterly reports are due October 15.

Former Rep. Dingell To Remain In Hospital For A Little Longer

Former U.S. Rep. John Dingell remained hospitalized Wednesday after undergoing a heart event that physicians told him was not a heart attack.

As usual, Mr. Dingell, the longest-serving member of Congress in American history, leavened the situation with humor on Twitter.

"It wasn't a heart attack, but doctors are recommending I do all I can to try to forget the end of that Lions game," he said. "Here for a few more days."

On Tuesday, upon declaring he was in the hospital, Mr. Dingell lamented, "Being old sucks."

Physicians determined it was not a heart attack after Mr. Dingell underwent an angiogram Wednesday at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=190901&locid=1" } (D-Dearborn), Mr. Dingell's wife, said via her Facebook page that Mr. Dingell would undergo a procedure on Friday "for some new equipment" with the exact kind still under discussion.

"John Dingell is one tough SOB and he said to tell you he is a tough old Pollack who is going to be around to keep rascality under control for awhile more," she said. "He is feisty as ever, asking a ton of questions, with lots advice for everyone including me on what we have to do for the health care system."

Court Orders Hearings On Village Military Bias Question

A ruling for Vicksburg that it did not discriminate against a police officer because of his military service was reversed by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday and ordered returned for more proceedings.

In making the decision, Judge Raymond Kethledge, joined by Judge Ralph Guy Jr. and Judge Jane Branstetter Stranch, said there was evidence that Vicksburg village officials had acted against David Eichaker because he was active in the military reserves. The court ruled in *Eichaker v. Vicksburg* ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/15a0677n-06.pdf" \t "blank" }).

Mr. Eichaker sued the village after he had been denied the post of chief of police, and then the new chief demoted him first from lieutenant to a sergeant and then a patrol officer. Mr. Eichaker

said the factor that seemed to turn the village officials against him was his service in the military reserves which included a tour in Afghanistan.

He sued under the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. The U.S. District Court for Western Michigan granted summary judgment to the village.

But the federal appeals panel held that in looking at the evidence there was ample evidence to suggest that Mr. Eichaker was subjected to bias because of his military activities, including comments made by the village president in a closed meeting to select a new chief, that Mr. Eichaker should not be selected because he had a young family and was focused on his military career.

Revenue Bulletin Defines Total Household Income, Refers To Same-Sex Couples

A newly released state revenue administrative bulletin defines total household income in relationship to the state's Homestead Property Tax Credit and home heating credit. But the document is one of the first state documents to refer to same-sex couples.

The bulletin, RAB 2015-18, outlines all forms of income received by persons in a household - including wages, salaries, tips, Social Security payments, business income, alimony and prize winnings - and defines what constitutes a household.

Household is defined as a claimant and the claimant's spouse. The bulletin also says the claimant must have resided in the state for at least six months.

The bulletin also said, "The terms spouse, husband and wife include individuals lawfully married to a person of the same sex whether married in Michigan or another state."

The couple has to include all their income if they are required to file joint returns, even if they live separately, and if they live together in the same residence even if they file tax returns separately.

Capital Notebook: State Has Spent $4M On Advertising Healthy Michigan

In response to legislation proposed by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton) to prohibit state departments from advertising the Healthy Michigan (expanded Medicaid) program, a spokesperson with the Department of Health and Human Services said the state funded $2 million in fiscal year 2014 and the same in fiscal year 2015 to advertise the program to "reach and engage target populations so we can improve health outcomes in Michigan."

Ms. Schuitmaker, speaking to Gongwer News Service on Tuesday, said she introduced her legislation, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB54201" }, because "the Medicaid expansion surpassed the expectations, and here we are spending more and

more money to get people more and more dependent upon government," she said (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541980111" }).

Although the department did not give a specific statement on the bill itself, it defended its use of appropriated funds for the program that has provided health care to some 600,000 residents as a provision of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

"When we initially rolled out the Healthy Michigan Plan, we knew how important it was to provide residents with clear, consistent information that would make the enrollment process as smooth as possible for applicants," Jennifer Eisner, spokesperson for DHHS, said in a statement to Gongwer. "In talking to our partners, we know that continued public education efforts play a vital role in ensuring eligible residents are not only getting coverage, but also understanding how to use it to improve their health."

Ms. Schuitmaker's bill was sent to the Senate Health Policy Committee.

VETERANS HOMES: Leslie Shanlian has been appointed chief executive officer of the Michigan Veteran Health System, which oversees the state's two veterans homes.

Ms. Shanlian, who takes the post October 26, is a licensed nursing home administrator. She was most recently deputy director of the Aging and Adult Services Agency.

"Leslie has a proven track record of serving Michigan's aging residents and their families, and we are excited to have that level of expertise in the Michigan Veteran Health System," Jeff Barnes, director of the Veterans Affairs Agency, which houses the veterans homes, said. "Her leadership during this transition will reinforce MVAA's core values of innovation, inclusion and customer service for the veterans who live in the homes and the staff who provide quality long-term care there."

CAPITOL MODILLIONS LOTTERY: The Michigan State Capitol Commission will conduct a lottery giving 100 winners the right to purchase one of the old modillions replaced as part of this year's restoration.

Those wishing to enter the lottery should contact Valerie Marvin at { HYPERLINK "mailto:vmarvin@legislature.mi.gov" \t "blank" } or by leaving a message at 517-373-2358.

The cost to purchase one of the old modillions is $100.

Entrants should include their name, preferred phone number, mailing address and e-mail address. Only one entry is allowed per person. Entries will be accepted from Tuesday, October 6, 2015, until midnight Friday, October 16, 2015.

A public drawing will select the 100 winners. It will be held at noon October 19 in Room H-65 of the Capitol. Entrants do not need to be present to win.

Capitol Jobs Marketplace Updated

Gongwer News Service's Capitol Jobs Marketplace page, a feature Gongwer is pleased to offer advertising jobs available around the Capitol, has been updated.

For details on the new job posting and how to have a job from an organization posted, see { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/programming/jobs.cfm" }.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Friday, October 16

Commission on Services to the Aging, Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging, 2501 14th Avenue South, Escanaba, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/October_2015_CSA_Agenda.doc" \t "_blank" })

Monday, October 19

Crime Victims Services Commission, Third Floor Conference Room, Lewis Cass Building, 320 South Walnut Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/CVSC_AGENDA_10-19-15.pdf" \t "_blank" })

Thursday, October 22

Canceled: ~~Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, 1:30 p.m.~~

Thursday, October 29

Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, 1:30 p.m.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 8

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=93601&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=328" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601&locid=1" }, 373-1260), Room 521, House Office Building, 9 a.m.

- **Testimony only:**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401" } U.S. HISTORY LESSONS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401" }) Encourages and requires instruction in certain United States historical information to be included on state testing.

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB20901"
}
{ AMERICAN HERITAGE DOCUMENTS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701" }) Allows and prohibits censorship or restraint of instruction in certain American heritage documents.
HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB21101" }

{ EDUCATION ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701" }) Provides for genocide education.
HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&

billid=2015H
B449301" }

Tuesday, October 13

{ HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=88701&locid=1" }
({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/finance.html" \t "blank" }),
(Chr. { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701&locid=1" }, 373-5312),
Room 210, Farnum Building, 2:30 p.m.

{ HYPER LINK "http:// www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53801" } **ESCHEATS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701" }) Streamlines uniform unclaimed property act audit process.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015H
B449301" } **FOSTERING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277001" }) Provides for individual income tax checkoff for fostering futures scholarship trust fund.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB5

4301"
}
{ FOSTERING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP ({ HYPERLINK **HYP ERLI NK "http ://ww w.gon gwer. com/i ndex. cfm?l ink=l egisla tion_ billde tail.cf m&bi llid=2 015S B544 01" }** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=80001" **})** Requires credit to income tax check-off contributions to the fostering futures scholarship trust fund.

Subscribers Please Note

A story in Monday's Michigan Report contained the incorrect day for the Kent Circuit Court to hear the state's motion for a preliminary injunction against Hewlett Packard regarding the Business Application Modernization project. The hearing is Friday, October 9.

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:36 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 8, 2015

News

Dingell to have 2nd heart procedure, stays in hospital (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Group: IRS should probe pro-Schuette spending (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Michigan House OKs medical pot rules with wide support (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

State moving 1,600 prisoners out of Kinross in U.P. (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

State nurses say they work too much OT (Lansing State Journal, 10/8/2015)

Forfeiture package sails through Michigan Legislature, requiring police to disclose profits (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Medical marijuana dispensaries, taxes and edibles approved by Michigan House (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Michigan Senator challenges 'any state elected official' to gas tax debate (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Planned Parenthood not mishandling fetal remains in Michigan, state finds (MLive, 10/8/2015)

30,000 Michigan Teamsters face pension cuts (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Flint health experts support Detroit water reconnection (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

House votes to expand types of medical pot allowed (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Law that ends tax-debt loophole snags homeowners (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Mass evictions loom after homes sold off (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Our editorial: Good behavior paroles will cut costs (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Editorials

Michigan legislators need to check their priorities (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Waiting for answers, action in Flint water crisis (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Sex Trafficking in Michigan (Huffington Post, 10/8/2015)

Stop flow of microbeads into Great Lakes and break toxic chain (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Moss: Mich. Supreme Court shuts door on young readers (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Blogs

Joey Gamrat Video: Mom 'Not Here To Play Games And Attend Cocktail Parties' (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/7/2015)

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Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:22 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Snyder Asks Legislature For $6M To Reconnect Flint To Detroit Water

Thursday, October 8, 2015, 10:21 AM

Snyder Asks Legislature For $6M To Reconnect Flint To Detroit Water

FLINT – Governor Rick Snyder said today that Flint will reconnect to the Detroit water system and no longer draw water for its residents and businesses from the Flint River, a move that comes in response to insufficient corrosion treatment for the river water causing unsafe levels of lead to leach into the water.

The announcement follows one of the most serious environmental crises to confront the state and a major outcry that Mr. Snyder's administration, and the man he appointed to run the city when it was in a financial emergency, failed to assure the river water – more corrosive than the water from Lake Huron, where the Detroit system draws its water – was properly treated before making the switch to the river. Testing has shown rising levels of lead in the blood of some children in the city and pockets of the city with lead levels in the water that exceed recognized limits for safety.

Mr. Snyder said it will cost $12 million to shift Flint to Detroit water through next summer, when a new pipeline to Lake Huron is expected to be completed to supply Flint and surrounding areas with its water. He said he is asking the Legislature to supply $6 million. The Mott Foundation will contribute $4 million and the city of Flint will chip in $2 million.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in today's Michigan Report.

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:23 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Thursday, October 8, 2015
Attachments: Oct8House.htm; Oct8.htm; 151008dayplan.htm; Oct8Senate.htm

Michigan Report for Thursday, October 8, 2015

Legislature To Move Quickly On Funding For Flint Water

Snyder, DEQ Under Heavy Scrutiny For Handling Of Flint Water Crisis

Bills Would Extend Community College Training Programs To ISDs

DIFS Has Some Concerns With Insurance Code Changes

Group Charges A.G.'s Office Pushes Excessive FOIA Fees

In Energy Discussion, Companies Say Cost, Reliability Are Key

Cotter Still Hoping For Road Funding Solution In October

Senate Panel Exploring Billboards In Special Use Zones

Senate Approves Implied Consent For Drug Tests In Crashes

Senate Approves Ban On Breed Prohibitions

Bill Would Require Capitol Drone Flight Permits

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Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

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House

Senate

Calendars

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Volume #54, Report #200 -- Thursday, October 8, 2015

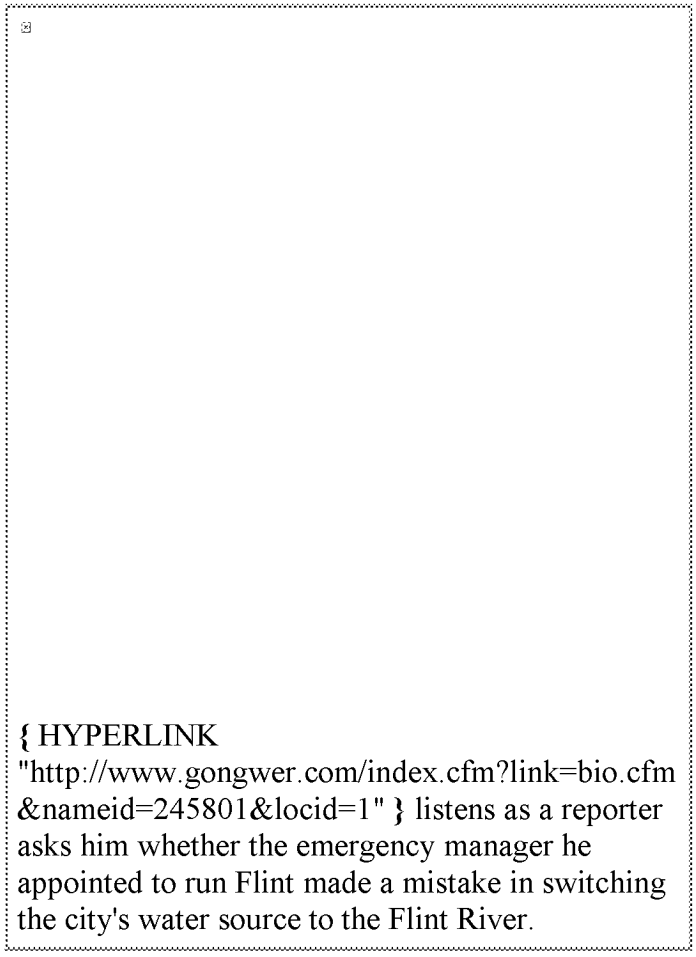
Legislature To Move Quickly On Funding For Flint Water

FLINT - Top legislative leaders immediately said Thursday they would support state funding to aid Flint's return to drawing water from the Detroit system and ending a disastrous move to pull water for the city from the Flint River.

Insufficient corrosion controls for water drawn from the river, which is inherently more corrosive than water drawn from Lake Huron, where the Detroit system draws its water, caused lead from the city's old service lines to leach into the water, leading to lead levels in the water exceeding the federal standard to trigger remediation and to elevated lead levels in the blood of some Flint children.

In an especially alarming finding, Department of Environmental Quality { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=303801&locid=1" } said Thursday that initial water screening at 13 Flint schools showed four of 37 samples exceeding the federal threshold on lead of 15 parts per billion that requires action to be taken. The four samples came from three different schools. One school's level hit as high as 101 parts per billion.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, a day after a technical review board recommended the city return to using the Detroit water system, said he backed the city's decision no longer to use the Flint River and declared he would ask the Legislature for $6 million toward the $12 million cost to use the Detroit system until next summer. By then, the new pipeline for the regional Karegnondi Water Authority to draw water from Lake Huron should be completed.



{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } listens as a reporter asks him whether the emergency manager he appointed to run Flint made a mistake in switching the city's water source to the Flint River.

"It will be better for the citizens of Flint in terms of public safety, which is the paramount concern," Mr. Snyder said at a news conference. "This is a comprehensive next step to add to the steps we'd taken last week."

The Mott Foundation will contribute $4 million, and the city of Flint will contribute the remaining $2 million.

The calls for the state to cover some or all of the cost of switching water systems stemmed in large part because it was an emergency manager, whom Mr. Snyder appointed to run the city during a financial crisis, who made the decision to leave the Detroit system and use the Flint River as a way of saving almost $1.5 million a month to aid the city's troubled finances.

Officials said it would take about two weeks to make the change from drawing water from the river to the Detroit system.

"A switch back to Detroit water is the fastest way to protect public health and to stabilize Flint's water system," Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said.

Mr. Snyder also is calling for about $3.5 million to pay for additional state staff in Flint schools (Health and Human Services to gauge exposure to lead, DEQ to handle evaluation and protocols on drinking water, and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to assist with plumbing engineers). The funding also would support testing and evaluating the water and continuing to supply residents with filters to screen out lead.

Even after the Detroit system begins supplying water, it can take up to six months for the corrosion controls to take full effect, Mr. Wyant said.

House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant) said the situation is a "serious public health crisis," and the state must act.

"It is clear there is going to be a need for some money from the state, and I am supportive of that," he said.

Mr. Cotter said he did not know how quickly the House would approve funding, but termed the issue urgent.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville), the House Appropriations Committee chair, said he wants to act next week. There is a vehicle supplemental appropriations bill in the committee that would enable quick legislative passage, he said.

Mr. Pscholka said the move to switch water sources should have come sooner, and he voiced that to state officials. A week ago, Mr. Snyder announced several action steps that included distributing filters to residents, among other measures. He said then that switching to Detroit water was under consideration.

"I was not happy last week. I ran into some folks at the MSU game. Representative Neeley was there and Dan Wyant was there. ... and I voiced my opinion," Mr. Pscholka said, referring to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358901&locid=1" } (D-Flint). "I just felt we needed to get this done and we needed a longer-term solution than what was being proposed last week. And I am glad to see we had some pretty quick response."

Amber McCann, spokesperson for Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } (R-West Olive), said the Senate would likely take up the issue next week.

"It is a public health crisis and the Senate will work to help address that issue so there is safe drinking water for Flint," she said. "There's just some disagreement about where that money may come from."

Mr. Snyder said officials held off recommending a return to Detroit water because they wanted to analyze what the best decision would be. In the end, the change is the best move both in terms of water quality and restoring the confidence of Flint residents that their water is safe. Officials also were studying the logistics and cost involved in switching to Detroit water, he said.

"I thought it was best to listen to the scientists, the researchers that are doing this great work, and they confirmed that they believed it was the appropriate answer," he said. "It really was waiting for the data to really say this clearly was the best answer."

Mr. Snyder and Mr. Wyant were asked why the DEQ had not tested the drinking water in the schools. They said the state had followed the federal rule, which does not require it. But now the state will test the water in Flint schools and evaluate whether to make that a permanent endeavor.

Several praised the decision, but given the gravity of the situation, did so coolly and also said much more work remains to address the large number of lead components in the city's water infrastructure.

"I view this not as a victory for our community, but as a fix that is unfortunately necessary," said Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint).

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306801&locid=1" } (D-Flint) called for Flint not to pay anything toward the switch.

"Flint is a financially distressed city, and it should not have to empty out its bank account to pay for the state's failures," he said in a statement. "The decision to switch to the Flint River water source was made while the city was under state emergency management, and now it is incumbent on Governor Snyder and the state to fix - and pay - for the problem they created. Flint paying anything for the problem that the state created in the first place means that other improvements, including to the city's aging water infrastructure system, could be delayed."

The Michigan Environmental Council called for testing all Flint children for lead exposure and for the state to study the feasibility of testing children statewide for lead. It also called for the state to require all local governments to determine which homes in their jurisdictions have lead service lines.

"The plan announced today to switch Flint back to Detroit for its drinking water supply is a positive step," said Andy McGlashen of the MEC in a statement. "But there's a lot more state leaders can do to resolve the crisis and make sure nothing like it ever happens again in Michigan."

Lynna Kaucheck, senior organizer for the group Food and Water Watch, said the switch should have come long ago after more than a year's worth of complaints about the water. Prior to the lead crisis, there were complaints of severe discoloration, foul taste and smells, and rashes.

In January, the city declared its treatment for bacteria in the water had led to an excessive level of a cancer-causing chemical in the water.

"Unfortunately the switch may come too late for some Flint children who will suffer a lifetime of consequences from having been poisoned by the high levels of lead in Flint's drinking water," Ms. Kaucheck said in a statement. "We can only hope that Governor Snyder and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality learn from this tragedy."

Mr. Walling said the realization of children having elevated blood levels has been devastating to the Flint community.

"I could hardly sleep knowing that our youngest and most vulnerable children could be at greater risk if precautionary steps were not taken," he said.

Snyder, DEQ Under Heavy Scrutiny For Handling Of Flint Water Crisis

FLINT - { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said Friday he

supports an "after-action report" to review how his administration, and others, responded to concerns about unsafe levels of lead in Flint's drinking water in the wake of heavy criticism that his Department of Environmental Quality downplayed worrisome data and reacted slowly to the situation.

There are several major lines of criticism against Mr. Snyder and his administration on their handling of Flint's water:

- The emergency manager Mr. Snyder appointed to run Flint during its financial emergency put finances before public safety when deciding to switch the city's water source from the Detroit system to the Flint River to save almost $1.5 million a month while awaiting the construction of a new regional system pipeline to Lake Huron;

- A DEQ spokesperson { HYPERLINK "http://michiganradio.org/post/leaked-internal-memo-shows-federal-regulator-s-concerns-about-lead-flint-s-water" \l "stream/0" \t "blank" } to Michigan Radio in July the importance of a leaked U.S. Environmental Protection Agency memo raising worries about lead in the water (Brad Wurfel told Michigan Radio, "anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water in Flint can relax");

- A Department of Health and Human Services spokesperson { HYPERLINK "http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2015/09/state_says_its_data_shows_no_c.html" \t "blank" } data produced by Hurley Medical Center in Flint showing elevated levels of lead in children's blood (Angela Minicuci told The Flint Journal the state's data was more comprehensive and "much more accurate" than the Hurley data); and

- The DEQ's testing of water samples was inadequate.

"Right now I want to stay focused in on the solutions and taking actions to solve the problems," Mr. Snyder said when asked about the need to review what went wrong. "And then we'll go back and continue an analysis to say are there recommendations that'd we'd like to work with our federal partners ... to improve processes when you change water sources or are there ongoing things we should be looking at on a more frequent basis or who is being looked at."

Mr. Snyder did suggest many changes could be needed.

"I think it's clear there will be at least several recommendations that will be out there, both at the state level, the local level and the federal level on things that we could have potentially seen opportunities," he said. "I do want to credit people though for trying to work together to promptly resolve this as it was identified."

Both Mr. Snyder and DEQ { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=303801&locid=1" } said several times the state performed all the water tests required under the federal lead and copper rule. Both said one apparent hole is that nothing requires testing the water in schools, which Mr. Snyder said "probably should be something that could be corrected in the longer term."

Mr. Snyder also said officials "promptly found the resources" to switch the city back to Detroit water as soon as possible.

He did not answer a question about whether it was a mistake in 2014 for his appointed emergency manager to switch the water source to the Flint River. The state returned control of Flint city government to its elected officials earlier this year.

Mr. Wyant said the DEQ was testing the water in the system every six months for lead as required by federal rule. In December, the test showed 6 parts per billion. The next test showed 11 parts per billion. Under federal rule, having two consecutive tests means the community must be informed and the water system must increase its corrosion controls.

The letter advising Flint residents of the lead situation went out in August, Mr. Wyant said.

Mr. Wyant, in an interview, was asked if the DEQ should have been more circumspect in its public statements about the safety of the water.

"Yes," he said. "Lessons learned."

Of the DEQ's overall performance in the situation, Mr. Wyant said staff followed its consistent protocol and federal rule.

"They responded in a timely fashion," he said. "The real questions that we'll get to on this after-action review is what more should have happened and what more could have been done. We have to be open and honest that some changes will be necessary going forward."

As to why the Department of Health and Human Services initially downplayed the Hurley data, DHHS { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=392601&locid=1" } said initially the citywide data showed seasonal patterns.

"But as we dug into it and did figure out there was a statistical variation, we acted immediately and quickly, and that's why we took the action steps we did last week," he said.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said the DEQ "has a lot of work to do" when asked how it performed.

"I think they're internally looking at the mistakes that were made whether it's in communication or in following the procedures and protocols. They seem dedicated and I'm going to hold them to changing those policies going forward," he said. "There's no question that mistakes were made in the drinking water division of the Department of Environmental Quality and that needs to be looked at."

Mr. Ananich said the change in tone from the state in the past week will help after the initial response seemed combative.

"There's panic, there's anger, there's distrust," he said of the mood in the city. "Folks really want to know answers because they want to protect their family. Those answers are starting to come out now, and I think it's in a much more direct way. The mistakes of the past, where the lack of transparency and the lack of empathy and giving straight answers, that's (ending) now."

Flint City Councilmember Wantwaz Davis said the state's support for moving the city back to Detroit water corrects what had been a horrendous decision by Mr. Snyder's emergency manager to draw water from the Flint River.

He said he would give the state a B+ for its handling of the issue, mainly because of Thursday's decision to switch to Detroit water.

"Now it will give some form of sigh of relief to the kids and also to the elderly people who have compromised immune systems," he said. "Now they've gotten it right."

Bills Would Extend Community College Training Programs To ISDs

The House Workforce and Development Committee on Thursday discussed legislation allowing an intermediate school district to enter into an agreement with an employer in the state to train workers and recoup the costs in part through a diversion of income tax withholding from the new jobs.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB475001" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB475101" }, introduced by Rep. Phil Potvin (R-Cadillac) would extend the program that is currently seen between community colleges and employers in the state.

Mr. Potvin said there is "quite a gap" in the job market forming as those between 50 and 60 years old are starting to retire.

"We want to open that opportunity up, in particular where I am from in the 102nd District ... we have no community college within the area," he said. "When you've got a local industry, in particular in Cadillac we have 4,200 manufacturing jobs. ... What this will allow us to do is continue to create that opportunity."

Steve Locke, with the Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District, said they often hear from employers that they need workers with a certain skill set.

He said the ISD currently has the facilities to train workers, but under current law they are traveling 50 or 60 miles from the area to the nearest community colleges for training.

"We think this is an awesome opportunity to reduce barriers for partnerships," he said.

Paul Galbenski, dean of the Oakland Schools Technical Campus northeast, said if enacted the bills would help ISDs strengthen relationships with local businesses and meet the needs of the local economy.

"It's an incredible economic development opportunity also for local employers to be able to get their employees trained," he said. "And it does provide multipurposing for our career and technical campus. We have these facilities and this would then help us spread the standing infrastructure cost over more buildings and provide more of those opportunities."

He said in career and technical programs the most costly portion is maintaining the equipment.

Under the bills, an ISD providing such could provide various services, including training or retraining for new jobs; adult basic education and job related instruction; development, readiness, and remedial education; and vocation and skill assessment services and testing.

An agreement between and ISD and an employer must provide for costs that may be pay from a new jobs credit from withholding, new employment resulting from the project or from tuition and fees.

The agreement must also contain an estimate of how many new jobs will be created by the employer; a provision that fixes on a quarterly basis the minimum amount of new jobs credit from withholding to be paid for program costs and if it is insufficient, the employer would agree to provide funds to make up the shortfall; and provide for the payment of an administrative fee in an amount equal to 15 percent of the agreement.

An ISD receiving money from employee withholding would file a quarterly report to the Department of Treasury under the legislation certifying the amount it received from each of its partners.

Annually, the ISD would be required to submit additional information to the department, including names of employers, amount of the withholding and other information.

The committee did not act on the bill.

DIFS Has Some Concerns With Insurance Code Changes

The first major update on of the state's health insurance laws in more than 20 years saw its first committee hearing Thursday, and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services has some concerns, but appears willing to work toward an agreement.

Gabe Basso with DIFS told the House Insurance Committee that the department does not yet have an official position on the bill. Mr. Basso then outlined the department's concerns to the committee.

"We have been working with stakeholders throughout this process and will continue to do so," he said.

The department had multiple concerns with the pending legislation, including various changes in the code to reflect federal changes, like a former requirement to have certain notices written in "plain English," but is now referred to as "culturally and linguistically appropriate."

Under the current drafts, a provision requiring the director to approve forms to ensure they are not misleading was changed so that the director would not have to approve the forms unless significantly changed from the previous form.

Mr. Basso said that appears subjective to the department and it would like the original provision to remain.

Teri Morante, with the department, also said it is looking to get 90 days in the bill to do its review of health plans. She said right now the department does it in 120 and has 16 people working overtime to get it done.

She said even 90 days is a stretch to do the review, but under the legislation the department would be required to do it in 60 days and it doesn't seem possible.

Dominick Pallone and Judy Hooyenga with the Michigan Association of Health Plans testified to the House Insurance Committee making its case as to why the package of bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB493301" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB493401" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB493501" }), designed to improve competition in the insurance industry and increase company flexibility in developing new products for consumers, is needed.

Mr. Pallone said the bills would allow the association to continue working with its partners, including local governments, DIFS and the Department of Health and Human Services on the Medicaid side, in new and innovative ways.

The bills would allow health maintenance organizations to offer administrative services organization plans without a financial risk. While currently many HMOs have separate administrative services organization businesses, they are not within the same network.

Ms. Hooyenga said under the changes in the bills, an HMO will be able to operate an administrative services organization and keep the same network, helping enrollees keep the same doctors.

HB 4934 would adopt National Association of Insurance Commissioners model, which would reduce conflicts when coordinating with national insurers out of state, Ms. Hooyenga said.

Other changes included in the bills are:

- Medicaid HMOs would still have to have a third of its governing board comprised of enrollees or representatives of membership, or they would have to create a consumer advisory board;

- An expedited process for approval of experimental drugs;

- Eliminating minimum dollar coverage for substance disorder services;

- Excluding coverage for illegal activities that include driving with an illegal blood alcohol level or operating a meth lab;

- Allowing delivery of documents electronically under certain conditions; and

- In the Patients Right Independent Review Act, the deadline for filing would change from 60 to 120 days.

Group Charges A.G.'s Office Pushes Excessive FOIA Fees

An organization that was asked to pay $52,000 to the Department of Treasury to obtain records its requested under the Freedom of Information Act charged that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } was behind efforts to deny the public access to documents through "exorbitant fees for easily searchable documents."

A spokesperson for Mr. Schuette called the assertion absurd.

However, documents released by the liberal group Progress Michigan had to prove a bit embarrassing to state officials as items the Department of Treasury had intended to be redacted were actually readable. And those sections showed that instead of denying a request from Progress Michigan to obtain documents "per advice from the AG, the response carries a $52K fee. This may cause them to 'cry wolf.'"

Progress Michigan had requested documents from Treasury and other departments related to Paul Pastorek, education advisor to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }. After the group received the bill of $52,000, it filed an FOIA on how its initial FOIA request was handled.

Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan, said documents indicate the Department of Attorney General was trying to price people out of documents that should be public.

The public has already paid for the documents requested, as they are produced by state workers whose salaries are paid for by the taxpayers, Mr. Scott said.

In fact, other departments did respond to the request and did not charge the organization, Mr. Scott said.

Progress Michigan was attempting to get information on why Mr. Snyder's administration moved school reform efforts from the Department of Education to Treasury.

In its initial response to the organization, the department said the request was overbroad. Requesting all documents would mean a minimum of two hours to check the documents of more than 1,200 department employees, Progress Michigan was told.

The request was later modified, but Mr. Scott said it was ridiculous to say every department worker would have to be checked because only a few workers would have had dealings with Mr. Pastorek. And in the end, Mr. Scott said, Treasury essentially asked of all workers that anyone who had documents referring to Mr. Pastorek to supply them.

The issue, Mr. Scott said, was whether Mr. Schuette or his department directed Treasury to call for the $52,000 fee. Reporters questioned if the documents specifically indicated the attorney general's office directed the decision on the fee.

Andrea Bitely, spokesperson for Mr. Schuette, said Progress Michigan's own documents show the attorney general's office called for the material to be released.

"But the taxpayers expect they won't have to pay for an attack group's fishing expedition, so we follow the law on fees. It's just tiresome games from a political attack group," she said in an email.

However, since the question of large fees being charged for FOIA requests has been raised by a number of organizations (Gongwer News Service has also had to negotiate with the state over fees charged for FOIA requests), Ms. Bitely was asked if the Department of Attorney General had discussed with departments how FOIA fees should be set. By Thursday evening, there had been no reply to that question.

Mr. Scott also said the dispute shows that reforms in how FOIA laws are applied are needed.

In Energy Discussion, Companies Say Cost, Reliability Are Key

Having reliable and cost-effective electricity sources are critical to corporate operations, top executives from two of Michigan's largest companies told the Senate Energy and Technology Committee on Thursday, but the first priority is ensuring the state has competitive costs.

Supporters of electric choice cheered comments made by the president of Dow Chemical's North American operations, who said the best way to get the electricity the company needs "is through a competitive bidding process."

Offsetting those remarks, the chief energy executive for Ford Motor Company said his firm supports { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB43701" }, the controversial measure now before the committee. The bill needs changes, George Andraos said, but will help assure reliability while the state gets to a lower overall cost.

Mr. Andraos, Rich Wells of Dow and Pete Milojevic, president of the Midland Cogeneration Venture, spoke almost equally about cost and reliability, with much of the focus on reliability.

Mr. Wells and Mr. Andraos said any interruption in reliability causes major production headaches and costs for their firms.

While a homeowner seeing a flashing signal - indicating the power was out for a while - might have to deal with the annoyance of resetting their microwave oven, a Dow plant has to shut down for the time the power is off, Mr. Wells said.

"We need reliability for the long-term and the next second," Mr. Wells told the committee.

Mr. Andraos said the power doesn't even have to shut off for it to force a plant to close. If there is a 30 percent reduction in wattage produced, that shuts down a production line. And the time it will take to restart the line could mean millions of dollars lost in production.

In outlining energy costs in states where Ford has production plants, Mr. Andraos acknowledged Michigan had higher costs, although those costs had dropped from 2014 to 2015.

Pressed by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701&locid=1" } (R-Clarklake), a major supporter of expanded electric competition, Mr. Andraos said that Ford was part of a group of companies that had urged utilities to provide more competitive electric costs.

But he also said in those states that had greater electric competition, the source of electricity tended to be more vulnerable.

Mr. Milojevic said if needed, and given a one-day advance notice, MCV can ramp up to provide more electricity that is available regionwide through distribution systems.

He also said MCV is the lowest cost producer, adding, "We've been cost competitive for 25 years."

And he agreed with Mr. Wells that electricity should be available to customers on an open-bidding system that would allow all producers to compete so long as they can meet reliability standards.

Mr. Wells implied cutting electric costs further would go a long way towards making Michigan more competitive. Tax and regulatory changes the state has made in the last five years have made an excellent start to making the state more competitive, "but it can do more," he said.

Steve Transeth, a former member of the Public Service Commission and now an energy consultant, said the state needs to do more to ensure reliability. The bill would require alternative energy suppliers to certify they can meet their customers' demand, but he said that is not enough.

"I would require of anybody in the state that they demonstrate that they have firm capacity to meet their obligations," Mr. Transeth said. He said the bill as structured now would not require the incumbent utilities to prove they can meet projected demand.

ROBOCALLS: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=52901&locid=1" } (R-Whitmore Lake), a member of the committee, said in a statement Thursday that some organization has been conducting robocalls in his district on the issue.

Mr. Hune said the calls include some misleading information on SB 437 and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB43801" } and, while they allow recipients to be transferred to his office, he is not connected to the calls.

Cotter Still Hoping For Road Funding Solution In October

Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) told reporters after session that talks continue to go well.

Mr. Cotter did say he opposes outlining where the General Fund portion of a roads deal would come from.

"I don't think we have to specify the cuts ahead of time. I think we pass a balanced budget and make those decisions as part of the appropriations process," he said.

Mr. Cotter was also questioned as to if there is an agreement among the Legislative Quadrant not to talk about specifics from the meetings.

He said because they are negotiating, the details can change from day-to-day.

"It doesn't do anything productive to have the details of the day out there," he said. "Let's wait until we have an agreement around the table. Once we all have signed off on that then we'll take it back, we'll make it public, we'll share it with caucuses. We'll share it with the public at large and see if we can get it passed."

Mr. Cotter also said he does not wish to debate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township) on whether new revenue is needed for roads.

"It's not that I am not willing to debate. I am going to spend my energy on things that are productive to solving the problem," he said.

Senate Panel Exploring Billboards In Special Use Zones

The Senate Transportation Committee began discussions Thursday on legislation that would allow billboards in areas with certain special use permits where zoning would not otherwise allow the signs.

The bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB43501" }) was drafted to resolve concerns of a billboard company in the Grand Rapids area that had been ordered to remove a sign in an area zoned for manufactured housing, a residential designation, but with a special use permit to allow some commercial development.

But Department of Transportation officials said the bill as drafted would put the state out of compliance with federal law and could risk loss of federal transportation funds.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701&locid=1" } (R-Lowell) said the bill was designed to resolve an issue facing Grand Rapids Outdoor, which had converted an existing billboard to digital, had that sign approved by the township, but then had the Department of Transportation reject the permit because it was not in a commercial or industrial zone.

"Even if you don't like billboards ... this is an appropriate place for a billboard," Mr. Hildenbrand said.

Stephen Disselkoen, vice president of Grand Rapids Outdoor, said the board is next to a commercial storage facility, and he said the size of the facility, under Michigan law, automatically makes the area commercial.

He also said the department had not been involved in the permitting process until the very end.

"The underlying zoning has this name of manufactured housing community," Mr. Disselkoen said. The township is saying nowhere does it say our list of uses is exhaustive."

Matt DeLong, Development Services Division administrator for the department, said federal law does not allow such signs.

"Billboards are not an allowed use per se unless you specifically zone for billboards," Mr. DeLong said. "They are specifically not allowed where you have a special use permit. It goes to the underlying zoning."

Mr. DeLong could not comment specifically on the Grand Rapids Outdoor case because it was still in litigation with a decision from the administrative law judge expected soon.

But he said the bill, in allowing billboards in non-commercial zones, would put the state out of compliance with federal law and so risk up to 10 percent of the state's federal highway funding.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701&locid=1" } (R-Escanaba) chastised the department for not taking residents' side on such issues.

"That's where the rub seems to come in is our government doesn't seem to want to help our businesses stay in business," Mr. Casperson said. "I think you guys had ways to try to defend him."

Mr. DeLong said the department does try to work with residents to bring billboards into compliance, so he said challenges to department decisions are rare. "We very rarely lose because we don't arbitrarily (take cases to administrative hearing)," he said. "Most are resolved long before that. ... The last thing we want to be doing is spending our time or the constituent's time in an expensive process."

But he also said the department did not challenge rulings against it.

Senate Approves Implied Consent For Drug Tests In Crashes

At-fault drivers in a crash that leads to serious injury or death would be considered to have consented to a blood or urine drug test under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15301" }, passed Thursday in the Senate.

The bill, which passed 30-5, would allow police to collect blood or urine from the at-fault driver and to use the results of tests of those materials in a criminal prosecution.

"Billy's Law closes a loophole that has delayed or denied justice from crime victims and their families," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206201&locid=1" } (R-Traverse City), the bill sponsor, said in a statement.

The bill was named for Billy Kochis and John Pomeroy, who died from injuries suffered in a traffic crash on U.S. 131 near Grand Rapids in 2013. The at-fault driver in the case would not consent to testing and a magistrate did not issue a search warrant, so police were not able to confirm suspicions that the driver was under the influence of drugs at the time of the crash.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The Strategic Fund approved grants to five projects around the state Thursday that would reportedly generate $14 million in private investment and 121 jobs.

Edmore was awarded $625,875 in Community Development Block Grant funds for the Edmore Marketplace, redevelopment of an historic downtown building for an indoor marketplace and activity center and outdoor farmers market. The development is expected to generate $870,000 in investment and 66 jobs.

Hillsdale was awarded $785,500 in CDBG funds for 42 Union Street Redevelopment, retail space and eight apartment units, a projected $1.5 million investment and three jobs.

Benzie County received $463,370 in CDBG funds for the Crystal Mountain expansion project in Weldon Township. The $10 million project is projected to create 48 jobs, and the grant funds will pay for training.

Munising has been awarded $459,050 in CDBG funds to develop the Pictured Rocks Interpretive Center in a currently vacant and blighted building. Another $500,000 in private investment is expected for the project.

Port Huron Citadel, LLC was awarded $200,000 in Michigan Community Revitalization Program grants to revitalize the building of the same name in downtown Port Huron into a mixed use space including a theater. The $1.2 million project is projected to create four jobs.

Senate Approves Ban On Breed Prohibitions

Local governments would not be able to adopt breed-specific dog control ordinances, and those already in place would be overturned, under legislation that passed the Senate on Thursday.

The bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB23901" }), passed on a bipartisan 25-11 vote, would not prohibit general restrictions on dogs or dog owners.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=155301&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor) said the bill was another infringement on local control.

"I firmly believe our community leaders must retain the authority to address these matters at the local level," Ms. Warren said, noting that 27 communities already have some form of breed-specific ordinance.

But only { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=36301&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161201&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) from the Democratic caucus joined Ms. Warren in opposition. Republicans { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701&locid=1" } of Harrison Township, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } of Canton Township, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301&locid=1" } of Sheridan, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } of Saint Clair, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" } of Sterling Heights, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701&locid=1" } of Clarklake, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210301&locid=1" } of Midland and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" } of Ida also opposed the bill.

Bill Would Require Capitol Drone Flight Permits

Those wanting to film the Capitol from the air would need a permit under legislation introduced Thursday by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" }.

The bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB54901" }) would give the Capitol Commission authority over drone flights on, or above, the grounds. Anyone wanting to use a drone would have to apply to that body for a permit.

The commission has already banned drone flights from the grounds.

"If the Capitol Commission wants to allow trained photographers to use drones for a special event or a wedding, that would be appropriate," Mr. Jones said in a statement announcing the legislation. "However, allowing anyone to buy a drone and then take it down to the Capitol to buzz the building is not fun and games. It's inappropriate and puts the visiting public at unnecessary risk."

The bill would make it a 93-day, $500 misdemeanor to fly a drone around the Capitol without a permit.

Capital Notebook

CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR: The Civil Rights Commission announced Thursday a special meeting to discuss three more candidates to succeed retiring { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=350501&locid=1" }.

Officials said technical problems with the job posting caused the candidates to be overlooked during initial resume reviews.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday at 3:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, 111 East Kirby Street, Detroit.

PIPELINE LAWSUIT: The National Wildlife Federation announced Thursday that it was suing the U.S. Department of Transportation for failure to prevent oil pipeline ruptures and resultant spills.

The group is arguing that all pipelines nationwide that touch a water body are being operated illegally because there are not sufficient safeguards in place to prevent spills.

"We hope today's action will be a catalyst for long-overdue protections that benefit people, communities, and wildlife," Mike Shriberg, regional executive director of the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes Regional Center, said in a statement. "The federal government needs to enforce the law to prevent oil pipeline disasters from fouling our water and threatening our communities and iconic places."

The { HYPERLINK "http://blog.nwf.org/wp-content/blogs.dir/11/files/2015/10/2015-10-08-Complaint-NWF-v-DOT-FILED.pdf" \t "blank" } was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, October 12

Civil Rights Commission, Second Floor Conference Room, International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, 111 East Kirby Street, Detroit, 3:30 p.m. (Special meeting to discuss candidates overlooked because of problems with job posting system)

Tuesday, October 13

Canceled: ~~Controlled Substances Advisory Commission, 10 a.m.~~

Friday, October 16

Canceled: ~~Board of Acupuncture, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 10 a.m.~~

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, October 13

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=88301&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/education.html" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" }, 373-5314), Room 110, Farnum Building, 12 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cf **ECONOMICS CREDIT** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353601" }) Allows 1/2 credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy economics credit required for Michigan Merit Curriculum.

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{ **MANDATORY EXPULSION** ({ HYPERLINK
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({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/finance.html" \t "blank" }),
(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701&locid=1" }, 373-5312),
Room 210, Farnum Building, 2:30 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15501" } **HIRING VETERANS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=209301" }) Creates credit for certain employers that provide employment for certain veterans.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15701" } **SALES TAX EXEMPTION** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=364301" }) Exempts collection of sales tax on core charge for automobile and recreational vehicle parts of batteries.

{ **ESCHEATS** ({ HYPERLINK **HYPER** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701" **}**) Streamlines **LINK** uniform unclaimed property act audit process.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53801" }
{ **FOSTERING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP** ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277001" **}**) Provides for **ERLI** individual income tax checkoff for fostering futures scholarship trust fund.
NK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB54301" }
{ **FOSTERING FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP** ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=80001" **}**) Requires credit to **ERLI** income tax check-off contributions to the fostering futures scholarship trust fund.
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Wednesday, October 14

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=89701&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/regreform.html" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=79201&locid=1" }, 373-5323), Room 210, Farnum Building, 1 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4134401" } **OCCUPATIONS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371201" }) Authorizes certain military experience as the basis for licensure for a boiler installer, boiler repairer and boiler special inspector.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4134401" } **USED MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Requires certain forms of payment for used tires, wheels and rims at used motor vehicle parts dealers.

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Thursday, October 15

**{ HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=88201&locid=1" }
({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/econ_dev.html" \t "blank" }),
(Chr. { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179301&locid=1" }, 373-
5312), Room 210, Farnum Building, 1:30 p.m.**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53901" } **PROMISE ZONES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501" }) Allows additional promise zones and modifies their administration.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53901" } **STATE EDUCATION TAX** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601" }) Modifies distribution of state education tax.

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HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179301" **})** Repeals sunset
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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 9:25 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 9, 2015

News

Snyder signs law to let drivers show insurance on phone (Associated Press, 10/8/2015)

Echoing state, Detroit schools cut back on standardized tests (Bridge Magazine, 10/8/2015)

Giving Michigan nurses more authority to prescribe drugs and treat patients (Bridge Magazine, 10/8/2015)

Feds to release 83 prisoners in Michigan (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Former Rep. John Dingell gets pacemaker (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Group says high fees used to conceal state records (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Treasury: 'We really goofed this up. We're fixing it.' (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Capitol drone ban bill introduced (Lansing State Journal, 10/9/2015)

Complaint asks IRS to investigate dark money group behind pro-Bill Schuette ads (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Michigan dog 'breed discrimination' ban would prohibit local ordinances (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Michigan House revealed information on Courser and Gamrat, but won't disclose on 108 other reps (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Michigan's Candice Miller floated as possible 'interim' House Speaker (MLive, 10/9/2015)

Snyder seeking $9.35M in state aid for Flint water crisis, and Michigan lawmakers are on board (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Complaint: Schuette supporters won't disclose donors (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Duggan in D.C. talking housing, refugees (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Flint water tests suggest statewide lead issues (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Michigan leader defends Planned Parenthood (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Michigan pays $1.9M in legal fees for gay marriage case (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Editorials

Flint water crisis: An obscene failure of government (Detroit Free Press, 10/8/2015)

Our view: Asset seizure bills provide transparency (Midland Daily News, 10/9/2015)

Electric regulation must move Michigan toward renewables, efficiency (MLive, 10/8/2015)

Susan J. Demas: GOP gay marriage fight cost Michigan much more than $2M (MLive, 10/9/2015)

Frost: Detroit's growth must be inclusive (The Detroit News, 10/8/2015)

Blogs

How's Come Utah Figured How To Raise Money For Roads? (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/8/2015)

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 6:55 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Monday, October 12, 2015
Attachments: Oct12Rules.htm; 151012dayplan.htm; Oct12.htm

Michigan Report for Monday, October 12, 2015

The EM Law And Flint: A Dispute On Its Role

Moody's Report Raises Concern About School Credit Ratings

HP Returns To State To Aid With BAM Project

Consumers Projects Lower Heating Costs For Winter

Several Cities Still Showing Double-Digit Unemployment

State Provides Water Filters For Flint Child Care Facilities

Capital Notebook

Campaign Notes: Prevailing Wage Challenge Deadline

Supplemental Event Planner

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Activity Reports

Administrative Rules

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #54, Report #202 -- Monday, October 12, 2015

The EM Law And Flint: A Dispute On Its Role

The Flint water crisis has caused the debate over Michigan's local financial emergency law to roar back to life with considerable fury emanating from Flint that the law's focus on bringing a community's finances back into balance played a major role in the actions that led to using the Flint River as a temporary source of drinking water.

A lack of sufficient corrosion controls in the water pumped from the Flint River allowed lead from service lines to leach into the water, leading to lead levels in some spots well past federal limits and rising levels of lead in children's blood, prompting a frantic effort in the past two weeks to get filters to Flint residents and businesses, and switch back to Detroit water until a new pipeline to Lake Huron serving the city and counties to the east is finished.

When the final decision was made in 2014 to begin drawing water from the Flint River, ending a more than 40-year agreement with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department to pull water from that system, Emergency Manager Darnell Earley was in total control of city operations under the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act.

Predating the city falling under control of an emergency manager in 2011, Flint, along with Genesee, Lapeer and Sanilac counties, had been studying forming a new authority to build their own pipe to Lake Huron, breaking away from the Detroit system. Flint was debating whether to switch to the new authority or draw from the Flint River. At the time, the concern from local officials, according to reports in The Flint Journal, was the cost of upgrading Flint water infrastructure. There was widespread agreement that the quality of water in the river was good.

And eventually those cost concerns ended consideration of using the Flint River as a permanent source of drinking water.

In 2012, with Emergency Manager Michael Brown now running the city, his administration began considering use of the Flint River as a temporary water source until the new Karengondi Water Authority pipeline could be completed.

In 2013, the council voted to drop Detroit water for the new Karengondi system.

Eventually, with a decision needing to be made on where to draw water until that system could be completed, Mr. Earley signed an order to draw the water out of the Flint River, saving more than $1 million a month. It was a decision lauded by many local officials, with Flint Mayor Dayne Walling pushing the button to shut off water from Detroit. Glasses of treated river water were raised to celebrate the moment.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358901&locid=1" } (D-Flint) was a member of the Flint City Council during this time, and he said the crisis shows the state needs to change the emergency manager law.

"The emergency manager law from my perspective caused 100 percent of the problem," he said.

Changes need to be made to assure a review panel on decisions made by emergency managers involving the health, welfare and safety of the community, Mr. Neeley said. He called { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB86501" } a failed experiment.

"There should be some safeguards," he said.

While the council did vote for the KWA, it never voted on switching to the Flint River as a temporary source of water, he said, and to the extent local officials praised the reliability of the river as a drinking water source, he said that was because they assumed the water would be properly treated.

Further, Mr. Neeley said the emergency manager at the time of the vote, Ed Kurtz, vetoed the resolution adopted by the council, which he said contained changes to Mr. Kurtz's version, and then Mr. Kurtz, under his emergency manager powers, implemented his initial resolution.

But { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville), the sponsor of the original emergency manager law (later replaced with PA 436), said the law is not to blame. Flint wanted to leave the Detroit system for years.

"There's a lot of revisionist history going on here," he said. "The emergency manager didn't make the decision to build a pipeline to Lake Huron."

And Mr. Pscholka said local officials were involved in the decision to begin pumping water out of the Flint River.

"It was not as simple as the emergency manager declaring I'm going to be a hero and save a million and a half dollars by doing this," he said. "The locals were involved in this."

Mr. Pscholka said he saw no need to change the law to address this situation.

At some point, an engineer must have advised Mr. Earley the river would work as a water source, Mr. Pscholka said. The same thing would have happened had the city not been under emergency management.

"The blame game, I'm sure, will continue," he said. "But my focus right now on the floor is to make sure the people of Flint have safe drinking water."

The Legislature is expected to move swiftly this week on putting up $6 million toward the cost of Flint drawing water from Detroit until next summer.

Moody's Report Raises Concern About School Credit Ratings

In a report that focuses on the Holland School District, a top Wall Street rating agency has determined that problems the district is facing due to enrollment are indicative of problems that many districts across Michigan are facing.

And according to an analyst for Moody's Investors Services, these problems are ones school districts across Michigan have faced for several years. While the agency has downgraded the credit ratings of 44 school districts so far this year, that follows a number of downgrades made over the last several years.

Andrew Van Dyck Dobos, a Chicago-based analyst for the firm, said school districts across the state may see lower credit ratings across the board and have to recognize that as a "new normal."

State policy on school finance, adopted in 1994 as part of the Proposal A school finance reforms, makes it extremely tough for districts to raise revenues locally, he said, which is unusual among other states in the Midwest. Plus, the state's policy now has funding following the students instead of being based more on a geographic basis.

Almost the only way districts can raise funds is by attracting more students, and that has been made difficult by an estimated 13 percent drop in Michigan's population of children under 18 from 2000 to 2012.

While the report focused on Holland, it said the issues that district faced were similar to problems school districts across the state are facing.

Michigan schools held "count day" last week to establish student population. Schools do not have to report their totals until November, and state officials said there have been no early reports on enrollment.

The state forecasted total school enrollment for the 2015-16 school year at 1.493 million students, down 14,700 from the total in 2014-15, during the May Revenue Estimating Conference. Of that projected total, 1.335 million were expected to attend traditional public schools, while 158,000 were anticipated to enroll in charter schools and the Education Achievement Authority in Detroit.

In Holland, Moody's said the district was forecasting a drop of 174 students on top of declines in six of the past seven school years. If the district does lose that many students, it would mean a cut in total state aid of $591,000.

Enrollment concerns run across the state, Mr. Van Dyck Dobos said. In rural areas, school population has declined because of overall demographic factors - with more older people living in the areas - and with families leaving the areas in search of jobs.

In suburban areas, Michigan's schools of choice policy spurs ongoing competition for students, which means some districts get more students from other districts as opposed to a natural increase, he said.

And in larger urban areas, Mr. Van Dyck Dobos said, traditional public schools face more competition from charter schools.

The report also said state aid per student has been stagnant in Holland and statewide.

In the 2015-16 budget, total school aid funding is $13.89 billion, up from $13.68 billion in the 2014-15 budget.

The minimum per pupil allowance, according to the state, is $7,391. Moody's, however, said Holland will see school aid of $7,126 per student, which is $318 less per student than it was in 2011.

The state has raised money for schools, Mr. Van Dyck Dobos said, but increases to districts have not followed inflation as much as they had in the past.

Adding to the fiscal problem is the limitation the state has for school districts seeking more funding on a local level. Since the adoption of the Proposal A in 1994, property taxes paid for schools are collected and allocated by the state.

Virtually the only option Proposal A allowed for local schools to raise more money at the local level for operations has to come countywide, and very few counties have adopted that option, Mr. Van Dyck Dobos said.

All that means, he said, is that until school populations recover and grow, school districts will have to deal with ongoing fiscal issues.

That will affect credit ratings and mean more downgrades. Since 2009 - and including 2015, though figures for 2014 were not immediately available - Moody's has downgraded a total of at least 181 school districts. Dozens of those were downgraded multi-steps in their overall credit worthiness.

Mr. Van Dyck Dobos said districts statewide may see an overall downgrading of their credit ratings, and have to expect that to continue.

In dealing with the realities of their finances, Mr. Van Dyck Dobos said Michigan districts have thus far been more innovative than districts in other states in finding solutions. For example, he said, in dealing with employee contracts many districts have worked out one-time payments to teachers and other workers instead of adopting general wage increases.

HP Returns To State To Aid With BAM Project

While the Department of State and Hewlett Packard await continuation of a court hearing on their dispute over how they managed the Business Application Modernization project, HP has returned its workers to the state, a department spokesperson said.

The state terminated its contract with HP and then sued the company. HP pulled its workers from the project and refused to turn over the source code. Major worries have been raised about a collapse of online services without access to that source code and an orderly transition.

The state is seeking a preliminary injunction ordering HP's staff back to work and the turning over of the source code.

Department spokesperson Gisgie Davila Gendreau said HP staff was working side-by-side Monday with staff from the departments of State and Technology, Management and Budget. And the two sides are working out a transition plan, she said.

"It's a step in the right direction," she said.

The court hearing on the motion for a preliminary injunction is scheduled resume Friday.

Consumers Projects Lower Heating Costs For Winter

Consumers Energy on Monday projected lower heating costs this winter for its natural gas customers, with savings of more than $100 for an average residential customer depending on weather and actual usage.

"We're reducing costs for customers due to our gas purchasing program which takes full advantage of lower commodity costs," said Tim Sparks, the company's vice president of energy supply operations, in a statement. "Customers also benefit by Consumers Energy's underground storage system ... (which) allows us to buy gas when it costs less in the summer, for use by customers during the colder winter months."

Customer heating costs could be down by more than 15 percent based on normal winter gas consumption, the company estimated. Business customer savings will depend on their gas usage.

The company also noted that its customers are paying 60 percent less for natural gas than a decade ago, and the last time fuel prices were this low was in 2001.

Consumers' natural gas commodity price has hovered around the $5 mark for the last three years ($5.45 per thousand cubic feet in 2012, $4.63 in 2013 and $5.14 in 2014), but that saw a dramatic dip in 2015 to $3.31.

The Public Service Commission has not yet issued its annual Michigan Energy Appraisal for the winter of 2015-2016 that projects the total sales in Michigan for natural gas, electricity and petroleum, among other fuels. The appraisal for natural gas for last winter was an expectation of an increase in sales by about one percent from 2013 under the expectation that temperatures would return to more normal conditions in Michigan.

Several Cities Still Showing Double-Digit Unemployment

Michigan's statewide unemployment rate matches the federal rate of 5.1 percent, but estimates by the state show that in four cities unemployment is still in double-digit figures.

Unemployment has dropped considerably in those cities from the stratospheric highs - jobless rates of 30 percent and higher in Highland Park and Pontiac - during the Great Recession. But the numbers still stick out compared to the state's overall decline in unemployment.

In August, according the state's Labor Market Information section, Highland Park had the highest jobless rate in the state at 15.7 percent.

That was followed by Detroit at 12.7 percent, then Pontiac at 11.6 percent and Inkster at 11 percent.

Georgetown Township, in Ottawa County, had the lowest unemployment rate among the cities and townships tracked, with the jobless rate at 2.1 percent in August. Northville Township in Wayne County had the second lowest unemployment rate at 2.2 percent.

In contrast, no county had a jobless rate in double digits in August. Schoolcraft County had the highest jobless rate at 9.6 percent. Mackinac County had the lowest unemployment rate in August at 2.8 percent, and 41 of Michigan's 83 counties had unemployment rates below the state's rate of 5.1 percent.

State Provides Water Filters For Flint Child Care Facilities

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs announced Monday that any registered child care facilities in Flint can receive free water filters.

The Department of Health and Human Services is providing free water filters to the child care providers, including an additional filter for any home-based providers who already received one as a resident.

The Genesee County Community Action Resource Department is also providing water-filtering pitchers.

Both the pitchers and filters will be available at the GCCARD office, 2727 Lippincott, beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday. To qualify, those picking up pitchers and filters have to show a child care license and proof of employment at the facility.

Capital Notebook

MOTOR CARRIER SCHOOL OPENS: Twenty-one recruits have begun training to become Department of State Police motor carrier officers. They will receive instruction in firearms, water safety, defensive tactics, patrol techniques, report writing, ethics, first aid, criminal law,

precision driving, commercial vehicle law and commercial vehicle inspection procedures. Those who graduate will conclude the program in February.

PASSENGER RAIL: The Department of Transportation announced Monday it was seeking proposals on asset management plans for upcoming intercity passenger rail service.

The { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/MDOT_RFP_RA_REQ1844_OR-15-185_posted_502471_7.pdf" \t "blank" } is particularly to outline parts of that maintenance that could be provided by Michigan companies.

"The challenge is that if we do NOT prepare to compete for this service, the economic benefits of providing such services could go to other states," the bid request said. "In addition, absent an effective strategy or system in place to provide for long-term care of the fleet, rail service and the multi-state investment in new equipment could be compromised due to premature wear and tear that could have been prevented by adequate planning."

Proposals are due November 2.

LARA ISSUES TWO KENT COUNTY CHILD CARE SUSPENSIONS: The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs expects to suspend the child care certificate of registration of two Kent County residents.

The first, Sandra LaFortune, at 122 Wadsworth Street SW, in Wyoming, is to be suspended after a complaint investigation found in July violations of law regarding family and group child care homes.

Under the suspension, Ms. LaFortune is prohibited from operating a family child care home at the aforementioned address, or any other address or location. She may not accept children for care, and she must inform all of the parents of children in her care that her certificate of registration has been suspended and she can no longer provide child care.

The second suspension is for Terri Kowalczyk, 3584 Leonard Street NW, in Walker. The suspension comes as a complaint investigation earlier this month found violations of law regarding caregiver suitability, supervision, capacity, record maintenance, bedding and sleeping and equipment, and home maintenance and safety.

Ms. Kowalczyk is subject to the same disciplinary actions and required information to her clients as Ms. LaFortune, LARA noted in a statement.

Campaign Notes: Prevailing Wage Challenge Deadline

Challenges to the proposal to repeal prevailing wage are due October 26 at 5 p.m., the Department of State announced Monday.

Sample petitions used to review the submission by Protecting Michigan Taxpayers were released Monday. Requests for copies of the petitions can be made to the Bureau of Elections at { HYPERLINK "mailto:election@michigan.gov" \t "blank" } or (517) 373-2540.

Supplemental Event Planner

Tuesday, October 20

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, The Exchange, 141 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=43601&locid=1" } (D) Fundraiser, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 8 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=365701&locid=1" } (D) Fundraiser, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=282201&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 110 West Michigan Avenue, 12th Floor, Lansing, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 22

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151301&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 332 Townsend Street, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.

An Evening with Frank J. Kelley, presented by the Michigan Political History Society, Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing, 5 p.m.

West Michigan Meet the Players, hosted by Michigan Association of CPAs and the State Bar of Michigan, Cascade Hills Country Club, 3725 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=42701&locid=1" } (R) Fundraiser, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 5 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210301&locid=1" } (R) PAC fundraiser, Tavern and Tap, 101 South Washington Square, Lansing, 5 p.m.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, October 13

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=94801&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=349" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=228001&locid=1" }, 373-1260), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

- **Testimony only:**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB27401" } SADDLE MOUNT VEHICLE COMBINATIONS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Modifies maximum length for saddle mount vehicle combinations.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB27401" } SPEED LIMITS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=271501" }) Modifies speed limits on highways.

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301" }
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HYPERL"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=271501" }) Revises
INK certain requirements for speed limits in school zones.
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NK modified speed limits on certain roads.
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({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/judiciary.html" \t "blank" }),
(Chr. { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701&locid=1" }, 373-1721),
Room 110, Farnum Building, 3 p.m.

{ CONCEALED CARRY ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=25101" **}**) Prohibits open-
RLIN carry of firearms in certain areas but allows concealed carry in those areas.
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Wednesday, October 14

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"http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=306" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" }, 373-5795), House Appropriations Room, Capitol, 9 a.m.

- **Presentation by Keith Creagh, Department of Natural Resources director, regarding changes in hunting and fishing license fees**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB478301" } **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Increases civil fines for solid waste.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=94601&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=347" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268601&locid=1" }, 373-2002), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB34901" } **DELINQUENT TAXES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210301" }) Revises delinquent taxes notice provision.

{ INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ({ HYPERLINK

HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206201" **}**) Expands
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({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/natlresources.html" \t
"blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701&locid=1" }, 373-5314),
210, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.

{ **WATERS AND BOTTOMLANDS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701" }) Waives payment for occupying waters or bottomlands in certain circumstances.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=89601&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/outdoorrec.html" \t "blank" }), **(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501&locid=1" }, 373-1721), Room 100, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.**

- **Presentation on Pure Michigan by David Lorenz, vice president of Travel Michigan.**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=87901&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/approps.html" \t "blank" }), **(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701&locid=1" }, 373-5307), Senate Appropriations Room, Capitol, 2 p.m.**

- **Discussion regarding boilerplate report benchmarks of new programs funded at $500,000 in FY15 budget: Making Michigan a No-Wait State for senior home-delivered meals and in-home services; Child welfare performance-based funding; and the School Safety Hotline**

{ **SECONDARY ROAD PATROLS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316901" }) Declares that counties, cities, and villages have met the necessary terms of their agreements for road patrol services and secondary road patrol funding as they relate to maintenance of effort.

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Thursday, October 15

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(Chr. { HYPERLINK
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288101&locid=1" }, 373-
5176), Room 519, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.**

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ELECTRICIANS ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601" }) Revises number of apprentice electricians allowed for each journeyman or master electrician on a jobsite. (Testimony only)

Tuesday, October 20

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=96201&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=320" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289301&locid=1" }, 373-8080), Room 426, Capitol, 9 a.m.

- **Presentation on invasive species from the Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division**

Wednesday, October 21

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=95601&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=313" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358801&locid=1" }, 373-8080), Room 307, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

- **Pure Michigan tourism campaign return on investment and fiscal year 2015-16 marketing plan**

Wednesday, October 28

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=95601&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=313" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358801&locid=1" }, 373-8080), Room 307, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.

- **Hearing to discuss with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget updates on IT Investment Projects and Space Consolidation**

Tuesday, November 3

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=96201&locid=1" }({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=320" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289301&locid=1" }, 373-8080), Room 426, Capitol, 9 a.m.

- **Update on the Recreation Passport program from the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division**

Tuesday, December 8

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=96201&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=320" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289301&locid=1" }, 373-8080), Room 426, Capitol, 9 a.m.

- **Presentation on Chronic Wasting Disease from the Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division**

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Brown, Kristy (DHHS);Eddy, Sean (DHHS);Engman, Christina (DHHS);Francis, Kathreen (DHHS);Fratto, Teresa (DHHS);Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI);Klein, Susie (DHHS);Kolarik, Stacey (DHHS);LaForest, Ann (DHHS);Lett, Jacque (DHHS);Peng, Qian (DHHS);Sipe, Anne (DHHS);Taylor, Tairus (DHHS);Werner, Jason (DHHS);Wightman, Traci (DHHS);Wolek, Ewa (DHHS)
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips
Attachments: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 13, 2015

News

Michigan close to banning powdered alcohol from shelves (Associated Press, 10/13/2015)

Michigan utilities want to end renewable energy mandate (Bridge Magazine, 10/13/2015)

Guns in Michigan churches? Bars? Schools? Maybe (Detroit Free Press, 10/13/2015)

Mich. House may ban bits in soaps that hurt Great Lakes (Detroit Free Press, 10/13/2015)

AG Bill Schuette rallies against parole reform, proposes more privatization (MLive, 10/13/2015)

Concealed guns in schools? Bill gets hearing this week (MLive, 10/13/2015)

Midland Rep. Moolenaar votes to de-fund Planned Parenthood, repeal Obamacare (MLive, 10/13/2015)

Ousted Rep. Cindy Gamrat, 6 others set for candidates forum (MLive, 10/13/2015)

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters makes first Bay City visit since taking office (MLive, 10/13/2015)

Snyder officials take on painkiller overdose 'epidemic' (The Detroit News, 10/13/2015)

State's $300,000 e-textbooks flunk out with critics (The Detroit News, 10/13/2015)

Editorials

Battle is on for control of Michigan's marijuana market (Detroit Free Press, 10/13/2015)

Michigan has no real solution to gun violence (Detroit Free Press, 10/13/2015)

What happens to Flint kids poisoned with lead? (Detroit Free Press, 10/13/2015)

Susan J. Demas: Dave Agema may run for Congress - and he hasn't changed a bit (MLive, 10/13/2015)

Lansing's handgun swap will let weapons in schools (The Detroit News, 10/13/2015)

Blogs

The Debut Of A Dog Into Paw-litics (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/12/2015)

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 11:38 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Tuesday, October 13, 2015
Attachments: Oct13House.htm; Oct13.htm; Oct13Senate.htm; 151013dayplan.htm

Michigan Report for Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Road Funding Talks Falter – Again

Bill Allowing Concealed Guns, Ending Open Carry In Gun-Free Zones Clears Senate Panel

House Panel Considers Banning Certain Kinds Of Abortions

Court Hears Arguments On Whether MCCA Is Public Body

Education Board Pushes Professional Development Attached To Evaluations

Education Board Objects To Mandatory Third Grade Retention

Senate Panel Debates Mandatory Expulsion

Education Board Urges No Guns In Schools

Education Board Calls For Blood Lead Testing For Flint Children

Cotter Rebuts Presumptive Parole Criticism

State Names Companies For New Medicaid Care Contract

Dems Call For Snyder To Fire DPS EM Earley Over Flint Water Crisis

Powdered Alcohol Ban Heading To Governor's Desk

Committee Roundup

Capital Notebook

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Activity Reports

House

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #54, Report #203 -- Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Road Funding Talks Falter - Again

Call it an impasse, a stall, hiccup or some other term, but weeks of discussions between Governor Rick Snyder and legislative leaders clearly suffered a setback Tuesday.

For weeks, Mr. Snyder and the Legislative Quadrant - House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant), Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) - have sounded upbeat about progress toward an eventual deal to raise $1.2 billion in funds for roads.

And while not revealing details, there was a general sense that they had agreed on the road funding package but were still working out the complementary legislation needed to sell it to the rank-and-file members of each of the four legislative caucuses. So when Mr. Snyder declared after Tuesday's meeting they had hit an impasse, it was surprising, if not shocking, considering the long, difficult path efforts to win new funding for roads has taken.

"We had made a lot of progress in prior meetings. We're at an impasse now," Mr. Snyder said.

But that was not a universally accepted characterization of the situation. Mr. Meekhof described the situation as a "stall," and Mr. Greimel said he hoped the various parties had not reached an impasse.

And while Mr. Snyder gravely warned he would not continue to meet with the Legislative Quadrant on the issue absent resumption of progress, suggesting he might cancel Wednesday's meeting, by late Tuesday night, that meeting had yet to be officially scrubbed.

The problem appears to center on an income tax cut as part of the overall package. Democrats are resisting, concerned it would strain the General Fund and damage the programs that rely on it for their funds. Republicans want the income tax cut to soften the blow for their members of voting to raise taxes.

While never officially announced, the road funding package is expected to involve $400 million from a gasoline tax hike, $400 million from other new revenues - mainly from ending the depreciation on vehicle registration fees in the first years of owning the vehicle - and $400 million dedicated from the General Fund.

Mr. Snyder declined to discuss details of the meeting but said it was "fair to say people have different perspectives as to what tax relief might look like."

And Mr. Greimel said, "We would prefer tax relief that benefits fairly broad groups of incomes as opposed to the Senate Republican income tax cut that disproportionately benefits the wealthy and the well-connected."

The Senate-passed plan called for reducing the income tax rate based on a complicated formula involving how much state revenue had grown.

Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for Mr. Cotter, said House Republicans will continue to negotiate and work on a solution that fixes the roads and protects Michigan taxpayers.

"Including tax relief in the deal has been part of the negotiations from day one, and it remains a Republican priority," he said. "We put together a responsible, balanced budget this year that included $400 million for road repairs, and we can do it again in a way that protects Michigan's hard-working taxpayers."

Mr. Snyder made it clear he saw diminishing returns to continuing to hold meetings absent more progress.

"Unless I see progress, I'm not going to schedule more," he said.

Mr. Snyder said he hoped legislative leaders would take time to reflect and understand a compromise would be needed.

Mr. Greimel called for meetings to continue.

"I am committed to continuing to meet and see if we can talk through the disagreements and reach an agreement on a road plan that is fiscally responsible and sustainable," he said. "I have also made it very clear that I am not willing to agree to any proposal that jeopardizes funding for public safety, education and health care."

Mr. Meekhof, in a statement, emphasized that the Senate had passed a road funding plan that called for an $800 million gasoline tax hike and dedicating $700 million from the General Fund to roads.

"Since passage of the Senate plan, I have been realistic in my expectations that ultimately a road funding plan would include compromise in order for all parties to agree," he said. "For me, taxpayers deserve long-term tax relief, especially when we are seeking additional resources to fund our roads. I am disappointed that months of discussion and progress at the leadership level have stalled, but a standstill at the leadership level is not an indication of unwillingness on the part of the Senate."

Meekhof spokesperson Amber McCann said the use of the word "stalled" instead of impasse was deliberate.

"Impasse implies a much more negative state than we're in at this point," she said. "The majority leader is still optimistic that a road funding solution is possible."

Mr. Meekhof also is willing to meet if others want to do so, Ms. McCann said.

Lance Binoniemi of the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association said he long ago had learned not to get too excited about the good developments on roads and not too upset at the bad ones.

"We've had a lot of these types of days where talks seem to break down," he said.

He also put the best face on the use of the term impasse, which he said surprised him.

"They've never had a deal in place so there's always been an impasse," he said, chuckling.

More seriously, Mr. Binoniemi said the intensity shown Tuesday was a sign that Mr. Snyder and legislative leaders are getting to the real issues of a deal.

"I haven't heard from one person out of the quadrant yet that talks are done, they've failed and they're not coming back," he said. "I remain optimistic. We've had days like this before and we've survived to the next day. Until someone throws up their hands and says it's done, we're not going to do this, I don't get too nervous."

Bill Allowing Concealed Guns, Ending Open Carry In Gun-Free Zones Clears Senate Panel

The Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday reported a bill that would prohibit open carry in gun-free zones such as schools, churches and hospitals, and instead allow those with concealed pistol licenses to carry a concealed firearm in those facilities.

Backers say the bill would address the problem of people openly carrying guns on or near school property, which in an age where mass shootings at schools are sickeningly common has prompted school officials to put their building in lockdown while police determine the situation. In some instances, the person openly carrying is doing so to make the point they legally have the right to do so.

But the legislation also would wipe out one of the key pieces of the 2000 overhaul of the concealed pistol license law by effectively wiping out gun-free zones. To convince then-Governor John Engler to sign a bill taking away the power of local gun boards to decide who could get a CPL and instead making licenses automatic to law-abiding applicants with no record of involuntary commitment for mental illness, the gun-free zones were established.

The committee reported two bills - one by Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) in SB 442, and the other by Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) in SB 561, which was just introduced and sent to the committee on Tuesday.

An amendment was adopted to Mr. Green's bill to tie-bar it to Mr. Meekhof's bill (and vice versa), as Mr. Green's bill makes the concealed carry change in the state's handgun licensure law while Mr. Meekhof's makes the concealed carry change in the penal code.

"Permit holders have lower rates for arrests and convictions than police officers," said John Lott, a pro-gun researcher and economist. "Since 1950, with just two exceptions, every mass shooting has taken place where guns are banned."

As the state's law is currently written, a person cannot possess a firearm on the premises of a financial institution, a church or other house of religious worship, a court, bar, theatre, sports arena or stadium, day care center and hospital.

Although the Senate hearing room was packed full of various opposing interests, and especially parents of school children who derided Mr. Green's legislation as unnecessary and problematic, the committee voted 4-1 to report the bills as substituted and with amendments to the full Senate floor for consideration. Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) opposed the bill.

Testimony in opposition to SB 442 began with several church officials and then led into school officials, including the superintendent of Ann Arbor Public Schools and the Michigan Association of School Boards, among others. Several other education officials who were also CPL holders testified in opposition, followed by gun control advocates and then gun rights backers.

"We are not coming here as an association that's anti-gun, but one concerned about the safety of our students," said Don Wotruba, executive director of MASB. "(Open-carry) has become disruptive. Moving to a concealed carry system only hides the danger; it doesn't get rid of it."

Mr. Wotruba also argued that allowing concealed carry in gun-free zones such as schools could make the ability of police officers to respond to mass shooting situations more difficult in that they will first have to identify who is or is not carrying before trying to figure out which direction a shooter went or who it could be. All of that takes time away from their ability to act quickly in such a situation, he said.

But Mr. Green, speaking to reporters after the vote, said some of the people testifying against the bill, and especially the school groups, "weren't testifying on the bill."

"Every one of their statements was 'we don't want guns in schools.' It wasn't a matter of 'we've got guns in schools, let's change the law,' which is what I'm trying to do. Their whole testimony didn't really discuss what the bill was doing," he said. "I think the message that was sent today was 'we don't want guns in school,' and we understand that. We're trying to fix a fix, trying to do them a favor.

"We, as gun owners, have every right in the world to carry in most of the gun-free zones. Are we going to give that up? We're taking a step back and saying we'll cover them up if you guys are willing to do it. They don't even want that," Mr. Green said.

And he said some of the testimony spoke only to hypotheticals.

"I've always said to the stadium folks that wanted to be left in the gun-free zones, you don't even know if there's any bad guns there. You only want to disallow good guns," he said. "The debate

is going back and forth about what's a gun zone, and the fact is most people could carry there today because the penalties are so light."

All told, the committee permitted slightly more than hour of testimony after Mr. Green and Mr. Lott spoke on the merits of the bill for more than 30 minutes at the start of the committee. Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) said he sought to report the bill despite that many more people wished to testify on their position on the bill given some committee members had other meetings they had to get to. Mr. Jones said he would, however, stay to listen to anyone else who wished to speak on the matter.

After the vote, Mr. Bieda said he thought it "insulting" to the people who traveled to testify, as well as insulting to the institution. His remark was met with applause from many in the audience, which Mr. Jones immediately gaveled down.

Mr. Green was not immediately sure how soon the bill could be taken up by the full Senate.

Mr. Meekhof has said he supports the legislation, but Governor Rick Snyder has been opposed to essentially ending gun-free zones.

House Panel Considers Banning Certain Kinds Of Abortions

The House Criminal Justice Committee discussed banning dilation and evacuation abortions on Tuesday, with the Republican sponsor of the bill calling the procedure "barbaric," but Democrats charged the procedure is used in 95 percent of second trimester abortions and would limit women's access to care.

Rep. Laura Cox (R-Livonia), sponsor of HB 4833 and HB 4834 banning the procedure, which in the bill is called a "dismemberment abortion," and would charge anyone who performed the procedure - except to save the mother's life - with a felony punishable by two years in prison and/or a $50,000 fine.

Ms. Cox called the procedure cruel and said during it, "tiny, unborn humans are literally torn apart."

"It seems unconscionable to me that this type of abortion exists and it is time that this practice ended," she said.

In 2014 there were 26,321 reported abortions in the state, with 2,264 being dilation and evacuation procedures, according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill defines "dismemberment" abortion as "an abortion in which the physician, an individual acting under the delegatory authority of the physician, or any other individual performing the abortion deliberately and intentionally uses any instrument, device, or object to dismember a living fetus by disarticulating limbs or decapitating the head from the fetal torso and removing the dismembered fetal body parts from the uterus regardless of whether the fetal body parts are removed by the same instrument, device, or object or by suction or other means."

Rep. Marcia Hovey-Wright (D-Muskegon) said according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the procedure is the safest method for women 14 weeks pregnant and later.

Ms. Cox said there are other abortion procedures available and the dilation and evacuation procedure is not necessary.

Rep. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) said similar laws have been challenged in Oklahoma and Kansas and asked Ms. Cox how the state would pay for a court challenge.

"I am actually ready for the fight," Ms. Cox said. She also said the state would determine how to fund such a fight during the appropriations process.

Matt Allswede, a gynecologist and the vice chair of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Michigan chapter, said the group is alarmed at the attempt to ban physicians from providing safe and evidence-based health care.

He said according to the CDC, pregnancy complications were the sixth-leading cause of death for women between 20 and 34 years old.

"The bills create a dangerous environment for women by preventing doctors from having every option available when providing care," he said. Mr. Allswede said science, not political beliefs, should be the basis of medical decisions.

Mr. Allswede, who said he had performed the procedure last week, said it is a very intense experience.

"It is something that is very emotional for us as people as well as physicians," he said. "And yet we do it because we do believe in those circumstances it is in the best interest of the woman. Our choice to proceed with something that we may have our own emotional feelings to contend with, it's superseded by our professional commitment to do what's best for our patients."

Mr. Allswede said the reason the procedure is safer for second-term abortions is a medical abortion that creates a "mini-labor" experience. He said the medication used are sometime problematic for patients and the pro-longed process makes patients more susceptible to infections, which is the biggest threat to future fertility.

Ed Rivet, with Right to Life of Michigan, spoke in support of the bill, said the dilation and evacuation procedure facilitates the harvesting of fetal organs.

Mr. Rivet then took out a pair of forceps and brought out a plastic fetus to "demonstrate" the procedure. Mr. Rivet later told the committee he had never performed an abortion, had never seen one in person, but had seen the procedure done on a video on the internet.

"Initially I was going to apologize for the gruesomeness. You can see my hands shaking," he said after his demonstration. "But this is just the reality of it, folks. It's just the truth about how a child is torn apart, piece by piece."

Daniel Wechter, a gynecologist who is anti-abortion, said he has only had to use the procedure to save the life of a mother six times in his 41-year career. Mr. Wechter said he works with high-risk pregnancies.

He said he disagrees that the procedure is safer than others when it comes to second trimester abortions. He said of the physicians with whom he spoke who support the right to a legal abortion, they told him there is a degree of cervical trauma from the procedure.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan also spoke in opposition to the bill. In written testimony, the group said the bills are unnecessary, unconstitutional and unsafe.

The committee did not act on the bill Tuesday, but Rep. Kurt Heise (R-Plymouth), chair of the committee, indicated the bill would come up in the committee again.

Court Hears Arguments On Whether MCCA Is Public Body

If the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association is a public body, then the Legislature violated the Constitution by not making it subject to the state's Freedom of Information Act, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday. If it is not a public body, then the issue is moot.

And the MCCA in its response argued that in fact it was not a public body, that it was created as a private, non-profit agency answerable to insurance companies and not the public. While its decision on the insurance surcharge individuals have to pay on their auto no-fault insurance does have an impact on the public, the public is not actually required to pay it as the insurance companies could cover the cost, the Supreme Court was told.

The arguments before the court, in *Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault v. MCCA* (SC docket No. 150001), were to determine if the court will actually hear full arguments on the issue, or decide the case on the arguments presented.

The case drew lots of attention, as the Supreme Court chambers were crowded with people, many who were injured in auto accidents. At one point MCCA attorney Lori McAllister said the public had a lot of interest in the case, Chief Justice Robert Young Jr. joked that he thought they were all there to see the newest justice, Justice Joan Larsen.

Opponents of change to the no-fault system have argued for some years that the MCCA needs to open itself to public scrutiny so it can be determined how much in assets it has and the real impact it has on insurance rates.

The matter is on appeal from the Court of Appeals which held the MCCA is not a public body. The trial court had said it was a public body.

Joanne Swanson, arguing for CPAN and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, said the issue is simply that the MCCA is a public body and that in enacting the MCCA the Legislature unconstitutionally exempted it from the FOIA and failed to amend and republish the FOIA as is required by the Constitution.

The state's no-fault law was enacted in 1972. The FOIA was enacted in 1976. Then in 1978, the Supreme Court upheld the no-fault law in the *Shaver's* decision but said the Legislature had to enact further protections to ensure insurance was affordable and that motorists had access to information about how their rates were derived. In meeting the requirement of the Supreme Court, the Legislature adopted changes to the no-fault act, and among those was adopting the MCCA.

The overall structure of the MCCA and its impact on the public makes it a public body, subject to the FOIA, Ms. Swanson said.

And the overall intent of the FOIA shows that if the Legislature intended it to not be subject to the FOIA then it had to specify which documents would not be subject to the law, she said. But the Legislature described no documents that would be exempt and, in fact, did not describe documents at all.

There are exceptions for public bodies from the FOIA, Ms. Swanson said, but the MCCA does not rise to those exceptions.

But Mr. Young asked if the issue did not hinge on a "threshold question" of whether the agency was a public body.

And Ms. Swanson acknowledged that if the MCCA was not a public body, then it was not subject to the FOIA.

Ms. McAllister agreed that was the essential issue and said the MCCA was not intended to be a public body.

"The Legislature can decide what is a public body," Ms. McAllister said, and it did not decide that the MCCA is a public body. The statute creating it clearly says the agency is a non-profit corporation that has no ability to interact with policymakers or to set policy. It has no state revenues and its benefits go to insurance companies.

Justice Richard Bernstein asked if it has no impact on the public, and Ms. McAllister said that it did - through its annual assessment on auto insurance -- but the same could be said of any corporation.

And even then, Ms. McAllister said, the statute allows the insurance companies to absorb the assessment by themselves and not pass it on to the motorists.

Education Board Pushes Professional Development Attached To Evaluations

As the Legislature completes work on educator evaluation changes, the new law should provide opportunities for teachers to improve based on their evaluation, the State Board of Education said in approving recommendations at its meeting Tuesday.

The board unanimously recommended the Legislature approve an evaluation system designed to improve teacher performance and student learning and that provided teachers an appeal from poor evaluations.

The board did not take a specific position on SB 103, but it urged the Legislature to retain in it all of the recommendations of the Council for Educator Effectiveness.

"The purpose of educator evaluation has never been to fire people. That is not the best practice," Deputy Superintendent Venessa Keesler said.

Rather, she said, the evaluations should show most teachers where they need to improve. "Teaching students is not a thing that's easy to do and it's not something that's static," she said. "It's about improving the effectiveness of our professionals, not about firing our way to proficiency."

Ms. Keesler acknowledged that evaluations would show some teachers that they should re-evaluate their professional choices, but she said those would be few.

But she said that those ranked ineffective remained less than 1 percent of teachers is not surprising

"I don't think that we would expect to see a significant number of our teachers who are ineffective," she said. "Most of our teachers are good teachers who can be better."

Ms. Keesler said it would be unfair at this point to draw any conclusions about the state's teacher evaluation system based on the proportions of teachers ranked highly effective, effective, minimally effective or ineffective.

"It's also important not to judge our system until we have a system," she said. "We want them to have a statewide system so that they're comparable."

The department is not urging the Legislature to adopt a single evaluation system, but is pushing to narrow down the number of tools, maybe to the four that were recommended by the Council on Educator Effectiveness that developed some of the guidance for educator evaluation systems.

Ms. Keesler noted that some 44 percent of districts are using their own evaluation system. While it is usually a modified version of one of the recommended tools, she said that still leaves teachers without comparable evaluations across districts.

Student growth should be part of the evaluation system, but Ms. Keesler said it had to be measured correctly. She said the department is urging districts to use measures beyond the state assessments.

"They may not be proficient, but that doesn't mean they haven't made growth," she said.

Board member Richard Zeile (R-Dearborn) said there are a variety if situations where a teacher's ability might not coincide with student improvement.

"Some of our lowest performing districts had the highest percentage of highly effective teachers," he said. "That might well be true."

One element of new student growth measures could be Student Learning Objectives, Norma Jean Sass, deputy superintendent for education services said in a separate presentation.

The goal of the program, which the department is currently developing, is to set goals for individual students and to measure them based on those goals.

"It's another way for the teacher to become very invested in this," Ms. Sass said.

"This is kind of an answer for those untested subjects and grades as well," Linda Forward, director of the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation, said.

Board member Michelle Fecteau (D-Detroit) said the final system also needed to have an appeal process. She said the current plan, to allow teachers to appeal to their superintendent, was not sufficient.

She said teachers could be given poor evaluations because of their advocacy efforts rather than their actual teaching ability, and then fired based on those evaluations. "They become a target," she said. "Who's to stop that if the superintendent is complicit?"

Ms. Keesler said the department is also supporting an appeal process, but she said getting the evaluation system right could lessen the need for appeals because teachers would feel the evaluations are fair.

The board's resolution called for an appeal to an independent third party.

Districts are also at various stages in implementing evaluation systems, Ms. Keesler said. "Some well down the road," she said. "Others have been waiting for the state to provide more guidance."

She said many districts have not adopted one of the four recommended tools in part because they fear the state will mandate they use one of the others, she said.

The $12 million the department has for training on teacher evaluation will flow through intermediate school districts and will likely be concentrated on the four recommended tools, Ms. Keesler said.

She said the funds are targeted for ISDs so the training can be more targeted to the needs of the districts. Those that already have systems well underway would not need basic implementation training, she said.

The department is holding some of the funds aside for research work, Ms. Keesler said.

"There are some thigs we don't know about evaluation that would help us be smarter about educator evaluation," she said. "Administrator evaluation is an area that is far less well defined in the research; that was far less well defined in the Ball report."

Deborah Ball was chair of the educator effectiveness commission.

TEACHER TRAINING: Michigan might not have any additional colleges to train teachers under a moratorium extended Tuesday by the board.

Department officials requested that the moratorium, which technically expired in August, be renewed until they can develop a strategy for approving new institutions.

Ms. Keesler said officials are developing a plan that would allow approval of new institutions with programs in areas where the state has teacher shortages. The new moratorium is for three years, but Ms. Keesler said the department could come back to the board in as little as six months with a plan.

She said there had been some inquiries about creating new institutions by some out-of-state schools, but no official applications.

Education Board Objects To Mandatory Third Grade Retention

The state should not be requiring school districts to retain students who cannot read at third grade level, but it should require districts to have a plan to address those students, the State Board of Education said in a resolution regarding HB 4822.

Board members said retention needed to be an option, but that there was little data on the long-term effects of holding students back.

Board member Eileen Weiser (R-Ann Arbor) suggested the idea that districts be required to create a retention policy that has to be approved by the Department of Education.

"In my eyes, retention has to remain on the table because this state has fallen behind year after year after year," Ms. Weiser said.

She said having the department approve the policy would ensure students would receive the assistance the need to get to grade level once they are retained, and hopefully before retention is needed.

Ms. Weiser had recommended the board call for mandatory retention where a district does not provide an approvable plan. "If that's not in there or there's a loophole, then we're right where we're at," she said.

But other board members recommended instead that the legislation include an "enforceable" mandate for the district plan.

"There's a lot of ways that could be accomplished," Board President John Austin (D-Ann Arbor) said.

The board, in its resolution, praised the other strategies in the bill designed to improve reading proficiency.

SUBJECT MATTER STANDARDS: Mr. Whiston said new science standards would likely be ready for adoption at the next board meeting, but that social studies standards would likely wait until January.

He said there had been substantial changes to the draft standards based on public input, so the department was planning to put the revised draft out again for public comment.

Officials did recommend that the board adopt, at its next meeting, new standards for preparation of teachers of world languages. The new standards are based on American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages, but with Michigan-specific elements.

Senate Panel Debates Mandatory Expulsion

After a teacher's life was threatened by a student in Grand Rapids with no apparent recourse for the school district without the threat of being sued, Sen. Dave Hildenbrand developed the framework for legislation that would require a school board to expel a pupil in grade six or above who threatened to kill a school employee, volunteer or contractor.

But the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan told the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday that it is concerned such a mandatory requirement as is outlined in SB 208, without giving discretion on a case-by-case basis, could result in poorer student outcomes and potentially more people in jail.

In addition to mandatory expulsion for threatening someone's life, a school district would not have to spend more money to provide instructional services to a permanently expelled student than the amount of per-pupil payment the school district receives, SB 208 stipulates. And school boards would be required to report all such threats to law enforcement officials and prosecutors.

The now-retired teacher that prompted the legislation, Diane Jelke, said she and other teachers and counselors did as much as they could to give the superintendent of the district reason to expel the student in question given the situation, but the district's attorney feared a lawsuit such that the verbal threat that was made - despite the attempted physical assault - was not enough to expel the student.

While sympathetic to her story, some senators were concerned about the grander implications such a law could have on students and the way schools operate. And Sen. Darwin Booher (R-

Evart) said that he was concerned the bill did not also include community colleges, especially given recent events elsewhere.

"The evidence shows these types of one-size fits all policies do more to harm student outcomes," said Rodd Monts, field director for the ACLU of Michigan. "When these serious incidents occur, school districts should have the tools of whether some other exclusion ... is necessary. We ask you include discretion in this legislation, that each case be reviewed against a set of exceptions."

He said that while he and the ACLU can appreciate that there will be cases where the removal of the student is best for all involved, his organization asks that such an option not be mandatory. He said what is threatening to one person may not be to another, or in some cases, the students can be taught to be better as individuals and members of society.

"There are a number of advocacy organizations that provide students and parents the help they need in these cases where (schools) don't know what to do," he said. "You can't simply suspend and expel your way out of problems."

ECONOMICS CREDIT: The committee did report HB 4390 with unanimous approval. The bill would allow one-half credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy the Michigan Merit Curriculum for economics.

ONLINE PROTECTION: With another week of no testimony on SB 510, which would create the Student Online Personal Protection Act to essentially protect certain student information from being amassed by the operator of the system or sold, committee chair Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair) said he would allow the bill one more week in committee before voting it out.

Education Board Urges No Guns In Schools

Legislation to allow only those with concealed pistol licenses to have firearms in schools, provided they remain hidden, still goes too far, the State Board of Education said Tuesday in a rare split vote.

The board, in a 7-1 vote, supported HB 4261 to prohibit openly carrying firearms in schools and opposed SB 442 that would end open carry in but allow those permits to concealed carry in schools and a variety of other venues currently considered gun-free.

"This is something I have to spend way too much time thinking about: what happens when someone comes on campus with a gun," said board Vice President Casandra Ulbrich (D-Rochester Hills), who develops emergency management plans for Macomb Community College.

Ms. Ulbrich heads the board's legislative committee and wrote the resolution.

"There is no place for guns in schools," Board President John Austin (D-Ann Arbor) said. "If guns are around, they are going to be used, even if by accident."

Board member Eileen Weiser (R-Ann Arbor) said she had a "unique perspective" on the issue given that her child had armed guards at school while her husband served as an ambassador.

"I will be voting for this, but the clash between personal rights and children's rights is there," Ms. Weiser said.

Board member Richard Zeile (R-Dearborn) said the proposal infringes on the right to bear arms and urged leaving the decision to the local districts.

"I'm just not sure that we can speak across the board for every school culture," he said.

And he indicated allowing weapons into the buildings could have stopped some of the recent shootings.

"It's no accident that many of these shootings have taken place in in areas where guns are outlawed and only the outlaws have guns," he said.

Michael Shibler, superintendent of Rockford Public Schools, said during public comment that he would not want anyone other than police and security staff to try to decide whether a person is dangerous.

"You cannot expect an employee of our building ... to be able to assess a person coming into our building, that person's mental state," he said.

The district instead built security vestibules in all of its buildings and visitors must be allowed past those. "Something like that is going to protect as best we can," he said.

Education Board Calls For Blood Lead Testing For Flint Children

All school children in Flint should have their blood tested for lead given the recent water issues there, the State Board of Education said in a resolution Tuesday.

The board called for the state to provide the blood tests in the schools or other locations convenient to parents, and to not charge the parents for it.

"These parents need to know what they dealing with at this point," board Vice President Casandra Ulbrich said in moving a resolution calling for legislation. The final resolution simply called for action.

The resolution was the result of a statement issued Tuesday by board member Pamela Pugh (D-Saginaw) calling on the Department of Education to work with the Department of Health and Human Services and others to be sure the blood tests are offered.

Ms. Pugh also called on the board and Superintendent of Public Instruction Brian Whiston to work with the School Reform/Redesign Office, now in the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, to prevent any future state takeovers of school districts.

"Unless we interject, areas in Michigan will continue to live under the threat of becoming U.S. sacrifice zones, where costs are cut, budgets are balanced, and profits are made at the expense of the health and wellbeing of our children, especially our most burdened children living in low-income families," Ms. Pugh said in her statement.

Deputy Superintendent Kyle Guerrant said the department only had authority over such issues where it provides grants funding, but he said later in the meeting that efforts were under way to provide the testing free to Flint residents.

Cotter Rebuts Presumptive Parole Criticism

House Speaker Kevin Cotter already led his chamber in support of presumptive parole measures in HB 4138, but with Attorney General Bill Schuette expressing his opposition loudly during the past week, Mr. Cotter released a statement of support Tuesday.

"Presumptive parole is a responsible way to reform our broken prison system and protect the rights and safety of Michigan residents. Contrary to many reports, the proposed bill simply requires parole boards to give a compelling reason to deny parole when prisoners with a high probability of success have completed their minimum sentence," Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) said.

The House passed HB 4138 earlier this month despite Mr. Schuette's objections. Mr. Schuette said on Michigan Public Television's "Off the Record" last week that the bill would allow for violent criminals to be released from prison early. Mr. Schuette has also said the release of prisoners outlined in the bill is automatic and the parole board is not able to determine risks and dangers of each prisoner.

But the House Fiscal Agency analysis says the measures in the bill would not be automatic. Under the bill, compelling reasons against presumptive parole include: objective and verifiable evidence that a victim would be caused harm by release; the prisoner has a pending felony charge; and the there is evidence the prisoner would be a danger to society if released, among other reasons.

"The process is even simplified for parole boards by filtering out prisoners who don't have a high enough probability of success, including repeat offenders and prisoners who face additional charges," Mr. Cotter said. "Any parole board willing to deny a man his freedom and keep him locked up beyond the court-ordered sentence ought to at least have a reason for doing so."

State Names Companies For New Medicaid Care Contract

The 11 managed care companies which will be able to provide Medicaid coverage to an estimated 1.7 million people in the state beginning in January have been named by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The companies will handle recipients in 10 different regions across the state, called by the department "Prosperity Regions," and the most populous areas will see more companies competing for Medicaid recipients.

Region 1, which is the Upper Peninsula, will have just one company open to handle recipients: the Upper Peninsula Health Plan.

Four companies - McLaren Health Plan, Meridian Health Plan of Michigan, Molina Healthcare of Michigan and United Healthcare Community Plan - will compete in all the remaining regions.

The other companies open to Medicaid recipients are Blue Cross Complete of Michigan, Priority Health Choice, HAP Midwest Health Plan, Aetna Better of Michigan, Harbor Health Plan and Total Healthcare.

Dems Call For Snyder To Fire DPS EM Earley Over Flint Water Crisis

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon on Tuesday said Governor Rick Snyder should remove Darnell Earley as the emergency manager for Detroit Public Schools because of his decision as emergency manager in Flint to move the city temporarily to the Flint River as the city's source of drinking water.

That water received insufficient treatment to prevent corrosion, causing lead to leach into the water. Now the city will switch back to the Detroit water system until the water pipeline to Lake Huron through a new local authority is complete.

"This catastrophe began with the governor's appointed emergency manager, and as much as Governor Snyder would like to pretend, this is not a matter of negotiating at the boardroom table. This is a situation where you pay for your mistakes and put those responsible on the chopping block," Mr. Dillon said in a statement.

Mr. Snyder, asked whether Mr. Earley should be replaced at DPS, said that he was no longer the emergency manager in Flint and that local Flint officials had decided long before Mr. Snyder put the city under an emergency manager to switch water sources as well as designated the Flint River as its backup source.

Powdered Alcohol Ban Heading To Governor's Desk

The House on Tuesday passed a bill banning powdered alcohol in the state, readying it for the Senate to present to Governor Rick Snyder.

SB 240 cleared the House 102-3 with no changes from the Senate version.

The bill would prohibit the sale, distribution and possession of powdered alcohol. Other states have already banned the product, and other states - including New York and Ohio - are considering bans.

Committee Roundup

PETTALIA EYEING SPEED LIMIT VOTE BEFORE THANKSGIVING: The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee could vote on legislation to raise speed limits on some highways and freeways before the recess for Thanksgiving and the start of firearm deer hunting season.

Rep. Peter Pettalia (R-Presque Isle), the committee chair, said he has been surprised at the level of interest from the committee in pursuing the legislation. He anticipated changes to the legislation, but that it possible it would move on an amended version.

Capital Notebook

IPPSR NAMES NEW DIRECTOR: Former Treasurer Doug Roberts Sr. is retiring from his post as director of the Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and MSU associate professor Matt Grossmann has been named as the new director.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR: After Monday evening's meeting, the Civil Rights Commission still had three candidates to succeed retiring Director Matt Wesaw. The commission reviewed three candidates who were inadvertently not in an initial list of resumes, but did not consider any of them worthy of an interview.

Names of the candidates to be interviewed are to be released later this week.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, October 15

Fire Safety Board, Suite H, 3101 Technology Boulevard, Lansing, 1 p.m. ()

Friday, October 16

Pesticide Advisory Committee, Guyer Conference Room, Geagley Laboratory, 1615 South Harrison Road, East Lansing, 9:30 a.m. (Agenda)

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

SB 62, PA 131 RECORDING REQUIREMENTS (Hertel) Modifies recording requirements to include electronic signatures.

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: December 29, 2015

SB 281, PA 132 FILING FEES (Schuitmaker) Provides for reallocation of portion of certain filing fees paid to the Wayne County retirement system for bailiffs in the thirty-sixth district court under certain circumstances.

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: December 29, 2015

SB 468, PA 133 — PHARMACY TECHNICIAN (Green) Modifies eligibility for licensure of pharmacy technicians and requirements for limited license pharmacy technicians.

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: September 30, 2015

HB 4070, PA 134 — PUBLIC OFFICERS (Heise) Creates incompatible officers exception for public safety positions.

Signed: September 30, 2015; Effective: December 29, 2015

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 14, 2015

News

Senate panel OKs concealed guns in 'gun-free' zones (Associated Press, 10/14/2015)

'Clean slate' law for offenders could be boon for business (Bridge Magazine, 10/14/2015)

Poll: Michigan voters strongly favor state prison reform (Bridge Magazine, 10/14/2015)

Michigan Senate panel OKs concealed weapons in schools (Detroit Free Press, 10/14/2015)

Road funding talks break down over income tax cut (Detroit Free Press, 10/14/2015)

Ex-emergency manager says he's not to blame for Flint River water switch (Flint Journal, 10/14/2015)

Flint City Council OKs $2 million for reconnection to Detroit water (Flint Journal, 10/12/2015)

Lawmaker's lawsuit claims Flint, state withheld documents on water safety (Flint Journal, 10/12/2015)

Michigan lawmakers 'offended' by lack of DHHS answers (Lansing State Journal, 10/14/2015)

Michigan Supreme Court returns to Capitol for a day (Lansing State Journal, 10/14/2015)

Aide to Michigan congressman accused of attacking man with kitchen knife, using gay slur (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Ann Arbor schools chief asks lawmakers to keep concealed guns out of schools (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Cindy Gamrat says a Republican lock-out would be a slap in the face (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Income tax debate at heart of latest Michigan road funding stalemate (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Meth lab map shows why Michigan lawmakers are continuing crackdown (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Powdered alcohol ban passes Michigan House (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Court: Pot as tip no reason for police to seize car (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Gun control debate draws voters' attention in Mich. (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Snyder: Road fund talks hit dead end (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Editorials

Editorial: No need for more speed on Michigan highways (Battle Creek Enquirer, 10/14/2015)

For GOP, bloodying unions comes before fixing roads (Detroit Free Press, 10/14/2015)

Sorry seems to be the hardest word for the state to say to Flint (Flint Journal, 10/12/2015)

Ken Braun: Fixing the federal debt needs to start at Michigan's Capitol (MLive, 10/14/2015)

Column: Presumptive parole isn't safe for Michigan (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Editorial: Detroit community policing cutting murders (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Letter: Dem tax plan would help families (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Yanez: Prevailing wage good for Michigan (The Detroit News, 10/14/2015)

Flint's lessons (Toledo Blade, 10/14/2015)

Blogs

Flint Crisis Comes On Eve Of Mayoral Election (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/13/2015)

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:45 PM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--House Approves Flint Water Fix

Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 08:43 PM

House Approves Flint Water Fix

The House unanimously voted this evening to approve $9. 35 million of state funds to return Flint to the Detroit water system and pay for additional state staff in the city's schools to gauge exposure to lead, handle evaluation and protocols on drinking water and to assist with plumbing engineers.

Governor Rick Snyder last week called for state funds to return the city to drawing water from the Detroit system and ending a disastrous move to pull water from the Flint River, as well as funds to pay for additional state staffers from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs working in the city.

The supplemental (HB 4102) allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Insufficient corrosion controls for water drawn from the river – which is inherently more corrosive than water drawn from Lake Huron, where the Detroit system draws its water – caused lead from the city's old service lines to leach into the water, leading to lead levels in the water exceeding the federal standard to trigger remediation and to elevated lead levels in the blood of some Flint children.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in Wednesday's Michigan report.

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:56 AM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Attachments: Oct14.htm; Oct14House.htm; Oct14Senate.htm; 151014dayplan.htm

Michigan Report for Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Tentative Deals Reached On State Employees Contracts

Meekhof Slams Schuette On Presumptive Parole; Snyder Also Jumps In

On Roads, Meekhof, Greimel Trade Barbs As Meeting Canceled

House Approves Nearly $10M For Flint Water

Third Grade Reading Bill Delayed In House With Votes Short

Kosowski Proposes Sports Gambling For Road Funding

Michigan Chamber, Which Backed Peabody In 2014, Endorses Howell In 82nd

Revenue From Increased Hunting, Licensing Fees Less Than Expected

Civil Rights Could Again Select Former Commissioner

House Panel Considering Regulation Of Charity Bins

Senate Ends Deadline To Petition For DNA Test, Trial

State Unemployment Rate Falls Below National Rate For First Time Since 2000

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Volume #54, Report #204 -- Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Tentative Deals Reached On State Employees Contracts

The state has reached tentative agreements with its bargaining units on new contracts for state employees.

Two unions - the Michigan Corrections Organization and the Michigan State Employees Association - confirmed Wednesday the major aspects of the tentative deals between the state and their unions: a one-year contract for wages and health care starting October 1, 2016, that provides a 1 percent base wage increase, and 1.5 percent lump sum payment for employees in October 2016.

Sources told Gongwer News Service the same provisions apply to tentative agreements between the state and other unions representing state employees.

The Service Employees International Union 517M also announced a tentative agreement but did not publicly offer details.

Officials with the United Auto Workers Local 6000, the state's largest employee union, did not return calls for comment.

"While this agreement isn't perfect, it maintains key pieces of our contract that members said were very important to them, such as their health care costs," MCO President Tom Tylutki said in a statement. "Our negotiations centered on the issues members told us were important. Health care is their number one concern."

The agreements are merely tentative and still require ratification from union members as well as approval from the Civil Service Commission.

But presuming union members ratify them, it will set one key piece of the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year budget.

Other portions of the contracts would last the traditional three years. However, the Office of State Employer pushed for a one-year deal on the wages and health care components out of concern about what will happen with the federal excise tax on premium health care plans, MCO said in a bulletin to its members.

That is the so-called Cadillac tax in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Under that law, starting with the 2018 tax year, if the aggregate cost of the health care coverage an employer provides exceeds a statutory dollar limit, then the excess is subject to a 40 percent excise tax.

The idea behind the tax was to reduce health care spending. But it is providing a rare point of agreement between Democratic supporters of the law and Republicans who have long called for the Affordable Care Act's repeal. Unions and Democrats have said the tax should be repealed, as have Republicans and business groups, but it is unclear what will happen.

A spokesperson for the Office of the State Employer declined to comment.

Meekhof Slams Schuette On Presumptive Parole; Snyder Also Jumps In

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } faced heat from Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } Wednesday regarding legislation pending in the Senate on presumptive parole, and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } also defended the legislation.

In the past week, Mr. Schuette has launched a campaign-style assault on the legislation, referring to it as "early" release, "catch and release" and "autopilot parole." Supporters of the bill have said he is just totally wrong in his characterization of the bills.

"He's been out there on a limb on this, throwing out a direct line and saying stuff like it's anti-cop, which was over the top, and he and I had that discussion yesterday," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) said of Mr. Schuette. "He's certainly within his right to comment on public policy. (But) he doesn't make public policy, he just follows what we do."

Still, Mr. Schuette's fusillade against the legislation may be having an impact. Mr. Meekhof said his caucus is voicing considerable concern about it.

Mr. Schuette has been relentless on the issue. Last week, on WKAR's "Off the Record," he said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB413801" } was "elitist" because those who live in nicer areas would have fewer worries about criminals being released back into society (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542010105" }). And his Twitter account gives updates seemingly every hour or two about "autopilot parole" and examples of parolees re-offending once released.

"Public safety is the first responsibility of government. Autopilot release of violent offenders is bad for our neighborhoods, cities and small towns," he said Tuesday in a joint statement with Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton, his Democratic opponent in 2010 for attorney general. "We cannot build a better, stronger, safer Michigan if our public safety is threatened."

Mr. Schuette and Mr. Meekhof are also potential rivals for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 2018 when Mr. Snyder cannot seek re-election.

Asked if he told Mr. Schuette to keep his nose out of the matter, Mr. Meekhof responded, "I said it was probably not a wise idea to talk the way he talked about the caucus on the other side. He said he'd take that under advisement."

Mr. Meekhof said he was unsure whether Mr. Schuette had apologized to the House members who drafted and supported HB 4138, which passed the House earlier this month 67-39 and currently sits in the Senate Government Operations Committee chaired by Mr. Meekhof.

"But he probably ought to think about how he treats everybody in general, and if he really wants to get public policy done, the best effort would be to work with people," Mr. Meekhof said.

Schuette spokesperson Andrea Bitely declined to comment on Mr. Meekhof's comments.

In addition to comments by Mr. Meekhof, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } expressed support of the measure in prepared remarks. This came a day after House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant) also felt compelled to defend the legislation against Mr. Schuette's criticism.

"Michigan needs a smarter criminal justice system that doesn't simply punish people who commit crimes, but frees up resources that can instead be used on effective efforts to reduce criminal activity and make our communities safer," Mr. Snyder said. "House Bill 4138 creates consistency in parole decisions for low-risk offenders by ensuring that they are all subject to the same standards when being considered for parole."

Mr. Snyder also noted the long-term impact of the change could be housing about 3,600 fewer low-risk felons in state prisons a decade from now, freeing up some $80 million "that can be reinvested in preventing crime rather than continuing to keep low-risk offenders behind bars after they have served their minimum sentence."

HB 4138 currently awaits action in the Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Mr. Meekhof, who said he had a "healthy discussion" with his caucus on the matter on Wednesday.

"We're looking at this presumptive parole along with some other corrections reform. Senator Proos has some great ideas that we're probably going to combine with it and come up with a better package," he said.

But Mr. Meekhof also admitted that there was "a lot of concern" among his caucus members, especially since the issue has always started in the House, even last term.

"They needed a lot of information to even understand the terms that were being talked about because we really haven't studied this at all in our caucus," he said.

Given the expectation that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph)

would lead on another package of corrections reform, Mr. Meekhof said it would be "a little while" before there would be any action on the issue in the Senate, though specifics beyond that were not discussed.

On Roads, Meekhof, Greimel Trade Barbs As Meeting Canceled

Wednesday was meant to be a cooling off day following Tuesday's impasse on talks to generate $1.2 billion in new funds for roads, but instead the disputes continued.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } (R-West Olive) said he was surprised at remarks by House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills) on road funding talks and how a proposal that the Legislative Quadrant may have on the table is insufficient.

The problem continues to be whether and how to provide income tax relief as a sweetener to an expected gasoline tax increase (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542030101" }).

"He sat in the same room, saw the same spreadsheets I did and understood that the way we're doing it by the redirection of revenue going a little bit at a time and tax rollback only when there is over-the-top revenue," Mr. Meekhof said midday Wednesday. "He saw that it worked, so I'm not quite sure where he's coming up with his assertion that it's cutting anything."

The quadrant meeting scheduled for noon was canceled. Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said it was too soon on the heels of Tuesday's meeting, after which Mr. Snyder declared the talks at an impasse. But Ms. Wurfel said Mr. Snyder would continue talking to leaders on the issue.

Mr. Meekhof said the rollback has been on the table the whole time, "and now at the 11th hour (Mr. Greimel) wants it removed," Mr. Meekhof said. "I'm not going to remove it."

The income tax rollback passed by the Senate helped to garner some Republican votes for the meat of the legislation that seeks, in part, a gas tax hike. The Senate plan is complicated, only allowing a reduction in the tax if revenues grow and putting no bottom on how far the income tax rate could fall.

"The only dispute is, is it the rate of inflation or a little bit more than the rate of inflation?" Mr. Meekhof said of the rollback likely to be included in a final deal on road funding. "But it's the same mechanics."

Asked if he felt as though Mr. Greimel's concerns were "coming out of nowhere," Mr. Meekhof said the first he had heard of such a concern came Tuesday. But he said the Senate stands ready and willing to work on a plan.

"We sent over a plan with an income tax rollback, specifically protecting the things we think are important, and dedicating money towards roads. I think that was a good plan," he said.

Mr. Meekhof said Mr. Greimel ought to "find a way to compromise with Speaker Cotter and get it done."

But Mr. Meekhof wouldn't go so far as to say that if a roads solution doesn't get done soon that it would be solely Mr. Greimel's fault. Pointing fingers, he said, doesn't solve the problem.

"We're trying to solve the problem, and throwing mud around isn't going to make it better or give us a better opportunity to do it," he said.

Greimel spokesperson Katie Carey said Mr. Greimel was disappointed when the governor canceled the quadrant meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday.

On Mr. Meekhof's comments, Ms. Carey said: "We respectfully disagree with the Senate majority leader. We were always concerned with the hit to the General Fund."

Ms. Carey noted public schools, safety and other Democratic priorities are funded through the General Fund.

She also said an income tax cut is going to help the wealthier residents of the state.

"It is not going to help low-income Michiganders," she said.

She also said the Democrats are trying to find a roads solution that focuses mostly on roads.

"We want something that is more concrete that will be a long-term financially sustainable solution to fix the roads," she said.

Cotter spokesperson Gideon D'Assandro said Mr. Cotter and Mr. Snyder met Wednesday and discussed goals on the issue moving forward. Mr. Cotter remains hopeful talks will resume, Mr. D'Assandro said.

House Approves Nearly $10M For Flint Water

The House unanimously voted Wednesday evening to approve $9.35 million to return Flint to the Detroit water system and pay for additional state staff in the city's schools to gauge exposure to lead, handle evaluation and protocols on drinking water and to assist with plumbing engineers.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB410201" } passed the House 105-0.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said

in a statement he attended House session Wednesday and told them the importance of passing the legislation.

"The people of Flint have the same right to clean, safe drinking water as residents in every district," he said. "I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognizing this and moving swiftly to secure resources. This is an important step necessary to fix the current crisis, and once this is complete, it's important that our next priority is getting to the bottom of how this happened. We need to make sure this never happens again."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } last week called for state funds to be used return to drawing water from the Detroit system and ending a disastrous move to pull water for the city from the Flint River and to pay for additional state staffers from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs working in the city.

The supplemental appropriations allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Of the $9.35 million allocated, $7.15 million is from the General Fund.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" }, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said he was pleased to see a unanimous vote for the bill.

"There is a time in this Legislature that we have to have statesmanship and stateswomanship and this was one of those times. This is a public health emergency in Flint," he said.

Mr. Pscholka said some members speculated whether the funds should come from the Budget Stabilization Fund, but said that was not necessary.

"We are in a fiscal position in order to handle something like this," he said.

Insufficient corrosion controls for water drawn from the river, which is inherently more corrosive than water drawn from Lake Huron, where the Detroit system draws its water, caused lead from the city's old service lines to leach into the water, leading to lead levels in the water exceeding the federal standard to trigger remediation and to elevated lead levels in the blood of some Flint children.

The $6 million will go toward a contract between the city and the Detroit system to pay for water service until next summer when a new regional pipeline to Lake Huron is expected to be completed. The Mott Foundation is putting up $4 million and the city of Flint the remaining $2 million.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: The House unanimously passed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB484301" } Wednesday, which would protect minors seeking medical treatment, or helping a minor seek medical treatment, for an overdose or other drug-related illness or injury from possession charges.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville) introduced the bill in response to the loss of Mason Mizwicki, a Watervliet teenager whose mother, Lori Mizwicki, has been an advocate for greater awareness of the prescription drug problem.

"Even taking up the legislation has helped to start much-needed conversations about the problem," he said in a statement. "It's not isolated to one town or one portion of the state. This can happen to any teen, anywhere. We have to keep a spotlight on the issue."

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Third Grade Reading Bill Delayed In House With Votes Short

The House spent nearly 7 hours Wednesday attempting to gather enough votes to pass a bill designed to get third grade students reading proficiently, but eventually called it quits with a positive outlook on the bill's chances Thursday.

"Very definitely," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601&locid=1" } (R-Park Township), sponsor of { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB482201" } when asked if she thought the bill would pass Thursday.

"We're working really hard and a lot of our members had questions today, so we are in the process of answering a lot of those tomorrow," she told reporters after the long session.

Indeed, Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant), had earlier told reporters the questions coming from members were overwhelming and needed more time to be properly answered.

Both Democratic and Republican House members were in and out of the chamber on Wednesday, clearly attempting to come to some kind of agreement on the bill.

At about 7:30 p.m. the Democrats went into caucus, when they returned to session the House voted on the Flint water fix and then adjourned shortly after.

Ms. Price said it is hard to say what kind of changes might be made to the bill before final passage.

She said members didn't understand how much interaction there would be with the child once they have been identified as having a reading deficiency.

Ms. Price also said some members were concerned because students who were making progress in reading should be promoted from third grade.

"But if you are in third grade and you're still reading at first grade level and you've made progress since the beginning of first grade, is that enough progress?" She said. "You still need to, when you get into fourth grade, be able to read to learn. And if you're not there yet, it's going to be more difficult."

Katie Carey, spokesperson for House Democrats, agreed that there are a lot of questions and concerns from members. She said she is hopeful the chamber can come up with the votes to pass the bill Thursday.

Ms. Carey said Democratic members are looking for some changes in the retention piece of the bill and parental involvement.

"In the end we all have the same goal for this legislation. It's just a matter of how do you get there and what those look like," she said.

The bill, as reported form committee, would retain some third-graders who are reading more than a grade level behind, but it also provides for many intervention services before the third grade assessment and outlines "good cause" exemptions.

Similar legislation was controversial last term and was never able to be voted on by the full House.

Kosowski Proposes Sports Gambling For Road Funding

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601&locid=1" } on Wednesday told the House Regulatory Reform Committee one way to get more funding for the state's roads and bridges is to legalize sports gambling and simulcasting horse races at casinos in the state.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB446901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB447001" } would allow casinos to accept wagers on sporting events, remove the current prohibition on televising simulcast horse races at casinos and allow for wagers on the races as well.

Mr. Kosowski (D-Westland) said he would be open to expanding the bill to horse racing tracks in the state.

To actually become law, the bills have several obstacles to overcome. First, a two-thirds majority is needed from both chambers and would need voter approval during the general election. Additionally, a federal court found that New Jersey's efforts to legalize sports betting violated federal law.

But Mr. Kosowski said the court is going to re-hear the case and there is a chance the original decision would be overturned.

"There are bookies everywhere. We all know this. Why not regulate it?" Mr. Kosowski said.

Originally, Mr. Kosowski intended to use the legislation to get more road funding. But he said as he has done more research, he would like some of the revenue generated to go to the race tracks in the state, and some funds to go to gambling addiction treatment and prevention.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701&locid=1" } (R-Onekama), chair of the committee, asked Mr. Kosowski what kind of support he had for the bill, noting that he didn't have any co-sponsors. Mr. Kosowski said he doesn't ask for co-sponsors and he believes the support is there.

Joe Asher, CEO of William Hill U.S., a bookmaking company, told the committee regulating the business is best.

Mr. Asher said suspicious activity can be reported and investigated in real time. And, he said, since it is the company's money being used there is incentive to call and report such activity.

"Oversight and protection do not occur in Michigan, however, because the illegal operators ...exist, and are not regulated," he said.

Mr. Asher said if casinos outsource the bookmaking there is little risk to them because companies such as his often front the cost.

He also said there may be losing days or weeks in the business, but there are very few losing months.

George Kutlenios, president of the Michigan Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association, told the committee in June 2014 that Michigan thoroughbred horses returned to the Hazel Park raceway and saw 10,000 fans. He said attendance on regular days has consistently averaged 6,000 people.

Mr. Kutlenios said he appreciates the bill but would like to see a provision creating a relationship between any venue wishing to simulcast thoroughbred racing and a licensed state track to "ensure sustainability and quality of Michigan thoroughbred racing, and the resulting support to the state's agricultural industry can continue."

MMA AND BOXING REGULATIONS: The committee did report { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15201" }

and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15401" } regulating professional boxing, professional or amateur mixed martial arts or similar "unarmed combat."

The responsibilities of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission are outlined in SB 152, and that commission, alongside the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, would have jurisdiction over all boxing or MMA contests. The legislation also revises and establishes new regulations concerning the conduct of the events, as well as revises fee amounts for licenses to have such events.

Among the regulations are ensuring a contestant has been drug tested and having an on-site inspector. Women would also be required to submit a negative pregnancy test before competitions.

Michigan Chamber, Which Backed Peabody In 2014, Endorses Howell In 82nd

The Michigan Chamber announced on Wednesday its endorsement of Republicans Mary Whiteford in the 80th House District and Gary Howell in the 82nd House District, where former Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser are running for re-election, respectively.

Mary Whiteford of Casco Township lost to Ms. Gamrat (R-Plainwell) in the 2014 Republican primary for the seat. Ms. Gamrat was expelled from the House last month but has said the voters deserve a voice in the process and is attempting to win her job back.

"Mary Whiteford will be a strong supporter of job creation and economic growth and we are pleased to endorse her in this special election," said Michigan Chamber President and CEO Rich Studley, in a statement. "The residents of Allegan County deserve better representation. We believe Whiteford possesses the experience and strength of character necessary to serve the 80th House District well."

Ms. Whiteford also has the endorsement of the Great Lakes Education Project and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce political action committee.

Mr. Howell of North Branch is the Lapeer County Intermediate School District president and is taking on 11 other candidates in the 82nd District primary, including Mr. Courser (R-Lapeer), who resigned before he was able to be expelled from the House.

"Gary Howell understands the importance of pursuing policies based on individual freedom, incentive and opportunity to keep Michigan moving forward," said Jim Holcomb, senior vice president and general counsel for the Michigan Chamber, in a statement. "If elected, Howell will provide the residents of Lapeer County with the effective representation they deserve."

Endorsements in the 82nd District are split up more than in the 80th District. Former Rep. Kevin Daley has endorsed Chris Tuski of Lapeer, who is a farmer and volunteer firefighter. And GLEP has endorsed Jan Peabody of Lapeer, who lost in the 2014 primary to Mr. Courser.

In the 2014 Republican primary, the state Chamber endorsed Ms. Peabody. It did not endorse in the 80th.

The November 3 special election primary comes as Ms. Gamrat and Mr. Courser were participating in an extramarital affair together while serving in the House. An internal House Business Office investigation then found the two were misusing state resources to attempt personal and political gains.

Revenue From Increased Hunting, Licensing Fees Less Than Expected

Revenue generated from the increase in hunting and fishing license fees is about $5 million less than expected, Department of Natural Resources { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=302901&locid=1" } told the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

Mr. Creagh said the department expected $18 million from the change in fees in the 2014-15 fiscal year, but only saw $13 million. And in the 2013-14 fiscal year, which included seven months of the new fee structure, the department expected $11.8 million in new revenue, but only received $7.8 million.

Austin Scott, the House Fiscal Agency analyst for the DNR, said he expects to receive more revenue numbers for the fiscal year that ended two weeks ago.

Mr. Creagh said the changes in fees also changed buying patterns, as the licenses are shorter term rather than annual. He also said the increase in the out-of-state licenses has affected those hunters coming into the state.

A non-resident hunter must purchase a $150 base license and then purchase additional licenses for the species they wish to hunt, which range from $8 to $25. Out-of-state fishing licenses also increased from $42 to $67.

But, Mr. Creagh told the committee, the state is not out of line in its fees compared to neighboring states, and the fees are a bargain compared to states out west.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316901&locid=1" } (R-Bloomfield Hills) said many groups encouraged the increase in fees when the Legislature began considering them and noted it may simply take time for the increases to set in.

LANDFILL ODOR VIOLATIONS: The committee reported { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB478301" } , which would increase penalties under Michigan's waste management laws for first and second violations of the law from $10,000 and $25,000 each day, to $25,000 and $75,000, respectively.

The bill cleared the committee 25-0, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322301&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing) and { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=248901&locid=1" } (D-Sterling Heights) abstaining.

Mr. Yanez said he abstained from voting because the Department of Environmental Quality is working on updating the waste management laws and an additional series of bills could come up.

And { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville), chair of the committee, said he looks forward to working with Mr. Yanez on the issue, because he does not believe the bill increasing the fees will be the last piece of legislation on the issue.

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association was opposed to the bill, saying it would increase the fines for all firms and all violations, including compost facilities and municipal properties.

Mr. Pscholka, however, said the fines have not been increased since 1987.

"This is not out of the ordinary," he said. "This is something we should have been doing all along."

Mr. Pscholka introduced the bill in response to ongoing odor issues and a citation by the DEQ for inadequate daily cover by the Orchard Hill Landfill in Southwest Michigan.

"Let's go have a barbeque in one of these neighborhoods," he said in a statement. "You have to have a real sense of what it is like to have this in your backyard, for years. If you're not willing to put a little more pressure on these bad actors, you're saying you'd be willing to put a down payment on a house here."

Civil Rights Could Again Select Former Commissioner

The Department of Civil Rights could potentially have three of its four most recent directors also be members of the commission that heads it.

Among the three candidates to be interviewed to succeed retiring { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=350501&locid=1" } is Agustin Arbulu, who succeeded Mr. Wesaw on the commission in January 2013. He left the commission earlier this month and has yet to be replaced.

Mr. Arbulu is president of Metro Care Services, which provides health care and legal consulting in the Detroit area.

The other Michigan candidate is Portia Roberson, who is group executive for ethics and civil rights for the city of Detroit. Ms. Roberson was among those interviewed when Mr. Wesaw was hired and was discussed as a Democratic candidate for attorney general for the 2014 election.

And Akia Haynes is deputy director and general counsel for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, where she has served since January 2013. She has also served as a deputy attorney general for the state, as well as a private practice attorney.

Mr. Wesaw had been a member of the commission, and so had been Kelvin Scott, who served as director from February 2009 to February 2010 when he died. Both had served as chair of the commission.

House Panel Considering Regulation Of Charity Bins

What { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=360301&locid=1" }, chair of the House Local Government Committee, had thought would be a brief discussion turned contentious as local government groups raised concerns over his legislation to regulate charity donation bins.

All agreed the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was clear that the bins could not be prohibited (the court found they were charity speech and so protected under the First Amendment), but locals wanted to retain the right to oversee their location and maintenance.

Mr. Chatfield (R-Levering) said the goal of his bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB486201" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB486301" }) is to unify regulation of the bins, which allow people to leave clothing, books and other materials for the charity listed on the side.

Local governments had tried to ban the bins, arguing, as some still did Wednesday, that they attract not only legitimate donations but also trash dumping.

Suzanne Schultz, managing director of design, development and community engagement for the city of Grand Rapids, brought pictures of bins overflowing with various materials.

Ms. Schultz said allowing cities to control the locations through zoning would help, but she said communities needed to be able to issue civil infractions for bins that become a nuisance.

"Courts are not going to take this up if it's misdemeanors," she said, echoing others who had argued the penalties as laid out in the legislation would be too costly to enforce.

But Judy Allen with the Michigan Townships Association said limiting the location regulation to zoning would limit townships' ability to regulate the locations because of their lesser planning powers, and it could potentially leave some bins unregulated.

"Everyone who has a bin, they would be grandfathered in and be a nonconforming use," she said.

She also joined others in urging against a cap on the annual licensing fee. The bill provides for no more than $75, but since local governments cannot charge more than their costs anyway, she said taxpayers would have to subsidize the system if costs rise above that cap.

Mr. Chatfield said his goal with the bill was to create a system and uniformity across the state. But he also said the bills would allow communities to do some of the things their representatives had asked.

"If the bill doesn't prohibit it, there will be more things locals will be able to do," he said.

Officials with Planet Aid, which had been the defendant in the federal lawsuit, said the bill would allow their operations but would help to weed out those not caring for their bins.

Kai Nelson said his group checks its bins once a week and has systems in place to allow response within 24 hours if there is a problem reported.

But he said local government groups' call for agreements between the charity and the property owner are not necessarily workable. He said in many cases the properties where the group places collection boxes have absentee or corporate owners and a local property manager is the right person to make the agreement.

Mr. Nelson said the company would be open to provisions that would require even its existing boxes to be licensed and, if they do not meet siting requirements, moved. He said the company has already done that in some locales that have adopted regulatory ordinances.

Mr. Chatfield said he would continue to work with all of the parties to meet their concerns in the legislation.

TAX CAPTURE: In what was intended to be the primary focus of the meeting, libraries said any changes to tax increment financing authority laws have to allow them more say in captured taxes.

And Eric Lupher with the Citizens Research Council said the state needs to place more limits on the authorities.

"Libraries are having to return for more millages in the future when their revenues are being captured by tax increment finance authorities," Lance Werner with the Kent District Library, speaking for the Michigan Library Association, said. "We're living within our means but our means are being siphoned away."

He noted, for instance, that the Litchfield library loses 47 percent of its funds to tax capture.

Mr. Werner said the libraries did not object to all tax capture authorities, but they should be given more power to choose which ones are appropriate to get library revenue. Current law, he said, allows them to accept all or reject all.

"We want to work with the tax captures ... so we can explain to our investors where our money is going," he said.

He said libraries should also be permitted to opt-in for all authorities. He said some provide for library revenue to automatically be captured and require the libraries to opt out.

Mr. Lupher said future authorities need to be given a limited time to operate. While courts have ruled that tax capture for economic development is constitutional, he said TIFAs have morphed into something that might not be.

"They're being used for police and fire; they're being used for street fairs," he said.

And he said they are being routinely renewed instead of expiring when an intended project is completed.

"There should be some finality to this," he said, adding that in many cases there is also less accountability for the funds.

"Those revenues have just been pushed off budget and you don't hear about it," he said.

Mr. Lupher, pointing to issues raised with recent millages to support the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Institute of Arts, said existing authorities also should be limited to capturing the taxes that are in existence when the authority is created. To capture any new taxes should require creation of a new authority, he said.

REWARDS: The committee also began discussions on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB429201" } , which would allow county commissions to approve up to $20,000 for rewards leading to arrests for certain crimes.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=321001&locid=1" } (R-Mason), sponsor of the bill, said in a recent incident where an Ingham County sheriff deputy was killed during a chase, the county was limited to offering $2,000 for information on the suspect, who had fled.

He said that limit was set in 1948.

"This money falls more in line with what the value of money is today," Mr. Cochran said of the bill. "This is a little more enticing to have people come forward."

Mr. Chatfield questioned whether the bill, which addresses only counties, should be expanded to cover other local governments under the same theory.

Senate Ends Deadline To Petition For DNA Test, Trial

The Senate voted unanimously Wednesday to eliminate the deadline in the law for a defendant convicted of a felony at trial, serving prison for that felony, to petition the court for DNA testing of biological material identified during an investigation that led to his or her conviction.

Those convicted of felonies may also request a new trial based on the results of that testing under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15101" }. Currently, such a petition must be filed by January 1, 2016.

Only Michigan and Louisiana currently have sunsets on such provisions.

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION: The Senate also approved { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB37201" }, which provides firefighter certification reciprocity with states that have the same certification as Michigan. The bill requires the state fire marshal to extend reciprocity certification to a firefighter from another state who seeks to work as a firefighter in Michigan as long as the individual was certified in another state after completing a program that meets or exceeds Michigan's standards.

"I have heard from many fire chiefs and local officials about how difficult and expensive it is to recruit and retain firemen in our local fire departments," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" } (R-Ida), sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "Part of the problem is that Michigan currently does not recognize out-of-state firefighter certification. This legislation will improve our local fire departments ability to protect families and staff their departments at appropriate levels."

State Unemployment Rate Falls Below National Rate For First Time Since 2000

News that Michigan's unemployment rate fell to 5 percent in September, putting it below the national unemployment rate for the first time in 15 years, brought plenty of cheers Wednesday.

The national unemployment rate in September was 5.1 percent.

"We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come. Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said in a statement. "Today we are below the national average for the first time since August 2000. This means more people in Michigan are able to use their skills and are finding fulfilling jobs to support themselves and their families, making our cities and our communities stronger in a variety of ways."

Mr. Snyder posted a photo of him from 2000 on his Twitter feed with much less gray hair and a beard to commemorate the occasion.

Employment rose for the month by 10,000, and the labor force was up, too, by 3,000.

In the past year, the unemployment rate has fallen from 6.7 percent, and employment is up by 68,000.

"Since early 2015, several key labor market indicators have shown improvement in Michigan and in the nation," Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, said in a statement. "Monthly unemployment rates in the state and nation have been comparable, as have over-the-year payroll job growth rates."

Bridge Authority Has 6 Potential Bidders

The Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority announced Wednesday that six companies had responded to its request for qualifications to build the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

The authority is now submitting the qualifications to a review panel of authority members and experts to determine the three most qualified potential bidders.

"The private sector has shown a vibrant interest in working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, between this RFP, the responses we received to our recent RFP for early works, as well as the recently-held Industry Days," Mark McQueen, chair of the authority's board of directors, said in a statement. "Although site preparation has already begun for the eventual construction of the new Canadian Customs plaza, businesses and travelers on both sides of the border understand that the completion of the new bridge is dependent upon the successful conclusion of the pending RFP process."

Committee Roundup

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS: The Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday began taking testimony on reviewing boilerplate language that requires reports of agencies that spend more than $500,000 in new or expanded programs.

The first programs up for review were making Michigan a no-wait state for senior home-delivered meals and in-home services; child welfare performance-based funding; and the Ok2Say school safety hotline.

"This is harder work than passing budgets, is going back and checking and seeing if we're delivering on our promises," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701&locid=1" } (R-Clarklake), whose idea it was to conduct such reviews, said in committee. "The intent of this is not necessarily to review why we did something. The intent is to review whether what we said we were going to accomplish is actually occurring."

By and large, Mr. Shirkey and other members of the committee requested more specific and detailed metrics, especially identifiable metrics like number comparisons, of all of the programs reviewed Wednesday. The committee expects to review another three programs next week, and chair { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701&locid=1" } (R-Lowell)

recommended that members consider the practice for their own subcommittees when and where possible.

Capital Notebook

DEADLINE THURSDAY FOR LOCALS TO APPLY FOR GRANTS PROGRAM: Municipalities have until 11:59 p.m. Thursday to apply for the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, and Townships grant program. Any city, village or township experiencing one or more conditions of "probable financial distress," under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB86501" }, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, is eligible to apply.

STATE CHRISTMAS TREE HAILS FROM WAKEFIELD: A 66-foot spruce from Wakefield in the Upper Peninsula will serve as the state's Christmas tree this year.

Florence Daniels is donating the tree to the state in memory of her husband, Jim Daniels, a former teacher and youth sports coach.

The tree will arrive October 31, and as per longtime tradition, be illuminated at the annual Silver Bells in the City celebration that Lansing holds to kick off the holiday season Friday, November 20.

MACMHB ANNOUNCES CEO: The executive board of the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards has announced Robert Sheehan will lead the organization as chief executive officer effective immediately. Prior to his new role, he served for 18 years at the CEO of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties.

Mr. Sheehan replaces Michael Vizena as CEO of MACMHB. Mr. Vizena is retiring.

"Behavioral health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities affect so many of Michigan's residents, and are central to overall health, yet are often overlooked or stigmatized in the public eye," Mr. Sheehan said in a statement. "I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the Association's members - hundreds of innovative provider and healthcare management organizations across the state - as they serve those in our communities with behavioral health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families."

LAND LEASES: The Department of Transportation will be leasing { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/Ag_Lease_Sealed-Bid_Sale_Brochure_11-4-2015_10-7-15_502352_7.pdf" \t "blank" } of land around the state for agricultural use only.

The lease sale is scheduled for November 4 at 10 a.m. (doors open at 9 a.m.) at the Office of Aeronautics Auditorium at Capital City Airport, 2700 Port Lansing Road in Lansing.

Those interested in bidding must attend and provide a sealed bid for each parcel.

CASINO REVENUE: Two of the three Detroit casinos saw revenue increase both for the month of September and for the third quarter, the Gaming Control Board announced Wednesday.

MotorCity Casino saw the most growth, with the $35.7 million it collected in September representing a 7.5 percent increase over the same month in 2014. For third quarter, its revenue was up 3.6 percent over the same period in 2014.

MGM Grand Detroit was up 4.6 percent in September to $45.2 million and up 0.5 percent for the quarter.

Greektown Casino saw revenue decline 0.1 percent for the month to $26.6 million and 2.4 percent for the quarter.

Appointments By The Governor

BOARD OF MECHANICAL RULES: Robert Fosburg of Caledonia, Christopher Freeman of South Lyon, Catherine Gay of Troy, Daniel Grafmiller of Fenton, Kenneth Misiewicz of Lake Odessa and Mark Riley of Berkley are reappointed for terms expiring October 1, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY: Jill Marlan of DeWitt succeeds Vijay Kumar, who resigned, to represent professionals for a term expiring December 31, 2016. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

IRON INDUSTRY MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD: Charles Swanson of Marquette and Bob Niemela of Ontonagon are reappointed for terms expiring October 4, 2019. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Elaine Didier of Plymouth succeeds Tara Fulton to represent librarians from a special library, and Judith Houser of Waterford is reappointed, both for terms expiring October 1, 2018. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" **}** of St. Clair is appointed to represent the Legislature, filling a vacancy, and Deana Strudwick of White Pigeon succeeds Sondra Stegenga, who resigned, to represent public or private providers of early intervention services. The appointments are for the remainder of terms expiring October 31, 2016. Barbara Corbin of Jenison, Judy Goth-Owens of East Lansing, Lauren Heilman of Cadillac and Prachi Shah of Ann Arbor are reappointed for terms expiring October 31, 2019. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE: James "Jim" Matthews of Grand Haven succeeds Eleonora Huskey to represent pharmacists, and Margo Farber of Grosse Pointe Park, Steven Hadesman of Bingham Farms, Anthony Ognjan of Shelby Township

and Victoria Tutag Lehr of Birmingham are reappointed. The appointments are for terms expiring October 1, 2017, and are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SKI AREA SAFETY BOARD: James Grundstrom of Negaunee succeeds Jim VanderSpoel to represent public members from the Upper Peninsula, and Steve Robinson of Birmingham succeeds Ron Edwards to represent engineers with ski experience. Mr. Grundstrom's appointment is for a term expiring June 8, 2018. Mr. Robinson's appointment is for a term expiring June 8, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Appointments By The Supreme Court

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Robert Gardella is reappointed commissioner-at-large for a three-year term beginning upon adjournment of the 2015 annual meeting of the outgoing board. Brian Shekell and Krista Haroutunian are appointed commissioners-at-large for three-year terms beginning upon adjournment of the 2015 annual meeting of the outgoing board.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 15

~~Canceled:~~ { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=88401&locid=1" }~~,~~{ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/elections.html" \t "blank" }~~), (Chr.~~ { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001&locid=1" }~~, 373-1721), Room 210, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.~~

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4904 01" **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001" }) Provides for the presidential primary election as a regular election date and clarifies filing deadlines for candidates for local office and for all local ballot question.

" }
{ AVIATION FEES ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701" **}**) Removes certain
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{ PREVAILING PARTY FEES ({ HYPERLINK
HYP "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001" **}**) Removes certain
ERLI restrictions on the award of costs and fees to prevailing party in a case involving this state.
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Click the ☑ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:40 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 15, 2015

News

Chief judges appointed to improve trial courts (Associated Press, 10/15/2015)

House OKs bill shielding youth who report drug overdoses (Associated Press, 10/15/2015)

Bill banning powdered alcohol on way to becoming law (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Can Flint residents sue over bad water? (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Road funding talks enter 'cooling off' phase (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

State jobless rate below national average (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Flint's $2 million share for Detroit water reconnection a done deal (Flint Journal, 10/15/2015)

When did state know about lead in Flint water? 6 takeaways from Snyder plan (Flint Journal, 10/15/2015)

Civil Rights Department names director finalists (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Michigan state employees would see raises under deals (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Poll: Minimum nurse staffing levels a win with voters (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder backs presumptive parole proposal as AG Bill Schuette leads opposition (MLive, 10/15/2015)

Fed corruption probe targets DPS, EAA officials (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

House OKs $9.3M for Flint water switch (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Right to Life sits out Gamrat, Courser GOP primaries (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Editorials

Michigan's mounting water failures (Detroit Free Press, 10/15/2015)

Stabenow: Equipping a new generation of workers (Lansing State Journal, 10/15/2015)

Lawmakers have lost their minds, and it's time to call them out (Michigan Radio, 10/15/2015)

Snyder, Schuette must act now to take oil out of Straits pipeline (MLive, 10/15/2015)

COLUMN: Pass presumptive parole reform to save millions without threatening public safety (Oakland Press, 10/15/2015)

Lawmakers need to fix school problems, not add to them (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/15/2015)

Finley: Road deal too elusive, too long (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Gamrat's campaign takes its cue from Kardashians (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Howes: Roads impasse 'embarrassing' for leaders, GOP (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

McNeilly: Will Lansing side with corporations or kids? (The Detroit News, 10/15/2015)

Blogs

Whiston, The Parliamentarian (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/14/2015)

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 10:56 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Flint Water Funds Head To Snyder

Thursday, October 15, 2015, 10:56 AM

Flint Water Funds Head To Snyder

The Senate wasted no time in approving today more than $9 million to help pay for temporarily returning the city of Flint to the Detroit water system and fund additional staffing in the city's schools to gauge the exposure to lead.

The fix came with unanimous passage of HB 4102, a supplemental appropriations bill the House passed late Wednesday.

The bill allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for the Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for the department's laboratory services; $1 million for Department of Health and Human Services emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow-up services for children, including lead testing and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) expressed thanks for his colleagues' support in the matter. The move to pump water for the city from the Flint River without proper corrosion controls allowed lead in service lines and welds to leach into the drinking water at levels beyond those requiring remediation.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in Thursday's Michigan Report.

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Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:51 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Thursday, October 15, 2015
Attachments: Oct15Senate.htm; Oct15.htm; Oct15House.htm

Michigan Report for Thursday, October 15, 2015

Most Dems Drop Support As Third Grade Reading Bill Passes

Educator Evaluations Appear Finally Set As House OKs Bill

Ananich On Flint Water Funds: 'This Is By No Means Over'

Driskell Leads Walberg In Third Quarter Fundraising, Gilbert Tops $200,000

Pavlov Introduces Bills To Prohibit Sale Of Fetal Tissue, Parts

Domestic Violence Package Clears House

EAA Official Pleads To Tax Evasion In Corruption Probe

Dems Plan Legislation With Minimum Nurse Staffing Standards

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Most Dems Drop Support As Third Grade Reading Bill Passes

While Democrats were hopeful after a late session Wednesday they would be able to support a bill designed to get elementary students reading proficiently before entering fourth grade, in the end, House Republicans passed the bill Thursday with only three Democratic lawmakers in support.

The bill, HB 4822, cleared the chamber 57-48. Immediately after the bill's passage, both Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) requested they be removed as co-sponsors.

Under the bill, students could be retained in the third grade if they do not test proficiently in reading. The bill does outline multiple reading intervention programs in an effort to get students reading at grade level before retention is necessary. There are also "good cause exemptions" outlined in the legislation.

Additionally, in a change adopted Thursday, the retention portion of the bill would not go into effect until the 2019-20 school year, a two year delay from what was in the reported version of the bill.

Democrats speaking on the House floor said they were concerned about the lack of parental involvement in the retention process, the negative impacts of retention and the possibility that the funding in the current year budget for literacy programs would not actually cover the costs to schools.

Mr. Zemke, who had been working with fellow Democrats and the bill's sponsor, Rep. Amanda Price (R-Park Township), on an agreement, said in his opposition speech he still considered Ms. Price a friend, though she might not feel the same.

Mr. Zemke said he was voting no because an amendment he offered, which would allow a student who has been working on an individualized reading plan since the end of second grade, but was still not proficient in reading by the end of third grade, to move on to the next grade level while still working the individualized plan, was not adopted.

"I am not going to remove the hope of a 9-year-old. Period," he said on the House floor. "You want to see what's going to happen when you paint that picture. ... They're working hard, they're playing by the rules, they're doing everything right. ... And then you take it away. What do you think they're going to do for the rest of their educational career? They're not going to try. Because they played by the rules and they got screwed anyway."

Ms. Price said she was disappointed to lose Mr. Zemke's support, but said his proposed amendment watered down the retention provisions in the bill to a point where she was no longer comfortable.

"I understand what he was saying," she said. "But right from the get-go, the line in the sand has been for people to say, 'No, you need to read.' And we can't keep promoting kids because we're not getting them where they need to be."

Ms. Price said the reason the House worked so hard to get the bill passed this week rather than working longer behind the scenes is she wanted to get it done before the Legislature finds itself in an election year and before other education policy debates, like Detroit Public Schools, come up.

According to the House Fiscal Agency analysis, in the 2013-14 school year as many as 39 percent or 42,500 third grade students did not test proficiently in reading under the Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

With the "more rigorous" National Assessment of Educational Progress test, in 2013, 69 percent of fourth-graders did not reach proficient reading levels.

Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto) said the bill is not a reactive, retention-focused measure. She said it includes many intervention programs that work to help students improve their reading.

"It is not acceptable to allow our kids to not be able to read and yet send them along their way," she said.

Rep. Harvey Santana (D-Detroit), one of the three Democrats who voted for the bill, said there is a 47 percent illiteracy rate in Detroit. He said current policies tell children in Detroit, "It's okay to be a failure."

He criticized comments from other members saying retention would emotionally impact children.

"How emotionally affected is that third-grader going to be when they grow up to be an adult with kids of their own who they cannot take care of because the system failed them?" he said.

The Great Lakes Education Project praised the passage of the bill, saying it was "a great day for school children in Michigan."

"We extend our deep appreciation to Rep. Amanda Price, the chair of the House Education Committee and the bill's primary sponsor, as well as to House leadership and those 57 members who voted to help kids today," GLEP Executive Director Gary Naeyaert said in a statement. "As the leading advocacy organization supporting this bill, we are confident Senator Phil Pavlov and the Senate Education Committee will schedule hearings soon so this common sense policy can be evaluated and passed in the Senate and then sent to the governor for his signature."

The bill outlines intervention programs for children before they go into the third grade. Students are allowed to be taught other subjects that they are proficient in - like reading and math - in a fourth grade setting, while still receiving reading interventions at the third grade level. There are also good-cause exemptions to retention outlined in the bill.

The Department of Education would be required to approve at least three reliable reading assessment systems and recommend or create a reading/literacy coach model. The reading/literacy coach would be required to undertake 11 tasks, including working with teachers to diagnose and address reading deficiency.

The bill would increase the costs for the department, but the 2015-16 fiscal year budget included $900,000 to implement the early literacy initiatives. The school aid budget also included additional funding for a portion of the implementation costs for schools.

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, school boards and charter school boards of directors would be required to select one of the reading assessments from the MDE and provide any student with a reading deficiency at any time with a reading improvement plan and provide notice to parents about the student's reading deficiency.

Reading intervention programs for those students showing a deficiency would need to include a screening of progress at least three times per year; provide a highly effective core reading instruction; and take place during regular school hours. Parents would also receive a "read at home" plan.

Educator Evaluations Appear Finally Set As House OKs Bill

The House on Thursday passed a bill outlining teacher and administrator evaluations in the state, and the bill appears to have an easy path through the Senate and onto Governor Rick Snyder's desk.

The bill, SB 103, passed 97-8 after four months of debate in the House and many changes - following a tough debate during the 2013-14 term. The bill was initially controversial, as Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of Senate Education Committee, took a different approach from the House versions of the legislation drafted during the last term.

Mr. Pavlov, after the bill passed Thursday, said he was comfortable where the House went with the legislation.

"They're protecting my key tenants, and that is that, one, any money that goes to the department is dedicated toward actual training," he said. "The second thing I wanted to make sure happened was it didn't water down the historic reforms we got on tenure. Thirdly, the important concept was locals would have the ability to form and choose a model that best fits their situation."

The House-passed version of the bill establishes both training requirements and options for school districts and public school academies to develop their own teacher evaluation tool or

make modifications to an existing tool. Changes added Thursday stipulated the funding for training must come from the Educator Evaluation Reserve Fund

Since the bill originated in the Senate, the chamber has to concur in the House changes to send it to Governor Rick Snyder's desk.

Rep. Daniela Garcia (R-Holland), the vice chair of the House Education Committee, said the bill avoids a "one-size-fits-all" evaluation system.

"Under this legislation, school districts will have the flexibility to decide on their own evaluation standards to meet that goal," she said in a statement. "The House has included additional language that will make certain teachers, principals and superintendents are all familiar with and trained in their district's evaluation methods."

Under the bill, the Department of Education would have to establish and maintain a list of teacher and administrator evaluation tools, and the list would have to, at the very least, include the tools recommended by the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness in 2013. Districts do not have to use the same tool for teachers and administrators.

For teachers, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, 40 percent of the year-end evaluation would be based on student growth, with half coming from the state assessment and half coming from a local assessment.

For administrators, beginning immediately, 25 percent of the annual evaluation would be based on student growth and assessment data. The data is an aggregate of student growth data used in teacher evaluations in the district where the administrator works.

Training for teachers and administrators on evaluation tools is also required. School districts and PSAs could create a consortium to conduct the trainings. All evaluators and observers would also be required to receive training from a person who has expertise in the training tool.

A school district or public school academy could also develop its own tool, and the department would promulgate rules for how a district would submit its tool for placement on the list. Also required under the bill is for the district or PSA to publish on its website a variety of information about the evaluation tool and the evaluation process beginning in the 2016-17 school year.

Ananich On Flint Water Funds: 'This Is By No Means Over'

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich was both heartened and relieved Thursday to have a supplemental appropriations bill unanimously approved in the Senate to provide $9.35 million to help his city of Flint get better water faster, but it was a cautious optimism as there is much left to do, he said.

Of the money, $6 million will go toward switching from the Flint River as the city's source for drinking water back to the Detroit system. Insufficient corrosion control for the river water

caused lead in the service lines and pipes to leach into the water, leading to led levels above federal standards for remediation and rising levels of lead in Flint children's blood.

"As soon as we switch over to Detroit, we're not going to automatically have clean, drinkable water. We're still going to have to use the filters, still going to have to make sure they take precautions, because it takes a while to rebuild the corrosion controls against the pipes," Mr. Ananich (D-Flint) told the press after session. "I'm not an expert by any means, but it could be a few months.

"The one benefit I do think we have going forward is Flint will probably be the most tested water anywhere in the world over the next six months, as it should be, to make sure we rebuild that trust," he said.

The Senate decided quickly to take up HB 4102, as the House sent it over Wednesday evening after a unanimous vote among representatives as well.

And within hours, Governor Rick Snyder signed the bill into law, becoming PA 143 of 2015 with immediate effect.

"This funding is a coordinated response to a serious problem and I'm pleased so many parties came together to help deliver safe drinking water to the city of Flint," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "Reconnecting to the Great Lakes Water Authority is only the first step, as the state will continue testing and inspections to ensure Flint families and children have clean water in their homes and schools."

A week ago, Mr. Snyder called on the Legislature to provide funding to the city to help it in its efforts to switch back to the Detroit water system and have staff from both the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health and Human Services. During that time, and even before, there had been a lot of finger-pointing about who ought to ultimately be responsible for the crisis that has caused Flint to go on high alert due to elevated levels of lead in its water.

And many of those questions of accountability remain, Mr. Ananich said.

"(The switch) was during the period of an emergency manager, and there wasn't many decisions allowed to be made by local elected officials. I can't speak about whether they were part of the conversations or not," he said. "It was the decision of the emergency manager to switch over, a decision by a different emergency manager to stay on it, and a third emergency manager denied the request to go back.

"It definitely needs to be looked at, the emergency manager laws, make sure there's some accountability on the back-end before they leave. They shouldn't be leaving cities with such crises when they leave," Mr. Ananich said.

But the other question is who should look at what and how. Mr. Ananich said he wasn't sure yet whether the state should investigate itself (effectively), a commission should review the situation, the Legislature should make changes to existing laws or create new ones, or more.

"All those questions need to be looked at," he said. "I'm not 100 percent sure exactly what method it should be, but I think it's warranted to have a further look at what happened, what mistakes were made, and how to make sure it doesn't ever happen again in cities like Flint but also across the state.

"This isn't a victory for my community. This is a fix to a problem that never should've happened," he said.

The supplemental appropriations allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Of the $9.35 million allocated, $7.15 million is from the General Fund.

Driskell Leads Walberg In Third Quarter Fundraising, Gilbert Tops $200,000

The highly touted challengers to U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop and U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg posted strong fundraising totals in the third quarter, based on campaign finance reports filed Thursday.

The reports showed their Democratic challengers, Rep. Gretchen Driskell (D-Saline) and former "Little House on the Prairie" star Melissa Gilbert, with strong hauls.

But the reports also showed a number of candidates with steep hills to climb in their efforts to either be their party's nominee or to unseat the incumbent.

In what could be the closest funding race based on reports available at press time, Ms. Driskell, the latest Democrat to face off against Mr. Walberg (R-Tipton), raised $203,698 for the third quarter and $523,610 for the cycle, leaving $435,004 cash on hand.

"Working families, students, and seniors across the 7th District are standing behind our campaign, and we are really proud to be building grassroots momentum from a network of neighbors," Ms. Driskell said in a statement announcing her fundraising. "It's because of their enthusiasm and support that we'll continue to attract the resources necessary to win."

Mr. Walberg raised only $133,160 for the quarter. But he had raised $753,284 so far for the election cycle and had $922,034 in cash on hand.

In the 8th U.S. House District, Ms. Gilbert raised $200,372, all in the third quarter. She had $183,317 left in cash on hand. It was her first report since declaring her candidacy.

Mr. Bishop (R-Rochester) had not filed his reports as of press time. The deadline was 11:59 p.m. Thursday

In the 1st U.S. House District, Jerry Cannon, the Democratic nominee in 2014, appeared to have donors staying away in droves. His first report for his new committee showed he raised only $3,640 and spent nothing. Mr. Cannon created a new campaign committee for his second run and did not show the transfer of any funds from those coffers, having spent the full $1 million he raised.

Former Michigan Democratic Party Chair Lon Johnson, expected to be the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, reported $350,977, all raised in the latest quarter. Of that, he had $293,265 left in cash.

U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek (R-Crystal Falls) is not seeking re-election and so far no Republicans have stepped up to replace him.

Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba), one of those named as a possible candidate, has retained an active campaign account from his prior run for the seat and reported raising a net $180 so far for the election cycle (he returned $2,700 in contributions). He showed $12,759 in cash on hand, but $22,570 in debt.

Paul Clements, so far the sole Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph), had $135,374 in cash after raising $154,808 so far toward the election, $151,126 last quarter. He has spent $29,100 toward his second effort to unseat Mr. Upton.

Mr. Upton had not yet filed his reports, but historically has raised substantially more than Mr. Clements is reporting.

In the race to succeed U.S. Rep. Candice Miller (R-Harrison Township), former Sen. Alan Sanborn reported raising just $4,070 for the third quarter and $46,337 overall. That left him $25,851 cash on hand.

Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-Saint Clair), in contrast, raised $57,349 for the quarter and $164,729 total for the cycle toward his effort to succeed Ms. Miller. He reported $126,153 cash on hand.

Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey, who is challenging U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr. (D-Detroit), now the longest-serving member in the U.S. House, brought in $18,840, all in the third quarter. She had $7,900 cash on hand. Ms. Winfrey formed her committee late in the quarter, on September 21, so had little time to raise money before the close of books on September 30.

Mr. Conyers did not report much of a war chest either, but it was still substantially larger at $40,588. He raised $42,997 for the third quarter and $193,322 for the cycle.

Pavlov Introduces Bills To Prohibit Sale Of Fetal Tissue, Parts

Sen. Phil Pavlov is leading the charge in the Senate to prohibit compensation for the distribution or transfer of any portion of an embryo, fetus or neonate obtained as the result of an elective abortion, introducing two bills on the matter on Thursday that were sent to the newly created Senate Oversight Committee.

The bills come amid a controversy over Planned Parenthood charging for the costs of acquiring such tissue.

"The key is we need to protect the unborn in the state of Michigan, and these bills do that," Mr. Pavlov (R-St. Clair) said of SB 564 and SB 565.

The first bill states "a person shall not knowingly financially benefit from or receive any type of compensation for the distribution or transfer of any portion of an embryo, fetus, or neonate including any organs, tissues, or cells that were obtained as the result of an elective abortion."

Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive), who is one of the 17 Republican co-sponsors to SB 564 and SB 565, the latter of which enacts sentencing guidelines for a violation of the prohibitions in SB 564, deferred questions on the bills to Mr. Pavlov, noting that he has been in numerous conversations with various members of the caucus on the matter.

Asked about that level of prioritization in the Senate Republican caucus, Mr. Pavlov said, "The leader saw it fit to create a special committee to examine the issues of the unborn and protecting the unborn in Michigan. This is all about taking away any financial motivation to sell or traffic these elective abortion procedures."

Planned Parenthood has said repeatedly it does not sell fetal tissue, but only seeks to compensation for the costs of obtaining the tissue, storing it and transporting it.

Indeed, the Senate Oversight Committee where the bills were sent, was created in mid-September, with Sen. Peter MacGregor (R-Rockford) as chair and Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall (R-White Lake Township) as majority vice chair (See Gongwer Michigan Report, September 17, 2015).

Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker (R-Lawton) and Sen. Jim Stamas (R-Midland) are also on the committee, as well as named co-sponsors to the bills. Sen. Vincent Gregory (D-Southfield) was designated as the lone Democratic member of the committee.

Mr. Pavlov said he could not speak to specific instances of such things happening in Michigan, but pointed to the national controversy related to Planned Parenthood that he said prompted the desire to draft some kind of legislation.

The controversy, of course, happened over the summer when The Center for Medical Progress, an anti-abortion organization, secretly recorded and edited a video of Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical research, Deborah Nucatola, talking about procedural techniques to preserve certain organs that can later be donated for research purposes, which is legal. It would be illegal to sell any tissue.

She also says in the video Planned Parenthood is sensitive about being seen as gaining a profit from these donations, and will charge for shipping and other costs the clinic takes on in the course of making donations.

Planned Parenthood has denied selling organs and charged that the video was heavily edited to give a false impression.

Additionally, earlier this week, Planned Parenthood announced it would no longer accept any reimbursement as part of its fetal tissue donation program, Lori Carpentier, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood for mid and south Michigan, said Thursday.

"So it doesn't change anything that will happen for us," Ms. Carpentier said. "In order to take this off the table as a sticking point for our opponents, we're not going to take reimbursement. And to the extent we have any, we'll find ways to cover those costs ourselves."

More important to her and her organization at this point, she said, is the hope that Mr. Pavlov's legislation doesn't have any effects on the "important medical research that comes as a result of fetal tissue donation."

"I think my concern about this is the Legislature may be dinking around in areas where they are unfamiliar with," she said. "As is commonly the case, legislators put these things together ... don't create specifics and often create limbo positions."

But Mr. Pavlov said he is not sold on someone's word.

"When someone tells you you're not doing something, you require them to prove a negative," he said. "Partial birth abortion has been banned, but we just saw through a series of videos that it's still taking place. We're going to make sure we put an end to it and protect the unborn child."

Asked how the language might affect stem cell research or in vitro fertilization procedures, Mr. Pavlov said he did not think it would affect either.

"I think it's pretty clear. Part of the strength of the bill is its simplicity," he said. How it is proven that a person "knowingly" did so is not defined in the bill, however.

Mr. MacGregor did not immediately return a request for comment on when his committee might take up Mr. Pavlov's legislation, but Mr. Pavlov said he just had a conversation with Mr. MacGregor about the matter on Wednesday when the bill was still on Mr. Pavlov's desk.

Domestic Violence Package Clears House

A father who was found by "clear and convincing" evidence to have raped the mother would be denied visitation or custody under bills passed Thursday by the House that create "sensible" protections for the victims of domestic violence.

The lead bill, HB 4481, passed 101-4, would allow a court, after a fact-finding hearing where evidence presented was deemed clear and convincing, to deny custody and visitation with the child to the father.

"Michigan needs to send a message that we stand with the victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape," Rep. Lisa Posthumus Lyons (R-Alto), sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "Too often in cases of sexual assault and domestic violence, a rapist will use the threat of seeking custody of the child to intimidate pregnant victims into not pressing criminal charges of the attack. It is unthinkable that we would allow this to occur when we have the ability to provide victims with the protection and peace of mind they need in order to heal."

The other bills in the package passed Thursday were HB 4476 and HB 4477, which passed 104-1 and would revise the service of process in actions appealed to the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals if a court order has been issued to prohibit release of the address of the party being served and make changes to the mediation process if domestic violence was involved, respectively.

HB 4478 passed 96-9 and would allow a personal protection order to include a pet. And HB 4479 passed 103-2 and would treat an assault against a pregnant woman the same as domestic violence in terms of repeated offenses.

EAA Official Pleads To Tax Evasion In Corruption Probe

The Education Achievement Authority has been added to the list of Detroit institutions subject to a Federal Bureau of Investigation corruption inquiry with the guilty plea Thursday of former Mumford High School Principal Kenyetta Wilbourn-Snapp.

The Detroit News reported Thursday that investigators had been looking into the relationship between Ms. Wilbourn-Snapp and at least one of the district's contractors.

The district, designed as part of the Snyder administration's efforts to improve school performance, has been the subject of criticism both for its efforts in that direction and for its administrative operations.

The Detroit Free Press reported Thursday afternoon that Ms. Wilbourn-Snapp had accepted a plea in relation to an investigation into kick-backs she received. The paper said documents showed a possible relationship with Allstate Sales and For-Most Educational Consulting and Training Group.

Sara Wurfel, spokesperson for the Snyder administration, declined to comment on the investigation beyond noting, as did a statement from the EAA, that it was an internal review that uncovered financial discrepancies that pointed to the alleged corruption. State and EAA officials had forwarded that information to federal law enforcement.

"Our office was in full coordination in reporting and bringing to light with appropriate state and federal law enforcement agencies," Ms. Wurfel said in an email response.

The district, created through an interlocal agreement between Detroit Public Schools and Eastern Michigan University, was intended to receive struggling schools from around the state but so far has only 15 Detroit schools.

Former Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan had canceled the contract with the EAA to be the sole recipient for any schools taken over by the state for poor performance, in part over concerns raised that the tactics the EAA was employing were not actually improving student achievement.

The district was also slammed for spending on furnishings and travel under its initial chancellor, John Covington.

EAA supporters have been working since early in the last legislative session to codify the EAA to be clear that it had the authority to oversee schools other than in Detroit, but so far have come up short in that effort.

Dems Plan Legislation With Minimum Nurse Staffing Standards

The Michigan Nurses Association on Thursday said a poll commissioned by the group shows 80 percent of voters support having minimum staffing standards for nurses working in the state.

Currently there is no law, but Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) and Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) are planning to introduce legislation in their respective chambers.

"Michigan residents are saying loud and clear that our registered nurses are being forced to care for too many patients at once," Mr. Hoadley said. "Chronic nurse understaffing jeopardizes the care and safety of people in our hospitals every day. The only real solution is to pass a law that gives nurses enough time to spend with each patient and provide individualized care."

The Safe Patient Care Act the lawmakers plan to introduce includes implementing a staffing plan specific to each unit that adheres to minimum nurse-to-patient ratios based on research and national professional standards; limiting mandatory registered nurse overtime to instances of genuine emergencies; disclosing actual registered nurse staffing levels; and informing patients how to report potential violations of the law.

Rep. Larry Inman (R-Williamsburg) said it is time for a public policy conversation on staffing levels for nurses in the state.

"It's just plain wrong that when you go into the hospital, your nurse could have far too many patients to be safe," he said. "A nurse's workload can literally be a matter of life or death for you or your loved one. This is a case where the government needs to enact reasonable standards to protect all its citizens, and I'm glad to see bipartisan movement toward achieving that."

The poll commissioned by the group also showed 77 percent of voters agree that "the quality of patient care in MI hospitals is suffering because registered nurses are being assigned too many patients per shift." And 44 percent of households with an overnight hospital stay in the past two years believe the quality of care suffered due to nurses having too many patients at one time.

The statewide survey of 600 Michigan voters was commissioned by the Michigan Nurses Association and conducted by telephone (landlines and cell phones) September 8-14 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, a statement said.

Anderson Robbins Research, a Boston firm, conducted the survey and was chosen because it has worked with both nursing and hospital organizations and Democratic and Republican clients, the group said.

Revenues Mostly Steady In September

State revenues were $30.8 million better than expected in September, but entirely because of a $42.6 million reimbursement the state received from the federal government in home heating credit refunds, a Senate Fiscal Agency report released Thursday showed.

Revenues to the School Aid Fund were $38.3 million more than forecast in May, while revenues to the General Fund were $8 million less than expected.

Through September, revenues to the General Fund are $25.9 million below the May Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference forecast and revenues to the School Aid Fund are $66.9 million below expectations.

September was the first month since January that sales tax revenues exceeded the year-over-year figure for the month from the previous year.

Net income tax revenues were up 11.6 percent from September 2014. Also up from the previous year was the sales tax (3.3 percent), the state education property tax (13 percent) and the Real Estate Transfer Tax (3.1 percent).

Declining from year-ago levels were the Corporate Income Tax (-14.7 percent), the insurance tax (-95.4 percent) and the oil and gas severance tax (-48.5 percent).

Committee Roundup

PROMISE ZONES: The maximum number of eligible entities that may be certified by the Department of Treasury to establish educational promise zones assisting in affording a postsecondary education would increase from 10 to 15 under legislation reported by the Senate Economic Development and International Investment Committee Thursday.

SB 539 and SB 540 would also require a promise zone development plan to include provisions regarding the assessment and reporting of student performance, as well as allow Treasury to adjust the calculation of captured State Education Tax revenue if the boundaries of a promise zone were changed by a merger or other circumstance.

The bill also requires the property and assets of a dissolved promise zone authority to be used solely for the purposes of promoting access to postsecondary education, but the committee adopted an S-2 substitute to SB 539 that includes "trigger language" regarding such dissolutions,

one legislative aide told the committee. In it, a Promise Zone Development Plan must be submitted to Treasury within five years of a municipality deciding to have such a zone, and once that zone is granted by the state, the municipality must begin awarding scholarships within two years.

Language was also added to ensure Promise Zones include in their development plans how they'll track data on students.

The bills were unanimously reported to the full Senate for consideration.

Capital Notebook: Former President Clinton To Speak At MSU

Former President Bill Clinton is the first recipient of the Spartan Statesmanship Award for Distinguished Public Service and will be the keynote speaker at the Governor Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum on November 18 at Michigan State University.

Mr. Blanchard and his wife, Janet, donated $1 million for the program.

"The goal of this lecture series is to provide generations of students, faculty and people in the MSU community with the opportunity to hear and learn from national and international political leaders and others," Mr. Blanchard said in a statement. "(Mr. Clinton's) public service in politics, followed by his excellent work through the Clinton Foundation, is exactly the type of dedication and inspiring story we hoped to bring through the Blanchard Forum."

Mr. Blanchard was one of Mr. Clinton's most enthusiastic supporters when the then-Arkansas governor ran for president in 1992. After Mr. Clinton won, he named Mr. Blanchard the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

The Department of Political Science in MSU's College of Social Science administers the Blanchard Forum and statesmanship award.

The event will be held at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center and will serve as a fundraiser for the program, MSU said in a statement, with proceeds paying for student attendance at this event and future ones.

DEBANO DEPARTS RESTAURANTS ASSOCIATION: Brian DeBano, the president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurants Association, is leaving the organization after four years. A statement from the association said he was leaving to pursue future ventures but did not specify what those would be. Justin Winslow, the association's vice president of government affairs, will serve as interim president and CEO.

"Brian has left the MRA in great shape and for that we sincerely thank him," MRA Board of Directors Chairman Ken Miller said in a statement. "Under his leadership, the association is financially and operationally sound and our strong reputation remains intact. I have no doubt he will be successful in his future ventures."

TALBOT GETS FULL TERM AS CHIEF APPELLATE JUDGE: Court of Appeals Chief Judge Michael Talbot will keep the chief judge title through 2016, under a Supreme Court order released this week. The court named Mr. Talbot to the post in January to fill the remaining year of the term begun by then-Chief Judge William Murphy.

GROUP SUPPORTING ENERGY LEGISLATION STARTS COUNTDOWN CLOCK: Citizens for Michigan's Energy Future, a group that supports energy legislation backed by the chairs of the House and Senate energy committees, has started a "countdown clock" to mark when some coal-fired plants will be shuttered next year. The site also is designed to let visitors urge legislators to support SB 437 and SB 438 as well as HB 4297 and HB 4298.

"To account for growing capacity concerns, Michigan must responsibly replace the power we will lose due to these plant closures," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, spokeswoman for Citizens for Michigan's Energy Future.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR LEAVING: Michigan Workforce Development Agency Director Christine Quinn is resigning from her position to become regional administrator of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training, the state's Talent Investment Agency announced Thursday.

She will be headquartered at the federal department's regional office in Chicago and assumes her new duties on November 30.

Ms. Quinn will manage a team that oversees a 10-state region including Michigan. The regional office ensures that employment and training programs at the state level reflect the political and socio-economic conditions that impact state and local economies.

"Michigan has been fortunate to have someone of Christine's caliber spearheading these critical workforce development initiatives," said TIA Director Stephanie Comai, in a statement. "She has a genuine passion for helping workers to succeed in this changing economy and for helping employers to meet their talent needs. On behalf of our entire agency, I wish her all the best."

Stephanie Beckhorn, who currently serves as director of programs for the Workforce Development Agency, was named acting director.

COLBECK, HERTEL TO DEBATE ROAD FUNDING: After issuing a challenge to his fellow legislators in either chamber to debate him on why a tax increase is necessary to help pay for the state's ailing infrastructure, Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) has found acceptance to such an invitation from Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing).

The debate is to take place on Tuesday, October 20, between 1:45 and 2:45 p.m., the location to be determined but for sure in Lansing, according to a statement from Mr. Colbeck's office.

Doors are to open at 1:30 p.m., Mr. Colbeck's office said.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, November 4

Michigan Pancreatic Cancer briefing (Hosted by the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and sponsored by Celgene Corporation), Mackinac Room, Anderson House Office Building, Lansing, 8 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9

Michigan Railroads Association winter board meeting, Country Club of Lansing, 2200 Moores River Drive, Lansing, 8:30 a.m.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 20

Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee, Legislative Council Conference Room, Third Floor, Boji Tower, 124 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 10 a.m. (Agenda)

Thursday, October 22

Waterways Commission, Council Chambers, Rogers City Hall, 193 East Michigan Avenue, Rogers City, 9 a.m. (8 a.m. Work Session)

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Phone: 517−482−3500 | Fax: 517−482−4367 | Email: gongwer@gongwer.com

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Click the ⊡ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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House Activity for Thursday, October 15, 2015

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

{ SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ({ HYPERLINK **"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Provides for supplemental appropriations for the 2015-16 fiscal year.**

Signed: October 15, 2015; Effective: October 15, 2015

{ HYPERLINK **"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015HB410201&date=10/15/2015" }**

(PA 143)

PRESENTED

October 15:

{ SERVICE ANIMALS ({ HYPERLINK **"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371201" }) Creates identification for service animals.**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB452701" } **SERVICE ANIMALS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=100001" }) Modifies penalties for false claims to use a service dog.

ENROLLED

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB426301" } **ATHLETIC TRAINERS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=269201" }) Revises license fee and continuing education requirements for athletic trainers.

PASSED

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801" } **EDUCATOR EVALUATIONS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801" }) Revises performance evaluation requirements for teachers and school administrators.

97-8, Earlier advanced to Third Reading with substitute H-8 and amendment(s)

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015SB10301&date=10/15/2015" }

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{ CONDO SUBDIVISION PLANS ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210301" **}**) Modifies **RLIN** survey condominium subdivision plan signature and cover sheet content requirements. **K** **"http:** 104-1, Immediate effect **//www .gong wer.co m/ind ex.cfm ?link= legisla tion_b illdeta il.cfm &billi d=201 5SB30 901" }**

{ DOMESTIC RELATIONS ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501" **}**) Limits **RLIN** mediation in certain domestic relations actions. **K** **"http:** 104-1, Immediate effect **//www .gong wer.co m/ind ex.cfm ?link= legisla tion_b illdeta**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015HB447601&date =10/15/2015" **}**

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701" }

APPEALS Provides for alternative service of papers if party is protected by protected order.

104-1, earlier advanced to Third Reading with substitute H-1

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015HB447701&date=10/15/2015" }

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601" }

PERSONAL PROTECTION ORDERS Includes harming animals owned by the petitioner in acts that may be enjoined.

96-9, Immediate effect

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015HB447801&date=10/15/2015" }

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{ **PREGNANT WOMEN** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601" }) Increases
RLIN penalties for assault of a pregnant woman.
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{ **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=284201" }) Prohibits
RLIN custody or parenting time for certain parents of a child conceived through sexual assault
K or sexual abuse.
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SENTENCING GUIDELINES ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601" }) Provides for sentencing guidelines for crime of assault and battery of a pregnant individual.

103-2, Immediate effect

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601" }

EDUCATION ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601" }) Requires attainment of minimum benchmark on state reading assessment for promotion of third grade students to next grade level and provides for early evaluation and intervention programs.

57-48, Earlier advanced to Third Reading with susbstitute H-5 and amendment(s)

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=newsmulti.cfm&billid=2015HB482201&date=10/15/2015" **}**

ADVANCED TO THIRD READING

{ POLICE RETIREMENT ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE RLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=74701" }**) Provide one-time increase in monthly retirement allowance for certain retirants to provide cost-of-living adjustment.

With substitute H-2

{ TRAFFIC CONTROL ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE RLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=324201" }**) Allows renewal of unexpired seasonal restricted commercial driver's license.

With substitute H-1

{ MENTAL HEALTH ({ HYPERLINK **HYPE RLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=325701" }**) Modifies assisted outpatient treatment program.

With substitute H-2

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{ PROPERTY TAX ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355601" **})** Allows
RLINKsplitting of qualified agricultural property to allow a portion to be taxed differently.
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{ VETERANS ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701" **})** Provides for
RLINKemployment protections for National Guard members who work outside of the state
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{ **CHILD ABUSE** ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301" }) Allows reporting child abuse or child neglect through an online reporting system and waiving a written report under certain circumstances.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB33401" }

{ **ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM** ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=82701" }) Authorizes the state court administrative office to establish electronic filing system.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53101" }

{ JUDICIAL ELECTRONIC FILING FUND ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801" **}**) Establishes judicial electronic filing fund.

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53201" }

{ ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO COURTS ({ HYPERLINK **HYPERLINK** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" **}**) Allows court or court funding unit to charge certain fees for electronic access to courts.

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB53301" }

INTRODUCED

{ ENERGY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Provides for **ERLI** certain forms of energy improvement financing for cities. Amends 1909 PA 279 by **NK** amending section 5f (MCL 117.5f), as amended by 2002 PA 201.

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{ ENERGY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING ({ HYPERLINK **HYP** "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Provides for **ERLI** certain forms of energy improvement financing for general law villages. Amends 1895 PA **NK** 3 by amending section 36 (MCL 68.36), as amended by 2002 PA 276.

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ENERGY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92301" } To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB499201" }) Provides for certain forms of energy improvement financing for home rule villages. Amends 1909 PA 278 by amending section 24b (MCL 78.24b), as amended by 2002 PA 277.

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ENERGY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92301" } To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB499301" }) Provides for certain forms of energy improvement financing for certain townships. Amends 1846 RS 16 by amending section 75b (MCL 41.75b), as amended by 2002 PA 226.

" }

{ HYP ERLI NK "http: //ww w.gon gwer. com/i ndex. cfm?li nk=le gislati on_bil ldetail .cfm &billi d=201 5HB4 99401 " } **ENERGY IMPROVEMENT FINANCING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601" }) Provides for certain forms of energy improvement financing for counties. Amends 1851 PA `56 by amending section 11c (MCL 46.11c), as amended by 2002 PA 275.

{ HYP ERLI NK "http: //ww w.gon gwer. com/i ndex. cfm?li nk=le gislati on_bil ldetail .cfm &billi d=201 5HB4 99501 " } **ACCIDENT REPORTS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358201" }) Requires accident reports to include condition of windshield. Amends 1949 PA 300 (MCL 257.1 to 257.923) by adding section 622b.

To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92301" }

To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=94601" }

{ HYP ERLI NK "http: //ww w.gon gwer. com/i ndex. cfm?li nk=le gislati on_bil ldetail .cfm &billi d=201 5HB4 99601 " } **WINDOW TINTING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358201" }) Eliminates medical exemption on window tinting regulation. Amends 1949 PA 300 by amending section 709 (MCL 257.709), as amended by 2010 PA 258.

To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92401" }

{ HYP ERLI NK "http: //ww w.gon gwer. com/i ndex. cfm?li nk=le gislati on_bil ldetail .cfm &billi d=201 5HB4 99701 " } **TRAFFIC CONTROL** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=351701" }) Modifies penalties for use of electronic devices while operating a vehicle. Amends 1949 PA 300 by amending sections 602b and 907 (MCL 257.602b and 257.907), section 602b as amended by 2013 PA 231 and section 907 as amended by 2015 PA 126.

To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92501" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=351701" }

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92501" } To { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4998" }) Creates sentencing guidelines for third or subsequent violation of statute prohibiting use of electronic devices while operating a vehicle. Amends 1927 PA 175 by amending section 12e of chapter XVII (MCL 777.12e), as amended by 2011 PA 59.

The House adjourned until Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.

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Michigan News & Opinion For October 16, 2015

News

A Chaldean enclave in Detroit yearns for Syrian refugees (Bridge Magazine, 10/16/2015)

For impoverished Michiganders, a little help in the kitchen (Bridge Magazine, 10/16/2015)

Concerns raised about ability to stop Asian carp (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Legal fight could mean longer lines to renew licenses (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Road deal: There may still be hope (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Senate approves, Snyder signs cash for Flint water fix (Detroit Free Press, 10/16/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs spending bill with $9.35M for Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 10/16/2015)

Michigan House panel OKs foster kid credit check bill (Lansing State Journal, 10/16/2015)

Michigan Workforce Development chief leaves for federal post (Lansing State Journal, 10/16/2015)

Challenge accepted: Michigan Senators to debate road funding, fuel taxes in public forum (MLive, 10/16/2015)

FBI probes state-run school reform district in Detroit after internal review (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Mandatory nursing levels would improve patient care, nurses say (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs spending bill with $9.35M for Flint water crisis (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Michigan House OKs 3rd grade reading bill to hold back struggling students, boost intervention (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Newsweek column calls Flint 'cheapskate city that poisoned its children' (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Sports betting could help fix Michigan roads, bill sponsor says (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Teacher evaluation proposal sails through Michigan House after 'huge improvements' (MLive, 10/16/2015)

ACLU files complaint with state about Catholic hospital (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

State's $6M aid for Flint water switch signed into law (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Editorials

The right recipe for transforming Michigan public education (MLive, 10/16/2015)

Sometimes, justice has to take the long route (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/16/2015)

Federal probe of state reform district is troubling (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Lennox: Presidential politics hangs over Mich. gov race (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Our Editorial: Doctors key in halting painkiller abuse (The Detroit News, 10/16/2015)

Frank Kelley: Pillar of Michigan's political past, beacon for future (Toledo Blade, 10/16/2015)

Blogs

The Presumptive Parole Fight: Schuette Vs. Everyone (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/15/2015)

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Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 6:40 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Friday, October 16, 2015
Attachments: 151016dayplan.htm; Oct16.htm; Oct19Schedule.htm

Michigan Report for Friday, October 16, 2015

Newsmaker Friday: Price Says Third Grade Reading Took Over Her Heart

Presumptive Parole Has Uphill Battle In Senate

EPA Creates Drinking Water Task Force For Flint

Bishop Shows Slight Lead Over Gilbert In Funds With All Reports In

Supreme Court Vacates Appellate Ruling On MCCA, FOIA

Snyder Names Task Force To Draft Special Education Changes

Appeals Court Upholds Registry For New Non-Sex Convictions

Campaign Notes

Capital Notebook: Court Again Continues Hearing In State, HP Case

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Subscribers Please Note

Calendars

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

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Volume #54, Report #206 -- Friday, October 16, 2015

Newsmaker Friday: Price Says Third Grade Reading Took Over Her Heart

The process leading up to the vote on two separate bills related to education policy was "intense," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601&locid=1" }, who led the charge on legislation to get third-graders reading at grade level and another outlining educator evaluations in the state, told Gongwer News Service.

"I think maybe I can sleep now," Ms. Price said Friday. The House voted Thursday { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB482201" }, which would set up interventions for students struggling with reading in their early elementary grades and would also retain students if they are not reading proficiently at the end of third grade.

The bill was more controversial than { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB10301" }, outlining educator evaluations, and it took two long session days this week before the third-grade reading bill had enough votes to eventually pass the House 57-48.

"It was a heavy lift," Ms. Price said.

Though a similar bill did come up last term on reading proficiency, it never got enough traction for the full House to bring it up on the floor.

But this term, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } also made it a priority. A work group was put together with various lawmakers and stakeholders who met for three hours every Thursday during the summer, Ms. Price said.

"That process was very intense," Ms. Price said.

Ms. Price, during her floor speech on the bill Thursday, said she wouldn't consider herself "fire-y," but when talking with stakeholders on the third grade reading bill, she said it wasn't difficult for her to hold her ground on ideas she thought would harm the legislation.

"It's hard for me not to get fired up about this though," she said. "Every so often there is one piece of legislation that takes over your heart. For me it is this bill. I think it is likely because I love to read so much and I don't want any child to be deprived of that ability."

Ms. Price said her passion originated with hearing the statistics of how many students in the state were not reading proficiently before entering the fourth grade. Using the state assessment, it's 30 percent of kids, she said. But when looking at a more rigorous national assessment, it's almost 70 percent.

Ms. Price said she used to have conversations with former Rep. Joe Haveman about how the state could decrease its prison population, and both agreed it started at early childhood.

"If you start giving children a better education ... then they will have more options in life," she said.

The bill began as a bipartisan effort with Democrats involved in the work group and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=319301&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor), the minority vice chair on the Education Committee, and House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills) co-sponsors on the bill.

However, Democrats ended up offering a variety of amendments that were not adopted to the bill, and the bill passed with only three Democrats voting in support. Mr. Zemke and Mr. Greimel removed their names from the bill.

"I will just be honest," Ms. Price said of losing the Democratic support. "I was very disappointed."

Ms. Price said it is not a partisan issue, but there was a disagreement on how to get increased reading proficiency in the state.

"I don't think anyone disagrees our children's reading scores are too low," she said.

Ms. Price said the retention portion of the bill got too much attention. She said the intervention pieces in the bill are the key. But last term, instead of being in a single bill, the legislation was a package of two. One held the retention portion and the other held the interventions.

Ms. Price said she believes that led to a focus on the retention last term and this one.

"Truly, I do not want to retain any kids," she said.

On the Senate side, Ms. Price said she believes { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, is on board with the bill. She said he was on the work group as well.

"I have every reason to believe it will pass in the Senate," she said.

Another bill that passed this week, SB 103, which outlines educator evaluations in the state, began dramatically but eventually passed with relative ease in the House.

"If you had asked me about that three months ago, I would have (been surprised)," Ms. Price said of the bill passing drama-free.

But Ms. Price said the committee worked hard with stakeholders to get a final product out of committee.

"We were pretty confident when it came out of the committee it would move forward easily," she said.

On what's next for the Education Committee, Ms. Price said Mr. Zemke and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=371701&locid=1" } (R-Holland), the vice chair of the committee, have been working in a group discussing teacher preparedness.

She also said a debate on how to move forward with Detroit Public Schools is also coming to the committee.

Mr. Snyder has advocated getting state funds help pay off DPS debt and developing a new district in the city.

Ms. Price said she understands where the governor is coming from with his proposal, but also knows her caucus will be hesitant because of the money involved.

She also said she wants something sustainable put in place.

"I am very concerned that whatever is put in place is sustainable and in 10 years we won't be right back here," she said. "That means for me financial stability and academic improvement."

Presumptive Parole Has Uphill Battle In Senate

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } was not shy earlier this week about the fact that his caucus has numerous concerns and questions about a bill allowing presumptive parole for inmates reaching their earliest release date, and responses from several members of that caucus on Friday only further illustrate the bill is in trouble in the chamber.

"I did not hear one person pushing this at all, and I think it's very telling this wasn't referred to Judiciary committee or the corrections budget (subcommittee) where it should be," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton) said of general caucus support or opposition to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB413801" } .

Indeed, when the House passed the bill earlier this month, Mr. Meekhof sent it to the Senate Government Operations Committee, which tends to serve either as a bill graveyard or a place where very controversial legislation that needs a longer period of time to review goes.

Of the prospects of this bill in particular, Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=18801&locid=1" } (R-White Lake Township) said it was likely the latter. Mr. Kowall said he does not himself have a position on the bill as it was sent over.

"Right now I'm listening to all sides," he said. "There's concerns, rightfully so, with prosecutors and sheriffs. It's a long way from being done."

Having run a small police department himself, Mr. Kowall said, he shares the concerns of some on whether those who would be paroled are still a danger to society and whether they were prior to being locked up.

"It's all the typical concerns over what type of parolees will be looked at to let out, the danger to society, (and) are we letting out people we're afraid of or people we're simply mad at," Mr. Kowall said. "It's all the same discussions that have been going on in the House and it's just going to take a while."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph), chair of the Senate Appropriations Corrections Subcommittee, said all the conversations are exactly what need to be had for meaningful reform, though. He said his colleagues have been interested in whether HB 4138 would indeed show savings to the cost of corrections, how much, and whether it begins to change the way the department operates "for the benefit of the taxpayers and public safety."

"I have a lot of questions as to what the intent of the bill is and whether or not the intent matches the goals and objectives. If the intent is to save us money, I'm not sure this gets us to the kind of savings we want," he said. "If the intent is to provide the kind of services necessary to reintegrate offenders into Michigan society after they've served their time, I'm not sure this accomplishes that goal either."

Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) earlier this week pointed to Mr. Proos as being one of the lead legislators on the matter as the Senate considers the legislation and other types of Corrections reform. When asked about those alternatives, Mr. Proos listed numerous options, including:

- Continuing investment in law enforcement as the deterrent and as the public safety factor;
- Continuing investment in things like the Swift and Sure program, as well as the pilot program Parole Sanction Certainty (which follow the same model as Swift and Sure on the probation side to ensure parolees are receiving the kind of services they need to prevent them from becoming repeat offenders, he said); and
- A continued effort to ensure the cost structure in the Department of Corrections is "closely aligned with private sector costs so as to get the best taxpayer value possible," he said.

In fact, those issues are so central to this matter, Mr. Proos said, that he expects to have a hearing to discuss prisoner education, the positives and negatives of that expenditure, and whether it's meeting present-day job needs in various communities.

"After all, every three-to-four years, we parole the entire population of the Department of Corrections," he said. "If the folks are not prepared for parole, the question should be asked, why aren't they?"

He continued, "You have to peel away all the misinformation that exists on all sides of the issues and try to get to the root cause and the root problem. This isn't just a discussion about finances, it's not just a discussion about criminals, it has to be a more comprehensive and broad conversation about corrections, the judiciary and law enforcement and our entire criminal justice system."

Of the House plan, he said it calls into question "the most salient question about parole" in that some offenders are not as ready as others to go before the Parole Board before their earliest release date.

But Ms. Schuitmaker, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who also served on the House committee during her time there, said the rate at which Michigan already paroles most of its prisoners is exactly why the legislation isn't necessary.

"We've done a lot in probation and swift and sure ... to try to rehabilitate people or hold them accountable to break the cycle of crime," she said. "I think the statistics don't bear it out and most people are let out within their first year of their earliest release date.

"I think also, we've had two reports from (Council of State Governments) come in and dispel the myth that we have all these people in prison that shouldn't be there," Ms. Schuitmaker said. "I think when you take a look at how we rank comparatively, we send fewer people initially to prison than surrounding states and that's why you see on the back-end that we keep more people. Michigan does a good job keeping people with substance abuse problems out of prison."

And the cost savings are "minimal" at best, she said.

As to the chance the bill might have in the Senate, especially in the immediate future, Mr. Proos said his hope is simply that the bill takes the time necessary for such a monumental change.

"We'll look at the positives and negatives of the House package and take that into account as it relates to comprehensive reform and criminal justice," he said. "I commend the House for working on a package that has opened the door to real conversations (about Corrections)."

EPA Creates Drinking Water Task Force For Flint

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday it had developed a Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force to provide technical assistance to the city and the Department of Environmental Quality as they work through the water issues in the city.

The task force will be led by Region 5 Deputy Regional Administrator Susan Hedman and will assist with developing and implementing a plan to secure water quality, including measures to optimize corrosion control, it said. Task force members will also be available for consultation purposes, as well as to coordinate, as necessary, with federal, state and local public health agencies to assist with protection of public health.

"EPA is committed to working with our state and local partners to ensure a safe and reliable drinking water supply for the residents of Flint, Michigan," Ms. Hedman said in a statement. "The formation of this task force continues our commitment to providing technical assistance to the city of Flint and the state of Michigan."

The task force is intended to provide technical guidance for both the coming switch back to the Detroit Water and Sewerage System and, once it is completed, to the new pipeline from Lake Huron by the Karegnondi Water Authority. The various officials and experts are intended to be available on-site in Flint.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said the switch back to Detroit water was expected to be completed by 5 p.m. Friday, earlier than expected.

The DEQ welcomed the additional assistance, spokesperson Brad Wurfel said. "We are glad to have the continued technical support and counsel from our federal partners," he said." We have been working closely with the U.S. EPA on the challenges in Flint, including its added presence on the city's technical advisory and the Governor's 10-point plan. This is welcome news and we anticipate it will help us implement the Governor's strategy."

Elected officials from the region also hailed the EPA's assistance.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306801&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said he had requested the EPA send in advisors.

"I welcome the EPA's announcement today that they'll be sending technical advisors to Flint to assist the city and MDEQ on site with ensuring the safety of Flint's water," Mr. Kildee said in a statement. "The task force is a result of letters and phone calls over the past week with Administrator McCarthy and the EPA. In those communications, I repeatedly requested that the EPA send technical advisors to Flint to help with the transition of water sources. I am pleased to see that within a week the EPA has responded positively to my request, and I'm hopeful that this announcement is a step forward for the future of Flint's water."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=7801&locid=1" } (D-Bloomfield Township) also took some credit for the additional assistance being lent to Flint.

"All Michiganders deserve access to safe and clean drinking water, and the increased lead levels found in the Flint water system are simply unacceptable. I personally raised this issue with EPA Administrator McCarthy and have called on the EPA to provide the necessary resources and technical expertise to help ensure the water system is safe for drinking, cooking and bathing," Mr. Peters said in a statement. "All levels of government need to work together to prevent this

type of situation from ever happening again, and the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force is a good first step."

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) was also pleased to hear the news.

"The EPA plays an important role in managing Flint's crisis recovery. We should work closely with them and consider whether they may be able to offer additional support," Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said. "I also hope the EPA will be able to help us determine what happened and provide us with a solid oversight framework going forward. It's crucial that we take steps to ensure this never happens again."

The Task Force will be comprised of scientists and technical experts from the EPA Region 5 office in Chicago, the National Risk Management Research Lab in Cincinnati and the EPA drinking water program. In addition, EPA will ask { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } to designate a DEQ official and the Mayor of Flint to designate a city official to serve as points of contact for the Task Force, the EPA said.

Bishop Shows Slight Lead Over Gilbert In Funds With All Reports In

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=17501&locid=1" } was able to outraise Democratic challenger Melissa Gilbert, but not by much, his quarterly campaign finance report showed.

Mr. Bishop (R-Rochester) raised $213,962 for the quarter compared to the $200,372 Ms. Gilbert raised (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542050104" }). But his $396,776 in cash gave him a substantial funding head start in the race. He has raised $529,352 total for the cycle. He also brought in $2,975 total for the cycle from other authorized funds.

He did, though, still have $31,872 in debt.

Paul Mitchell is leading the race to succeed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=3701&locid=1" } (R-Harrison Township), at least based on funding, reporting $328,025 raised in his first quarter in the race. He had $363,758 cash on hand but also had a $250,000 loan from himself as part of those funds.

Ms. Miller, as she wound down her campaign, still had $739,721 in cash, though she raised nothing for the quarter and only $7,675 for the cycle.

Democrat Paul Clements does have a way to go to catch { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=2401&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph)

on fundraising. Mr. Upton reported collecting $235,000 for the quarter and $1.28 million so far for the cycle. He had $829,168 in cash.

Among his total funding, Mr. Upton had $67,493 for the quarter and $89,790 for the cycle from other authorized committees.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=246701&locid=1" } (R-Crystal Falls), had he chosen to run, would have been substantially behind his likely Democratic challenger, at least in current fundraising. Mr. Benishek reported raising $119,903 for the quarter and $633,467 for the cycle. He showed $446,341 cash on hand, which was more than Lon Johnson, but still had outstanding debts of $89,500.

SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=87801&locid=1" } (R-Tipton) slightly outraised challenger { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=318101&locid=1" } (D-Saline) for the quarter. In addition to the $133,160 his campaign raised in contributions for the quarter, his leadership fund, the Walberg Victory Fund, transferred $77,970 to his campaign committee. That fund provided him $93,844 in total for the cycle. Those receipts were included in his $922,034 in cash on hand reported Thursday.

Supreme Court Vacates Appellate Ruling On MCCA, FOIA

The Supreme Court in { HYPERLINK "http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/434504/150001_2015-10-16_or.pdf?t=1445014759186&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=22923628" \t "blank" } has vacated a Court of Appeals ruling holding that the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and remanded the case to the appellate court for further action.

Specifically, the Supreme Court vacated the conclusion of the Court of Appeals that the establishment of the MCCA did not violate Article IV, Section 25 of the Constitution, which requires the section or sections of any act altered or amended by a bill to be re-enacted and published at length.

The MCCA statute specifically exempts the records of the association from being public, but the Legislature did not also amend the FOIA to exempt MCCA records.

In its order regarding *CPAN v. Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association* (SC Docket No. 150001), the Supreme Court said the Court of Appeals on remand should rule on an issue it left untouched in its first ruling - whether the MCCA is a public body. If it is a public body, then it should again decide whether the statute creating it violated the Constitution's requirement that all statutes amended should be re-enacted and published.

If it is not a public body, then the entire issue is moot because then the MCCA would not fall under the jurisdiction of the FOIA.

The Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault and others have urged the opening up of MCCA records. Insurers, which run the MCCA, have resisted the change.

The Supreme Court held arguments Tuesday on whether to grant leave to appeal (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542030104" }).

Major points of discussion during those arguments were the question of whether the MCCA is a public body and whether the Legislature erred in not amending the Freedom of Information Act.

Attorneys for the two sides vigorously disagreed on whether the MCCA is a public body with CPAN contending it is and the MCCA arguing it is not.

In a statement, CPAN general counsel George Sinas said he expected CPAN to prevail on the question of whether the MCCA is a public body.

"When the Michigan Legislature publicly creates such entities through its legislative power, the entity created should be considered a 'public body' and therefore be subject to FOIA," he said. "This allows that all interested citizens who impacted by that entity will have the ability to learn the truth about the way it operates."

Snyder Names Task Force To Draft Special Education Changes

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } announced Friday a new task force to turn the comments { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151301&locid=1" } collected over the summer on special education into new policy recommendations on special education.

Mr. Calley started his listening tour on special education at about the same time the Department of Education was seeing substantial backlash to a package of administrative rules changes that opponents said would give more power to school districts to limit or deny services.

Among the key recommendations Mr. Calley collected from his public meetings and online surveys was stronger language controlling how districts use restraint and seclusion to control behavior.

He had asked the State Board of Education, when he presented his findings to that body (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=541760103" }), for help developing a dispute resolution process.

Mr. Snyder is seeking quick work from the task force, asking for a final report before the end of the year.

"This group will help us remain focused on putting Michigan's special needs children and their families front-and-center when considering reforms to this vital component in our educational system," Mr. Snyder said.

In addition to Mr. Calley, who will chair the panel, the task force includes education board members Michelle Fecteau (D-Detroit) and Eileen Weiser (R-Ann Arbor).

Legislators on the panel include { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } (R-Saint Clair), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=41301&locid=1" } (D-Taylor), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=353601&locid=1" } (R-Clarkston) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=264501&locid=1" } (D-Allen Park).

Karen McPhee, Mr. Snyder's education adviser, as well as Walled Lake Schools elementary teacher Melody Arabo, who was Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2014-15 will also participate, as will Mary Bouwense, president of the Grand Rapids Education Association and a special education teacher; Elmer Cerano, executive director of Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service; Teri Chapman, director of the Department of Education Office of Special Education; Diane Heinzelman director of special education for Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District and chair of the Michigan Autism Council; Laura Jones, founder of Special Education Advocacy and Development; Scott Koenigsknecht, superintendent of the Ingham Intermediate School District; and Marcie Lipsitt, founder of Michigan Alliance for Special Education.

Appeals Court Upholds Registry For New Non-Sex Convictions

The requirement, added in 2011, that those who have a prior criminal sexual conduct conviction who commit a new felony have to register as sex offenders is a recidivist law and so is constitutional, the Court of Appeals said in a case released Friday.

Anthony Tucker, who was required to register after pleading guilty to felonious assault and domestic violence charges, argued the law was unconstitutional because it added to the penalty of his prior offense. He had been released from probation for a 1990 assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct conviction before the registry took effect in October 1995.

Mr. Tucker argued the new provision requiring him to register was an ex post facto addition to that earlier charge.

The court, in a per curiam published decision signed by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=108801&locid=1" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=152701&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77401&locid=1" } (*People v. Tucker*, { HYPERLINK "http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20151015_C322151_31_322151.OPN.PDF" \t "blank" }), found the law met the standards for a recidivist statute.

"Defendant's registration was not required until he committed another felony in 2013," the court said. "His 1990 conviction was used to enhance the consequences of his 2013 felony, which was committed after the effective date of the statute."

To be considered ex post facto, the law would have had to require Mr. Tucker to register immediately on its effective date based on his prior conviction, the court said.

The court also rejected Mr. Tucker's argument that the prohibition on him being in school safety zones and the requirement that he register in person were cruel and unusual punishment. The court, citing a variety of prior cases, found the provisions were not punishment.

CONDOMINIUM OWNERS: Residents of a condominium are on their own land and so cannot sue for slip and fall injuries, the court said (*Francescutti v. Fox Chase Condominium Association*, { HYPERLINK "http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20151015_C323111_36_323111.OPN.PDF" \t "blank" }).

Michael Francescutti sued after such a fall, arguing the association was negligent for not keeping the snow and ice from the walks. The association countered that it was an open and obvious hazard.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=108901&locid=1" }, joined by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=220101&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=152801&locid=1" }, said the association owed Mr. Francescutti no duty as a lessor because it was not. He, as a unit owner, was a co-owner of the common area where he fell.

"Defendant is not leasing the common areas to plaintiff under a lease and, therefore, it is not a 'lessor'," Mr. Sawyer said.

Nor, because he is a co-owner, is he an invitee or a licensee owed any duty of care by the association, Mr. Sawyer said.

Campaign Notes

FARM BUREAU ENDORSES WHITEFORD: The Michigan Farm Bureau AgriPAC has endorsed Rep. Mary Whiteford of Allegan in the 80th House District special election.

Ms. Whiteford is up against seven other Republicans in the special election primary for the seat, which was vacated when former Rep. Cindy Gamrat was expelled. Ms. Gamrat is also running for re-election.

The Farm Bureau also endorsed Ms. Whiteford in her 2014 bid.

Capital Notebook: Court Again Continues Hearing In State, HP Case

Kent Circuit Judge Christopher Yates continued the hearing held Friday on the state's request for a preliminary injunction ordering Hewlett Packard to turn over the source code for the Business Application Modernization project for the Department of State and assist the department with an orderly transition following the state's termination of HP's contract.

Department spokesperson Gisgie Davila Gendreau said the two sides have agreed on a transition plan and that HP agreed to provide the source code by Monday until the judge rules on the state's request.

The hearing will continue November 2.

TOURISM SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP RFP: Travel Michigan has issued a request for proposals for a contractor to create a series of regional workshops and materials to educate Michigan's travel industry on utilizing social media to promote their destinations and better engage with Pure Michigan.

The RFP seeks a contractor to educate members of the state's tourism industry on the latest social media strategies, trends and best practices; organize and host a series of regional, in-person workshops and develop a Social Media Tourism Toolkit; create and maintain a social media Resource Library and provide industry members with a self-assessment workbook that will allow them to audit their social media efforts and presence.

Application questions will be due via email by 3 p.m. Eastern Time on October 22, 2015, a q-and-a posted to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation website on October 28 and electronic proposal submissions due by 3 p.m. on November 4, 2015.

The complete RFP can be viewed online at { HYPERLINK "http://www.michiganbusiness.org/public-notices-rfps/" \t "blank" }

BONE MARROW STANDARDS: The Certificate of Need Commission announced Friday that the members of its Bone Marrow Transplant Standards Advisory Committee had been posted on its { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71551_2945_5106-122713--,00.html" \t "blank" }.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 20

Administrative Board/Building Committee, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/bcagenda_16764_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Administrative Board/Finance and Claims Committee, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/fcagenda_16770_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Administrative Board/Transportation and Natural Resources, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/buymichiganfirst/dnr_agenda_222565_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Wednesday, October 21

Natural Resources Trust Fund, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, 9 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Agenda_-_October_21_2015__502659_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Thursday, October 22

Canceled: ~~State Police Retirement Board, Conference Room A, First Floor, General Office Building, State Secondary Complex, 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, 1:30 p.m.~~

Subscribers Please Note

An item in Thursday's Capital Notebook contained the incorrect year through which Court of Appeals { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=76201&locid=1" }'s term as chief judge runs. It runs through 2017.

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For October 19, 2015

News

Michigan bills would ban second-term abortion procedure (Associated Press, 10/19/2015)

Alec Baldwin, Rosie O'Donnell donate to Melissa Gilbert (Detroit Free Press, 10/19/2015)

Concerns raised about ability to stop Asian carp (Detroit Free Press, 10/19/2015)

Flint gets EPA help in reconnecting to Detroit water (Detroit Free Press, 10/19/2015)

Planned Parenthood inspired bill in the Legislature (Detroit Free Press, 10/19/2015)

Federal task force will advise Flint, Michigan DEQ on city water (Flint Journal, 10/19/2015)

Flint reconnects to Detroit water, may take 3 weeks to clear all pipes (Flint Journal, 10/19/2015)

UAW: Michigan DHHS wants to outsource CPS work (Lansing State Journal, 10/19/2015)

Advocates: Schuette spreading misinformation about parole legislation (Michigan Radio, 10/19/2015)

Senate bill expands community college degree programs (Midland Daily News, 10/19/2015)

4 years after Michigan tenure reform, 'everything in place' for new teacher evaluation law (MLive, 10/19/2015)

Michigan House OKs 3rd grade reading bill to hold back struggling students, boost intervention (MLive, 10/19/2015)

Sports betting could help fix Michigan roads, bill sponsor says (MLive, 10/19/2015)

Three takeaways from U.S. Sen. Gary Peters' Muskegon visit (MLive, 10/19/2015)

GOP opponents seek to quash Courser comeback (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Melissa Gilbert taps Hollywood stars for campaign cash (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Michigan DEQ vows changes in Flint water crisis (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Schools face learning curve with SAT prep (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Two-thirds of Michigan's abortions in Detroit area (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Michigan House bill would give amnesty for prescription drug emergencies (The State News, 10/19/2015)

Editorials

To repair racial wounds in criminal justice, start with language (Bridge Magazine, 10/19/2015)

Time for a new Ambassador Bridge? Maybe (Detroit Free Press, 10/19/2015)

Why fear-mongers are losing the prison reform fight (Detroit Free Press, 10/19/2015)

New pills, better practices can combat Michigan's drug overdose epidemic (MLive, 10/19/2015)

Paying for fetal tissue donations could be a crime in Michigan (MLive, 10/19/2015)

Guest commentary ---- Built to Last: Line 5 meets or exceeds today's standards for new pipelines (Petoskey News-Review, 10/19/2015)

Column: Boost schools, end prevailing wage (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Jacques: What's next for Detroit schools? (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Mitchell: We need leadership to solve road challenge (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Our Editorial: Impasse on roads not an option (The Detroit News, 10/19/2015)

Pausing paroles (Toledo Blade, 10/19/2015)

Blogs

'Charles Hertel' Debating 'Paul Colbeck' (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/16/2015)

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 7:54 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Monday, October 19, 2015
Attachments: 151019plan.htm; Oct19.htm; 151019dayplan.htm; Oct19Rules.htm

Michigan Report for Monday, October 19, 2015

DPS, Debt Rising, At Risk Of Default Without State Action, Snyder Says

Mistakes In Flint Water Change Mean Leadership Change At DEQ

HFA Report: Medicaid Will Need More GF To Meet Match

Veterans, Businesses Tout Support For Prevailing Wage

Hospital Report Says Improved Practices Netted Savings, Improved Lives

Campaign Notes

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Activity Reports

Administrative Rules

Calendars

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Volume #54, Report #207 -- Monday, October 19, 2015

DPS, Debt Rising, At Risk Of Default Without State Action, Snyder Says

It will take $715 million from the state over 10 years to extract public education in Detroit from the debt the Detroit Public Schools has piled up, as well as putting together a new governance structure, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said Monday.

Mr. Snyder unveiled a slightly revised plan to overhaul K-12 public education in Detroit from the one he announced in April, and as was the case then, the proposal faces major challenges in clearing the Legislature. Mr. Snyder said he wants legislative approval by the end of the year to ensure the new structure is ready to launch with the start of the district's next fiscal year in July. He said he anticipated formal introduction of the legislation in about a week.

There were two big differences in the proposal: a voluntary instead of mandatory common enrollment system for both charter and traditional public schools in the city, and a bigger financial ask of the Legislature.

Pegged at $483 million in April, DPS debt is now at $515 million as a result of spending exceeding revenues. Mr. Snyder said the new Detroit district he would recommend to take over running DPS classrooms needs another $100 million for investments and working capital, and then another $100 million to cover operating losses once the district's 2016-17 fiscal year begins July 1, 2016, that are the result of declining enrollment and the need to find cost savings.

Under Mr. Snyder's plan, the district's $715 million in debt would stay with the old district and the 18-mill tax on all property other than principal residences in the district would go toward paying down the debt. The millage raises $70 million a year, so it would take 10 years to pay off the debt, Mr. Snyder said.

The catch is the 18 mills, like all school districts, goes to the state School Aid Fund, so the state would have to make up those funds.

Without state intervention, DPS could default on its debt as soon as February, Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said. Mr. Snyder said the state would have to cover Detroit Public Schools' debt and retiree benefits should the district fall into bankruptcy, and that would cost all school districts much more than $715 million, describing that burden as "billions."

Mr. Snyder said he hoped the Legislature could come together to support the plan much as it did to bring the city of Detroit's government out of bankruptcy.

"Isn't this important to help the kids of Detroit? We're all Michiganders," he said. "Just like we did with the Grand Bargain, we recognized that there's benefit in helping one another when

someone has issues. Look at the benefit to the city of Detroit today, how it's helping the whole state of Michigan by its comeback in terms of perception and business development."

The major components of the plan are the same as what Mr. Snyder proposed in April.

A Detroit Education Commission, appointed by the governor and Detroit mayor, would be established and in charge of hiring a chief education officer. That official would operate a common enrollment system encompassing DPS schools, charter schools and the Education Achievement Authority schools, but in the biggest change from the April plan, it would be voluntary to participate.

Charter schools had criticized the April plan's lumping them in with DPS.

The chief education officer would have the authority to close any school for low performance.

The current Detroit school board would remain with the old school district that only is in charge of paying down debt. A new school board would be created for the new district, jointly appointed by the governor and the mayor but eventually fully elected by Detroit voters by 2021.

In a new piece from the April plan, the city's Financial Review Commission, created as part of the Grand Bargain to bring the city out of bankruptcy, would oversee the district's finances until the debt is repaid. It would have a slightly different membership that does not include city government-specific appointees.

Despite the loss of $70 million a year for 10 years for the School Aid Fund, Mr. Snyder said projected growth in School Aid Fund revenues means that helping reconstruct public education in Detroit will not lead to cuts for other school districts' funding. He said he still anticipated increasing funding to all school districts.

"The amount of that could be somewhat less than it would be, but again, there will be no cuts," he said.

The final plan could look much different than what Mr. Snyder has outlined. He, and others, said bill drafting continues, and top Republicans said it would be a big lift. Additionally, Detroit Democrats raised concerns about returning control of the schools to an elected school board.

Detroit Public Schools has been run by a governor-appointed emergency manager since 2009, with its school board reduced to virtually no role.

Several Detroit Democrats, in a joint statement, said there were some positive aspects to the plan, but concerning pieces as well. They focused on the need for academic improvement and local control.

"The Detroit Caucus and I are committed to finding a solution to improve our Detroit Public Schools so that we can find solutions to improve Detroit's schools," said Rep. Brian Banks (D-Detroit), the Detroit Caucus chair. "The state has controlled DPS for many years, and it has been

a failure. We have to find a better way, and we believe that way lies through local control. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to address all of the issues surrounding DPS."

LEGISLATIVE ACTION: The legislation is expected to start in the Senate. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=101501&locid=1" } (R-Hart), the chair of the Senate K-12, School Aid and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, said he will sponsor some components of the package.

Mr. Hansen said he did not want to discuss specifics in the plan because work continues to develop the legislation, even on the question of whether $715 million is the amount of money the state needs to address. As to Mr. Snyder's goal of passing the legislation before the end of the year, Mr. Hansen hesitated.

"We need to make sure it gets done right," he said. "I'm not going to set an artificial timetable."

But Mr. Hansen also said completing the legislation by the end of the year would be good "because of the complexity of it and the time it would need to get instituted."

Amber McCann, spokesperson for Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } (R-West Olive), said the Senate Republican Caucus is eager to review the details of the plan. The $70 million a year for 10 years is "going to be quite a lift," Ms. McCann said.

"It's a big commitment. It's a long-term commitment," she said.

As to the end of the year timetable, Ms. McCann said it is ambitious, but not out of the question.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179401&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township), the House Appropriations K-12 School Aid Subcommittee chair who called Mr. Snyder's April plan inadequate, sounded the same message Monday.

"I think this is just something that's going to require a little more imagination and a lot more boldness than this," he said. "I think the whole idea of replacing one command and control edifice for another isn't going to get the job done."

Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant), said Mr. Cotter's comments on the April plan still stand.

In those comments, Mr. Cotter called for "no raids" on the School Aid Fund. He said that fund exists to pay for education for all Michigan pupils, not to pay off the legacy debt of one district.

Until bills are introduced, it is not possible to say whether the Legislature could complete action on them this year, Mr. D'Assandro said.

As to how House Republicans would react to the $715 million figure, Mr. D'Assandro said, "I think everybody knew there was a big problem there and everybody knew it was going to be a pretty substantial fix that was needed."

TEPID REACTIONS: Like the first plan, reaction was tepid. The American Federation of Teachers-Michigan, which represents Detroit teachers, said the plan tends toward too much state control.

Charter school groups had a mixed reaction.

"Based on what we've seen, we have concerns with any plan that takes decisions out of the hands of parents and puts them in the hands of a single, politically appointed person," Dan Quisenberry, president of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, said in a statement. "We need to raise student achievement in Detroit and solve DPS's financial situation, and from what we've seen and heard, this proposal does neither. We look forward to seeing the legislation that comes out of this, and having the charter school community continue being an active part of the discussion."

Jared Burkhart, executive director of the Michigan Council of Charter School Authorizers, said only that the organization was happy to see Mr. Snyder's interest in a system of "robust accountability" in Detroit and looked forward to working with the governor and legislators on the issue.

Mistakes In Flint Water Change Mean Leadership Change At DEQ

Department of Environmental Quality officials failed to follow proper treatment and testing protocols when Flint moved from the Detroit water system to drawing from the Flint River and took too long to fix the problem once they discovered their error.

Environmental Quality { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=303801&locid=1" } said his staff in the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance thought they were using the right protocols in testing Flint water, but he removed the head of that office in the wake of { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } calling for an independent review of the state's actions in the situation.

But legislators from the region, and a water quality expert who has helped to test some of the Flint water, chastised state and federal regulators involved for trying only to preserve their own reputations when trouble with the water system began to emerge.

Mr. Wyant said DEQ staff made honest mistakes in how they handled the water source switch.

"It recently has become clear that our drinking water program staff made a mistake while working with the city of Flint. Simply stated, staff employed a federal protocol they believed was appropriate, and it was not," Mr. Wyant said in a statement announcing he had appointed Jim

Sygo as interim head of the drinking water office. "The water testing steps followed would have been correct for a city less than 50,000 people, but not for a city of nearly 100,000."

Liane Smith, the former head of the drinking water office, has been reassigned within the department.

"It's an issue of leadership going forward given that this is a very difficult issue, and it's an issue of experience with corrosion controls and a recognition that we needed stronger leadership in that role to address both of those," Mr. Wyant told Gongwer News Service.

"Jim has more leadership experience - and this issue is going to require leadership - and we will identify corrosion control expertise that we will bring to the table," he said.

Mr. Wyant said Ms. Smith would remain with the department and be given other duties "as assigned", but also that her long-term duties in the department could depend on the outcome of the third-party after-action review.

Mr. Sygo will lead the office temporarily, with a national search planned to find a new director.

Mr. Wyant said he would also be reviewing his own connections with his management staff.

"I do have to look at my own policies to be sure I've got a mechanism to identify these issues and flag them sooner," he said.

But he said the issue in Flint is being addressed now. "We feel we have an action plan in place that addresses lead exposure both the long term, intermediate and short term," he said.

Mr. Wyant said his staff apparently did not have the experience with corrosion control needed to know how to properly monitor the system, but he also put some of the fault on the federal standards.

"I'm coming to the conclusion there needs to be some changes to the federal rule to allow us to be more protective of public health," he said.

Marc Edwards, a professor at Virginia Tech and an expert in drinking water corrosion controls, said documents he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act showed state officials should have known the city had to implement corrosion controls and instead worked to cover up the issue.

He pointed out several emails from earlier this year where officials said a corrosion study on the system was warranted but should not be started because the city would again change its water source before the study is completed.

"I think it started innocently enough. ... It's possible that they didn't understand the federal rule," Mr. Edwards told Gongwer News Service. "By early 2015, this problem became too big to

ignore. ... Even if they did not understand the rule, they should have taken much more aggressive steps to get this problem fixed."

To Mr. Wyant's offer to work with federal officials to improve the rule, Mr. Edwards said there is room for such improvement, but the current rule should have prevented the issues faced in Flint.

"The rule in fact did require them to have corrosion control," he said. "The rule does require them to take samples and, if they had done that correctly, people would have been told much sooner there was a problem."

Mr. Edwards said he had talked to Mr. Wyant on Monday and had agreed to Mr. Wyant's request for assistance.

"I will do whatever I can to make sure this doesn't happen again," he said.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said recent documents indicate state and federal officials were working more to back up their earlier findings than to ensure the water was safe.

"The latest developments in the Flint water crisis raise more troubling questions. It is clear from several now available documents that certain DEQ and EPA staff chose to put their reputations ahead of the safety and health of Flint citizens," Mr. Ananich said in a statement. "We do not know whether the misapplication of federal rules was intentional or due to negligence. That's why the Legislature needs to have a robust role in any investigation, and in ensuring those responsible for Flint's water crisis are held accountable."

Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon called for Mr. Wyant to be replaced.

"This was not an issue of experience and protocol. It is a question of competency and judgment. DEQ employees were not provided with the leadership and training necessary to do their jobs in this situation, and Mr. Wyant clearly lacks the judgment needed to do his," Mr. Dillon said in a statement. "You don't get to learn on the job when it comes to the well-being of Michigan's children and families. You may be able to fix the problem of Flint's drinking water going forward, but the damage done to the health of thousands of Flint's children is irreversible."

Spokespersons for Mr. Snyder could be reached, but { HYPERLINK "http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/10/19/snyder-defends-environmental-quality-director-flint-crisis/74229710/" \t "blank" } that Mr. Snyder told its newspaper's editorial board that Mr. Wyant is doing a "great job" responding to the situation and that the initial focus is on the staff who personally handled the issue.

James Clift with the Michigan Environmental Council said his group has concerns over how much autonomy cities have in conducting the water testing. "Financially, the city has an

incentive to not find a problem," he said, even though the protocols call for trying to test the likely worst homes.

Mr. Clift said cities also need to be required to let residents know that they could be at risk. "To the extent that people have these lead leads in their homes, do they know it," he said. The records of those connections should be computerized, he said.

HFA Report: Medicaid Will Need More GF To Meet Match

When the state has to contribute funds to finance the Healthy Michigan Medicaid Expansion program, it will need to use more General Funds, or find another source of revenues, a report by the House Fiscal Agency said.

But if the Healthy Michigan plan is discontinued, then the Legislature will also have to find more money from GF to cover annual savings Healthy Michigan provides the state now and to cover the loss of funds generate by the Health Insurance Claims Assessment as well as the use tax charged against Medicaid managed care organizations.

In addition, the HFA { HYPERLINK "http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/PDF/CommunityHealth/Michigan_Medicaid_Program_Oct2015.pdf" \t "blank" } said, the Legislature will need to make some fixes to the act that created Healthy Michigan because "the current statutory formula doesn't work mathematically."

With the addition of Healthy Michigan, which covers about 600,000 people whose incomes are up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level, Medicaid provides health insurance to nearly 20 percent of the state's residents, the report said.

Approving Healthy Michigan was one of the most contentious issues of 2013, and in approving the program, the Legislature chose not to create a reserve program - that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } had proposed - that could help the state cover the federal cut in funding beginning in the 2016-17 fiscal year.

In addition, the legislative approval created two conditions under which Healthy Michigan could be ended: if the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid does not approve a new waiver the state has submitted by December 31 and if the costs of meeting the federal match exceed savings for the program.

Under the call for states to expand Medicaid enrollment to low-income individuals and families, in the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the federal government promised to pay 100 percent of the cost of the additional coverage for the first three years. The federal match will then be set at 95 percent in calendar year 2017, and be phased down to 90 percent by 2021-22.

In terms of simple cash payments, the General Fund amount needed to meet the match will start at $137 million in 2016-17 to $356 million in 2020-21.

However, including the offset of the some $235 million in net savings, the state will not actually see an expenditure until the 2018-19 fiscal year, a total of $55 million, the House Fiscal Agency report said. By 2021-22, the expenditure would be an estimated $89 million.

That means the Legislature would have to pull more money out of the General Fund to cover the program, unless an alternate revenue source were found.

But there are other technical factors that could affect the overall savings and costs, especially in terms of when the Healthy Michigan costs exceed its savings (the report did not guess at a time when that might happen).

One of the most significant factors is how the level of state retainer savings will be set under the hospital provider assessment the state now charges. The current formula doesn't work mathematically, the HFA said, so the Legislature will need to change that in law, and when it does, it could set those savings at higher levels than currently forecast. The state also had not yet calculated the savings it is seeing by reducing the amount of uncompensated care it was paying for individuals who were uninsured, needed treatment and were unable to pay their expenses, the report said.

Veterans, Businesses Tout Support For Prevailing Wage

Two groups on Monday held separate press conferences opposing repeal of the prevailing wage, calling on legislators to support the policy because it's good for veterans and the state's small businesses.

"When I got out of the military, I looked at a lot of different jobs, but going into the trades is what suited me. Veterans will be hurt more than any other group (by a repeal)," said Jesse Stevens, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and member of the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

Citizens Protecting Michigan Taxpayers, a group seeking to repeal the prevailing wage law, has submitted some 391,000 signatures in support of its efforts. It awaits a recommendation from the Bureau of Elections as to the validity of those petitions.

Presuming the Board of State Canvassers determines sufficient signatures of registered voters, then the Legislature has 40 days to pass the proposal, which would make a repeal law. Or it could take no action and let the proposal go to the November 2016 ballot. The former is widely expected, but backers of prevailing wage are trying to stop that scenario.

Dave Waymire, spokesperson for Michigan Prevails, a group in support of maintaining the prevailing wage law, estimated that of the 568,000 veterans in the state, about 10 percent were working construction and skilled trades.

Repealing prevailing wage could also hurt the sustainability of the skilled trades at a time when { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } is seeking to invest even more in those fields to fill the demand for such jobs, one veteran said.

"Our Local 252 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) spends over $1 million a year to train apprentices," said Matthew Charles, an Army veteran who is currently a first-year electrician in an apprenticeship program. "I appreciate people saying, 'Thank you for your service,' but now we have politicians who say they want to thank me for my service by ending prevailing wage. This will cut opportunity, pay and benefits for construction workers who are veterans in Michigan, and that's not right."

Repealing the prevailing wage is also a slight to local businesses that have weathered the Michigan economic storms, said Jim Judd, owner of Master Craft Carpet Services in Plymouth.

"Michigan is coming back from a decades-long decline and this attempted repeal of the prevailing wage does nothing to help our comeback," he said in a press call separate from the veteran's event, both held on Monday. "(It) rewards out-of-state businesses that often don't provide jobs for our friends, family and neighbors."

Another business owner, Donna Pardonnet from Architectural Contractors Trade Association, said she has had first-hand experience that tells her Michigan contractors would face "unfair" competition from out-of-state corporations "that avoid paying taxes by paying workers under the table."

"They will be forced to compete with operations that promote unsafe worksites and with operations that replace skilled Michigan tradespeople with unskilled workers from out of state," she said.

Mr. Judd and Ms. Pardonnet are among { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/PW-businesses.pdf" } who signed and sent a { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/PW-letter.docx" } to the Legislature urging lawmakers to protect Michigan's prevailing wage laws.

Both groups argued that an earlier suspension of the law in the 1990s did not lead to cost savings, as fewer contractors bid on public projects.

But Chris Fisher, president of Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan, said prevailing wage is "decidedly anti-taxpayer."

"Most credible studies prove that prevailing wage kills jobs and wastes tax dollars because it isn't hard to figure out that when you let unions rig the bidding process, prices will go up," he said. "Michigan's one of just six states where prevailing wage is based exclusively on union agreements. It's time to put taxpayers in charge instead of giving big labor a blank check with our tax dollars."

Hospital Report Says Improved Practices Netted Savings, Improved Lives

A report by the Michigan Health and Hospital Association said Monday that ongoing improvements in overall patient care has both saved money and improved overall outcomes for patients, including saving lives.

Significantly, the improvements include a 34 percent cut in deaths from septic shock from 2011 to 2014, the report said.

And in 2014 alone, hospitals saved more than $100 million in overall costs by reducing the number of readmissions by more than 10,000 cases.

The report said from 2010 to 2014, hospitals were able to reduce early elective births by 60 percent, which meant healthier mothers and babies. Approximately 2,900 births were affected.

And from 2012 to 2014, state hospitals were able to cut the use of catheters by 27 percent, which reduced the risk of overall infection.

Campaign Notes

PAC TAUNTS COURSER, GAMRAT WITH BUMPER STICKERS: The Progress Michigan Action Fund is selling bumper stickers in the 80th and 82nd House Districts where special elections are taking place to replace expelled former Rep. Cindy Gamrat and resigned former Rep. Todd Courser. In Ms. Gamrat's district, the bumper sticker says, "Todd's Girlfriend, Republican for State Representative," and in Mr. Courser's district, the bumper sticker says, "Cindy's Boyfriend, Republican for State Representative."

SBAM ENDORSES WHITEFORD; SPLITS ON 82ND DISTRICT: The Small Business Association of Michigan's political action committee has endorsed Republican Mary Whiteford of Casco Township in the special election in the 80th House District where former Rep. Cindy Gamrat was expelled. In the 2014 primary, Ms. Whiteford received the PAC's seal of approval.

In the 82nd District, where former Rep. Todd Courser resigned, the group said it had given stamps of approval to both Republican Jan Peabody of Lapeer and Republican Gary Howell of Lapeer.

GILBERT DONATIONS: Republicans used recent campaign finance filings to again hit Melissa Gilbert, candidate for the 8th U.S. House District as well as former television star, with her tax problems.

Ms. Gilbert has said in prior statements that she is working with the Internal Revenue Service and California tax officials to repay tax debts, but Michigan Republican Party Chairman Ronna Romney McDaniel said she should use at least one of her campaign contributions toward that end: the $5,400 she received from actor husband Timothy Busfield.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, October 20

Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. (Special Meeting)

Administrative Board/Transportation and Natural Resources, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/buymichiganfirst/dnr_agenda_222565_7.pdf" \t "blank" }; { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/buymichiganfirst/tnr_agenda_222572_7.pdf" \t "blank" })

Friday, October 23

Civil Rights Commission, Partrich Auditorium, Wayne State University Law School, 471 West Palmer, Detroit, 12 p.m. (Interviews of director candidates)

Tuesday, October 27

Canceled: ~~Administrative Board, Lake Superior Room, First Floor, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, 11 a.m.~~

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, October 20

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=89301&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/local_govt_elec.html" \t "blank" }), **(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" }, 373-5323), 100, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB403901" } **PROPERTY TAX** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=289301" }) Revises delinquent tax notice by publication. (Testimony Only)

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB403901" } **COUNTY BOARDS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=325301" }) Eliminates sunset on the transfer of functions from a county road commission to the county board of

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316901" } **REFUND INTEREST** (modifies timeline for interest claims on refunds.

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{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=264301" } REFUND INTEREST Aligns interest claims on city income tax with Revenue Act.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB446201" } SALES TAX ON GASOLINE Revises provisions for prepaid sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

Wednesday, October 21

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=93001&locid=1" } ({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=331" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=280701&locid=1" }, 373-2115), Room 327, House Office Building, 9 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=60301" } CHILD ABUSE Allows reporting child abuse or child neglect through an online reporting system and waiving a written report under certain circumstances.

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2002), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.**

{ HYPER LINK "http://w ww.gong wer.com/ index.cf m?link=l egislatio n_billdet ail.cfm& billid=20 15SB349 01" } **DELINQUENT TAXES** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210301" }) Revises delinquent taxes notice provision.

{ HYPE RLIN K "http: **INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=206201" }) Expands tangible personal property eligible for an industrial processing exemption.

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1260), Room 307, House Office Building, 12 p.m.

- **Tax Increment Financing presentation**

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210, Farnum Building, 12:30 p.m.

- **Presentation by Mark Rudnicki of Michigan Technological University (MTU) on REFORGE, an initiative related to the forest products industry in Michigan.**

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Room 210, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4904 01" } **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001" }) Provides for the presidential primary election as a regular election date and clarifies filing deadlines for candidates for local office and for all local ballot question.

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Michigan News & Opinion For October 20, 2015

News

Michigan Supreme Court hears arguments on prevailing wage law (Bridge Magazine, 10/20/2015)

Blind activist to stand trial for resisting police (Detroit Free Press, 10/20/2015)

Federal appeals court hears Ambassador Bridge challenge (Detroit Free Press, 10/20/2015)

DEQ chief says state used wrong federal water rules in Flint for 17 months (Flint Journal, 10/20/2015)

DEQ replaces water official after state acknowledges 'mistake' in Flint (Flint Journal, 10/20/2015)

Emails show feds warned state in February of leaching lead in Flint (Flint Journal, 10/20/2015)

Michigan marijuana arrests rise as use increases nationwide (Michigan Radio, 10/20/2015)

'Green Tea' Party? Far right Republicans, liberal Democrats aligning on Michigan renewable energy issue (MLive, 10/20/2015)

How Snyder plans to sell his $715 million plan for Detroit schools to Michigan lawmakers (MLive, 10/20/2015)

Schuette fights resentencing as 'juvenile lifers' debate returns to U.S. Supreme Court (MLive, 10/20/2015)

Watch live: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to detail plans for Detroit schools, debt relief (MLive, 10/20/2015)

Legislation calls for microbead ban, environmentalists say its not enough (Petoskey News-Review, 10/20/2015)

Mich. GOP calls on Gilbert to refund spouse's cash (The Detroit News, 10/20/2015)

Snyder defends environmental director on Flint crisis (The Detroit News, 10/20/2015)

Editorials

Gov's plan to fix DPS: The best we've got (Detroit Free Press, 10/20/2015)

Column: Teacher evaluation bill lacks mandates experts say are necessary to lift student achievement (MLive, 10/20/2015)

Lawmakers must stand up for Medicare cancer care in Michigan (MLive, 10/20/2015)

Susan J. Demas: Here's how bad things are for Democrats in Michigan (MLive, 10/20/2015)

Column: Update young offender sentencing (The Detroit News, 10/20/2015)

Right-to-know victory (Toledo Blade, 10/20/2015)

Blogs

The Road Funding Debate And Michigan State's Miraculous Win (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/19/2015)

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Attachments: Oct20.htm; Oct20House.htm; 151020dayplan.htm; Oct20Senate.htm

Michigan Report for Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Cotter, Meekhof Now Tangling On Roads

Teacher, Administrator Evaluations Head To Snyder

Ananich: 'Troubling' Finds On Flint Water Crisis

Pavlov Taking Time On DPS Plan, Third Grade Reading Bill

'Kevin's Law' Update Clears House

Hertel, Colbeck Debate On Roads Drifts Into Other Issues

Bills Would Increase Motorcycle Safety Course Fee

Senate Panel Approves Ban On Marketing To Students

Snyder Signs Civil Asset Forfeiture Bills

Snyder Names Two To Oakland Circuit Court

Committee Roundup

Campaign Notes

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Day Planner

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Volume #54, Report #208 -- Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Cotter, Meekhof Now Tangling On Roads

Efforts to find a way to generate $1.2 billion more for the state's roads further devolved Tuesday when Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof and House Speaker Kevin Cotter disagreed, publicly and privately, about the next step to take to break the stalemate on the issue.

Governor Rick Snyder, Mr. Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant) and Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) met in Mr. Meekhof's office for a little less than an hour Tuesday with staff, other legislators and Lt. Governor Brian Calley. The meeting began about a half-hour after Mr. Meekhof took the unusual step of publicly calling for the House to convene conference committees and put before the House the "deal" for a vote.

That "deal" is the 400-400-400 plan that relies upon $400 million in new revenue from raising the gasoline tax by 6.5 cents per gallon, $400 million from fees, largely through ending the depreciation in new vehicle registration fees and $400 million from the General Fund.

"There's other bells and whistles, but that's the base plan," Mr. Meekhof told reporters after session. "The drafts are completed, so no other work needs to be done. I have the drafts ready. A conference committee could meet. And I'm asking them to call the conference committee, put the last best deal we had on the table up for a vote, and go get the votes."

Mr. Cotter, exiting the leadership meeting later, asked if he could comment on the situation, simply said, "No."

Cotter spokesperson Gideon D'Assandro later dismissed Mr. Meekhof's request.

"Senate Majority Leader Meekhof abruptly left the last quadrant meeting early because Rep. Greimel changed his mind on an income tax cut, so he should know there is no deal," he said. "Speaker Cotter has been working with the governor on the issue since then, and he remains hopeful we can find reliable support for a permanent road funding solution."

Adding to the acrimony, later in the day, WOOD-TV, the NBC affiliate in Grand Rapids, aired a story in which House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) went further on the manner in which Mr. Meekhof allegedly left the last Legislative Quadrant meeting with the governor.

"I want to continue talking with the other quadrant leaders. I made that very clear last week when Arlan rushed out of the room like a child when he couldn't get his way," Mr. Greimel told WOOD-TV.

Meekhof spokesperson Amber McCann said Mr. Meekhof would not comment "on the actions of his colleagues" in quadrant meetings, saying those meetings are for frank conversations.

As to Mr. Cotter's rejection of Mr. Meekhof's request, she said, "I would find it surprising that the speaker and ... Representative Greimel aren't interested in moving the process forward."

Legislative sources, speaking on condition they not be named, said Mr. Cotter now plans to try to see if the House, using mainly Republican votes, can pass a new plan and essentially dare the Senate and Mr. Snyder to say no. Several sources said, at least initially, Mr. Cotter is considering another try at the 600-600 plan ($600 million in new revenue and $600 million dedicated from the General Fund).

The House took a stab at a 600-600 plan in August, but it faltered because House Republicans were short of the votes in their caucus, and Mr. Snyder declared $600 million from the General Fund was too much without addressing other pressures on it, such as the coming sunset of the Health Insurance Claims Tax, a key source of Medicaid funding.

A week ago, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Cotter declared an "impasse" in negotiations for a bipartisan deal for road funding. The main problem was that Mr. Greimel resisted the size of the income tax cut Republicans were seeking.

The quadrant has not met since that meeting.

"The House has this in their lap and they have the ability to act, and I'm asking them to act," Mr. Meekhof said. "I think to say it this way, the plan we put forward guarantees the road funding and gambles on the fact we'd have revenue for tax relief."

And Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) seemed to agree.

"There's a point in time where we do have to have some action," Mr. Ananich said. "I get the point he's talking about ... the House has kind of Charlie Brown-ed us a number of times on these roads deals."

Mr. Ananich said he has some concerns about the proposal by his Senate Republican colleagues because it does not account for a potential downturn in the economy.

"It's similar to Proposal A in that it only ever goes down, it doesn't go up. If there's a bad year or a series of bad years, that cut would compound the problem, and we've seen it's difficult to raise taxes," Mr. Ananich said. "So I'm hopeful we can have a conversation and figure out a plan that meets the need of tax relief but at the same time doesn't put the budget in a long-term sustainability issue."

Mr. Snyder, leaving the leadership meeting, said he appreciates where Mr. Meekhof is coming from with a call for the House to vote, but did not make the same request.

"There's an issue for the House and the Senate to have dialogue and discussion because it's a conference committee issue, but ... that last plan was a pretty reasonable compromise," he said.

Business Leaders for Michigan and the Michigan Municipal League issued a joint statement supporting Mr. Meekhof's call for the House to bring the 400-400-400 plan to a vote and also warning against any plan using more than $400 million from the General Fund for roads, saying it would jeopardize other key services.

Teacher, Administrator Evaluations Head To Snyder

Only two senators opposed supporting a revamped proposal that provides a framework for educator evaluations on Tuesday, sending the bill that had just been passed by the House last week to Governor Rick Snyder for his approval.

Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) and Sen. Coleman Young II (D-Detroit) voted in opposition to SB 103, and Sen. Mike Green (R-Mayville) was absent from session.

The bill has seen something of a wild ride in the Legislature, as it first passed the Senate back in May, but with much more dissent (See Gongwer Michigan Report, May 20, 2015). Among those who had first opposed to the bill's passage was Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) who, when she served in the state House last term, worked alongside Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) to craft a bill.

Ms. O'Brien supported the bill that passed the Senate 35-2 on Tuesday, saying she felt many stakeholders had been included in the process and were actually heard this time.

"It's focused on good, sound, education policy," Ms. O'Brien said of the final version Tuesday.

The House began taking up SB 103 in June, but before long it became clear there was too much distance between what the House Education Committee chair, Rep. Amanda Price (R-Park Township), envisioned for the bill and what Sen. Phil Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, had in mind. Making matters worse is that an adviser for Governor Rick Snyder in June told the House committee that Mr. Snyder did not support the bill in its current form (See Gongwer Michigan Report, June 18, 2015).

"I think the districts started realizing that if we don't make this happen now, they'll be under current law, and current law just wasn't going to be acceptable," Mr. Pavlov told reporters of what finally broke the log-jam on the matter. "So we wanted to make sure going into this school year that teachers, administrators and boards knew there was going to be a new policy in evaluating teachers that was better than current law, and I think that's what really started moving the discussion."

The bill heading to Mr. Snyder now establishes both training requirements and options for school districts and public school academies to develop their own teacher evaluation tool or make modifications to an existing tool. It also the funding for training must come from the Educator Evaluation Reserve Fund.

The Department of Education would also have to establish and maintain a list of teacher and administrator evaluation tools, and the list would have to, at the very least, include the tools recommended by the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness in 2013. Districts do not have to use the same tool for teachers and administrators.

For teachers, beginning in the 2018-19 school year, 40 percent of the year-end evaluation would be based on student growth, with half coming from the state assessment and half coming from a local assessment.

For administrators, beginning immediately, 25 percent of the annual evaluation would be based on student growth and assessment data. The data is an aggregate of student growth data used in teacher evaluations in the district where the administrator works.

Sen. David Knezek (D-Dearborn Heights) praised the bill on Tuesday as providing "clearly defined evaluation expectations to help create a system of effective teacher evaluation accountability," as well as allows for more local decision-making.

"This bill as amended will help us hold our educators accountable and ensure our students are receiving a quality education in the state of Michigan," Mr. Knezek said.

SB 103 also provides $14.8 million for districts to train administrators and teachers on the use of new evaluation tools.

The bill was well-received by various education interests, especially those had been pushing for such reforms since the first report from the Michigan Council on Educator Effectiveness years ago.

"Although the legislation passed by the House and Senate does not contain all of the council's recommendations, it does change the focus of evaluations," Michigan Education Association President Steven Cook said in a statement. "Instead of punishment, the goal of evaluations is now aimed at improving classroom instruction. In creating the Ball Commission and using its report as a guide, the Legislature acknowledged that experts in the field are invaluable in guiding education reform forward. That too is a change for the better."

Others were pleased to see the bill's final passage but looked to the Department of Education for leadership going forward.

"Michigan has not invested in nor developed new systems to better train and support Michigan's existing teachers. "We've done even less for school leaders," said Amber Arellano, executive director of The Education Trust-Midwest, in a statement. "Now the Department of Education can change that. It will need to play an unprecedented leadership role in systems change, oversight and ensuring the new system is providing sophisticated feedback to teachers, improving instruction across all districts and dramatically raising student achievement. Combined with the state's new college- and career-ready standards for teaching and learning, this is a huge opportunity for Michigan students."

The Tri-County Alliance for Public Education, which includes superintendents from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, also applauded the vote by the Senate.

"Effective teachers and administrators can make all the difference in the world when it comes to educating our kids, and constructive evaluation will strengthen teaching in our classrooms," said Russel Pickell, superintendent of Riverview Community Schools.

"We commend Senator Pavlov and the Michigan Legislature for working in good faith with educators on this legislation," said Mark Burton, executive director of the Alliance. "His leadership on this issue should be held up as an example of how legislators can learn from those on the frontlines of education to achieve our common goals and ensure our kids are prepared for college and a career."

And officials with the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals said passing the bill in its H-8 form was "an important milestone" for the state's principals, but more work still needs to be done.

"Educators finally have a clear target: implementing improvement-focused evaluations and growing the quality of all educators. Today's vote validates the work of the schools that have already begun the hard job of implementing quality evaluation systems and will support those districts that still need to make the transition," the group said in a statement. "Regardless, there is still plenty of difficult work ahead to implement this new law, improve our collective performance and ensure that every student benefits from the expertise of skillful educators. The Department of Education also has a significant role to play moving forward in providing guidance for schools and allocating the funding appropriated to support these systems."

Ananich: 'Troubling' Finds On Flint Water Crisis

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich said Tuesday it is "really troubling" that individuals within the Drinking Water Division of the Department of Environmental Quality spent more time protecting their reputation than they did protecting citizens, but he wouldn't go so far as to call for DEQ Director Dan Wyant to resign or be fired.

"I think we need to have a thorough investigation before we make any decisions about who should be fired or anything like that. I think it's clear he sees the gravity of the problem in his department, and I think he's learning that every day," Mr. Ananich told reporters after session. "But we have to get the bottom of how folks in the Drinking Water Division could so blatantly do everything they can in their power to hide the truth from the public, and that's pretty clearly what they did. "

The Flint Journal recently reported that emails exchanged among several DEQ and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials show flags had been raised about lead possibly leaching into Flint's water system some seven months ago.

Mr. Ananich said he's had some preliminary conversations with Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) about next steps the Legislature could take to ensure accountability and

help the citizens of his hometown regain trust in their water, their elected officials and their government. But Mr. Ananich said the two need to have more formal discussion about a course of action.

Mr. Ananich said he was also in the process of sending a request to the state's auditor general, who happens to be auditing the drinking water division, to add a few questions about the process and procedures in place in the event that a situation like has happened in Flint were to break out.

"When you get an email from somebody on your personal account, four or five people, and none of them have the self-respect for my community to say, 'hmm, maybe I shouldn't do this, maybe I should take this to the next level,' that's a problem," Mr. Ananich said. "That's a cultural problem that people would be more concerned about hiding something than telling the public the truth, and it's really troubling."

He said he felt there ought to be an investigation, though he wasn't immediately sure the form that could take. He hoped it would be independent, he said, and that "if things come out that people were negligent or purposeful in their actions, I think there needs to be some very serious consequences."

He also suggested a possible avenue is through the recently-created Senate Oversight Committee, especially because the House has a committee of the same name too.

"But I think with a department that's got such a heavy responsibility and one division in particular has shown that for the last 18 months they've failed, that warrants our involvement," Mr. Ananich said. "We have to get to the bottom of it. Every day more and more information comes out and it just gets worse."

Pavlov Taking Time On DPS Plan, Third Grade Reading Bill

Sen. Phil Pavlov may have cleared one major hurdle on Tuesday when the Senate passed a bill outlining a framework for the evaluation of teachers and administrators, but more work is still in front of him when it comes to potentially leading in the Senate on Governor Rick Snyder's recently announced plan for Detroit Public Schools, as well as a bill on third-grade reading proficiency that passed the House last week.

Mr. Pavlov (R-St. Clair), chair of the Senate Education Committee, said he is reviewing the proposal by Governor Rick Snyder on how to revamp Detroit Public Schools and pay down its debts without harming education for the students enrolled in the district (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 19, 2015).

"We've been meeting with the leaders and the coalition over the last several months. I think it's got a long way to go, but I think again, there's a need there," he told reporters after session. "There's a crisis looming. So we'll work through that just like we have with any other issue."

Mr. Pavlov said one of his preliminary concerns about the plan is school of choice, and the ability of parents and students to have "unfettered choice to educational opportunities" without be penalized, he said.

But he's also concerned about the amount of funding that Mr. Snyder is requesting for the Legislature, "because you're taking that from all other students in the state of Michigan," Mr. Pavlov said.

Although some believe the plan could start over in the Senate, Mr. Pavlov said he was not immediately sure himself, but the Senate GOP caucus has a great deal of interest in the proposal.

As to whether he could personally support something like what Mr. Snyder is asking, especially given how much money and effort has already been given to Detroit, Mr. Pavlov said, "I'm not convinced anybody is willing to go and reward bad behavior, but we do have a problem and that is that these kids need to be educated. So there's got to be a balance there."

He said he thought it to be "a big ask" to try to get the deal on DPS done by the end of the year, seeming a little more open to a timeframe that is before the beginning of the next school year.

"I think some of these issues are going to work themselves out over time, and to put a timeframe and predict when that would happen is going to be very difficult from where we are today," Mr. Pavlov said.

READING PROFICIENCY: Mr. Pavlov's committee was also assigned the task Tuesday of reviewing HB 4822, a bill designed to get elementary students reading proficiently before entering fourth grade. The bill cleared the House last week with only three Democratic lawmakers in support - although it had cleared committee with support from the Democrats (See Gongwer Michigan Report, October 15, 2015).

Mr. Pavlov said he has no specific timeframe on the bill, admitting he hadn't really followed the issue very closely in the House until this point.

"I think we've clearly identified there's a problem here in this state. There's a number of issues I'm concerned about," he said. "We've made the largest investment in the country on early childhood education. We're asking the questions - when are those results going to start showing up? Why are kids still getting into third grade with all this additional support and still not having the highest proficiencies in reading. We're not just looking at third grade reading, we need to look at the Great Start program all the way through third grade."

'Kevin's Law' Update Clears House

Family and friends would be permitted to get mental health treatment for a person close to them before an unfortunate incident under legislation passed by the House Tuesday.

In 2004, former Governor Jennifer Granholm signed "Kevin's Law" in honor of Kevin Heisinger, who was beaten to death in a Kalamazoo bus/train station by a man with schizophrenia who stopped taking his medication.

Current law allows judges to order involuntary assisted outpatient treatment, but only after a major incident occurs.

Under HB 4674, which passed 103-2, sponsored by Rep. Tom Leonard III (R-DeWitt Township), a family member or friend would be allowed to petition the court and allow judges to order outpatient treatment for those who have had their mental illness confirmed by a physician, all without a crime being committed.

"This reform is sorely needed because current law makes it very difficult for people who might not recognize the severity of their situation to obtain the treatment they need," Mr. Leonard said in a statement. "In the same vein, we must guarantee individuals' due process rights are protected by providing legal counsel to guide them through the court process if they believe AOT is not necessary. This protects both the public safety and the privileges of the individual."

Supporters have said under current law (passed about a decade ago), a crisis needed to occur before intervention could happen, and communities have been confused by the complexity of "Kevin's Law" and it hasn't been used much.

"We must make public safety - including the well-being of the individual in need of care - a priority in this type of situation, but also ensure that their rights remain protected. This legislation strikes that delicate balance." Mr. Leonard said. "I want to thank Lt. Gov. Calley for bringing this issue to my attention, and for the strong leadership he has shown working to protect our state's most vulnerable citizens."

HB 4674 does the following:

- Offers early intervention, since current law requires a serious incident that might endanger public safety to occur before AOT may be requested;
- Simplifies the process of seeking court-appointed treatment; and
- Allows a judge to order AOT before an incident has occurred that could cause injury to the prospective patient or a member of the public.

Hertel, Colbeck Debate On Roads Drifts Into Other Issues

A debate between two sitting senators that was supposed to be on the fundamental question over whether a tax increase is a necessary component of a final road funding solution went a bit off topic Tuesday as other issues such as the cost of health care, maintaining prevailing wage and fewer taxes on the middle class found their way into the hour-long back-and-forth.

Sen. Patrick Colbeck (R-Canton Township) was pleased last week when Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. (D-East Lansing) took him up on a challenge Mr. Colbeck had earlier raised to his colleagues about having a public debate on the necessity of a tax increase as a component for a road funding solution. But what began as a fairly civil disagreement on whether the objective was to raise $1.2 billion or to fix the roads in a manner that made them more sustainable eventually turned into a debate about the philosophical differences between Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. Colbeck began the discussion, saying he hoped to obtain an agreement that he and Mr. Hertel were trying to solve the same problem - a search that would come back perhaps in a manner he hadn't expected to, which is, not at all. Mr. Colbeck said beyond that key point, he wanted to debate his proposal, which in brief was to reprioritize existing funds, reduce expenses on fixing roads, leverage existing resources, and, if none of those were amicable, talk a tax increase.

Mr. Hertel took his opening statement in a completely different direction, saying that while he agreed funding Michigan's roads is the single-most important issue facing the state today, "I think people are frustrated because under this governor and this Legislature, they're paying more in taxes and they're not getting much out of it," he said. "I think people are frustrated with the massive tax cuts that have gone to corporations and have not gone to helping people in their everyday lives."

And he called Mr. Colbeck's proposal "a math problem" that focused more on logistics than it did on creating a long-term, sustainable funding solution for the state's roads and bridges.

"You believe the objective is to find $1.2 billion. I believe the objective is to find a way to fix roads faster than they degrade," Mr. Colbeck shot back.

Mr. Hertel returned, "$1.2 billion is the number the experts have come up with, not me. That's to maintain our current road system. I think we should invest more money into research and development to build longer lasting roads, but that's not been talked about in the Legislature."

The disagreement on the $1.2 billion number would continue, as Mr. Colbeck argued the problem could be smaller at about $700 million if the state would invest more into roads materials that were more sustainable, such as those being developed at the University of Michigan. Mr. Colbeck would raise other examples, but Mr. Hertel said his research into such materials and their companies is that they hadn't been tested in a practical manner, such as serving as a highway instead of a driveway, yet.

"I believe it's fiscally irresponsible," Mr. Hertel said of Mr. Colbeck's proposal, which, after some time, had finally revealed itself to involve a look at, and use of, restricted funds (which Mr. Hertel said was unconstitutional), as well as possibly using money associated with the Michigan Strategic Fund and the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Colbeck said fixing the roads ought to be considered economic development, and so the use of MSF funds would be warranted. And there is an excess of money in the BSF, so at least some of that could be directed toward roads, he said.

But Mr. Hertel ripped both as one-time solutions (though Mr. Colbeck later argued that funds from the BSF could be made into ongoing funds). He also pointed to some of the details in Mr. Colbeck's proposal, which Mr. Hertel alleged included taking money away from sexual assault prevention funds for university campuses and newborn screenings.

"I just don't understand. You can't play a legislative shell game. People pay these fees because they expect a service," Mr. Hertel said of Mr. Colbeck's proposal.

"All I'm saying is let's look into and make sure the actual funds are meeting the needs," Mr. Colbeck shot back.

Before long, the debate slid into an argument over whether to keep the state's prevailing wage and what the cost of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has to the state, though it would eventually return to point when questions from the audience were asked, the first of which questioned whether the Department of Transportation ought to be investing more into research and development projects on roads.

"They have (the) equivalent of sand box. The problem is, we never seem to convert those projects, those sandbox items into changes of how we fix those roads. I think we need to do a better job," Mr. Colbeck said of MDOT. "We're not getting the bang for our buck we deserve."

Mr. Hertel defended MDOT, saying like other parts of the state budget, theirs has been cut "to the bone."

"I'm all for doing more for less but you can't expect that to routinely work forever," Mr. Hertel said. "If you had a plan that was sustainable, don't you think Rick Snyder would jump on it?"

Both had different takeaways from the defeat of Proposal 1, but both also had concerns about an income tax rollback.

"I'm always for a tax rollback, but I'm cautioned by the fact that one of the first things we did when I came into the Legislature was to stop a rollback," Mr. Colbeck said. "I'm not convinced it would go all the way down, because people are still fixated on raising taxes."

"It's fiscally irresponsible," Mr. Hertel said of the rollback. "It scares me to roll it down in good times but have no time to go up in bad."

Bills Would Increase Motorcycle Safety Course Fee

The maximum fee for a motorcycle safety course would increase from $25 to $50 under legislation discussed in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on Tuesday.

HB 4853 and HB 4854, introduced by Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston), would increase the fee and require the Department of State to waive the written knowledge test, road signal test and driving skills test for an applicant who had successfully passed a private or public motorcycle safety course.

Under the first bill, government agencies offering the motorcycle safety courses would be allowed to charge up to $50, but could charge less if they chose.

Mr. Tedder said the fee not been increased since 1982. He said $25 does not come close to covering the cost of the class. He also said the fee is so low, some sign up for the class but then do not show up.

Under the current program, the public entities providing the classes submit a grant request to the department for reimbursement. Mr. Tedder said because the fee is low and the Motorcycle Safety Fund has shrunk, they are not always reimbursed for the full amount spent.

"Several institutions have voiced concerns over their ability to maintain hosting the class because they are quite frankly losing money," Mr. Tedder said. "This is an opportunity to make these whole so they can continue hosting these classes."

Mr. Tedder said he took one of the courses a couple months ago, and took a class from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

He said at the class booklets were provided, and six hours were spent out on the course and a motorcycle was provided during the class at no additional costs.

"For $25 I received nearly nine hours of quality instruction and at the end of that experience successfully completed a secretary of state approved test," he said.

Rep. Jeff Farrington (R-Utica) questioned why the increase was so large. "I am thrown back a little bit by a 100 percent increase in fees," he said.

Mr. Tedder said the fees were artificially maintained at a low level.

And Rep. David Rutledge (D-Ypsilanti) said he thought the fee should be $100. "The fee has been $25 for 30 years," he said.

American Bikers Aiming Toward Education also supports the legislation. The committee did not act on the bills.

MDOT PRESENTATION: Department of Transportation Director Kirk Steudle also spoke to the committee Tuesday on various efficiencies within the department and projects it's working on this year.

Mr. Steudle said the department has reduced staff by 15 percent during the last three years and combined with other efficiencies has saved $316 million during that time.

In 2015, he said, the department has saved $13.5 million by partnering with private entities to provide more street lights in Detroit, and saved $22 million through bond refinancing.

Mr. Steudle said during the next five years, the department will invest $503 million annually to repair and rebuild roads.

He said $168 million will be invested annually to repair bridges.

The committee ran out of time and Mr. Steudle was only able to take a couple questions from committee members but will return at the request of Rep. Peter Pettalia (R-Presque Isle), the committee chair.

Senate Panel Approves Ban On Marketing To Students

Companies that provide electronic services to schools would be prohibited from targeted marketing to students under legislation reported Tuesday from the Senate Education Committee.

The bill (SB 510), as reported, would ban advertising to students based on information the company collected on them as well as prohibit sale of any of that information.

The student or his or her parents would be permitted to request disclosure of any of the collected data, but the company would also be required to delete any or all of that data if the school district requests that.

The bill was reported unanimously with an S-2 substitute.

SHARED TIME: The committee also began discussions on bills (HB 4594 and HB 4790) that would allow kindergarten students to be eligible for shared time.

Current law allows students in first grade and above who are home schooled or attend a private school to take some classes at their local public school, with the school being reimbursed based on the amount of time the student spends at the public school.

Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), sponsor of the bill, said the current law was written when kindergarten was generally part-time and so did not lend itself to shared time programs.

"Half-day kindergarten is pretty much not the rule anymore," he said. "This allows both home schoolers and private schools to work together with the public schools."

Mr. McBroom said there would need to be conflict substitutes approved when the committee moves the bills, which appeared to have general support from Republicans, to accommodate recent School Aid Act changes.

Snyder Signs Civil Asset Forfeiture Bills

Legislation putting new limits on civil asset forfeiture, one of the few major issues in recent years that largely united both conservative and liberal legislators, was signed into law Tuesday by Governor Rick Snyder.

The package of bills sets new reporting requirements for governments and police agencies on property seized, as well as setting new stricter standards governments must follow before seizing property.

"These new reporting requirements will raise the bar so that a fair balance is struck between private property rights and law enforcement's effective ability to do their job in pursuing criminal activity," Mr. Snyder said in a statement about the seven-bill package.

The main measure, HB 4504 (PA 148) requires all government entities to report any and all property seizures and forfeitures to the State Police. The State Police will then compile a report on those seizures which will be given to the Legislature and posted on the department's website.

HB 4499 (PA 153) raises the threshold to "clear and convincing evidence" to seize property in nuisance abatements. And HB 4505 (PA 154) the plaintiff in a controlled substance case has to show the seizing property was a violation again by the clear and convincing standard.

Also signed were HB 4500 (PA 149) HB 4503 (PA 150, HB 4506 (PA 151) and HB 4507 (PA 152) which amend different statutes to comport with the new standards.

Mr. Snyder also signed a package of Senate-House bills to help ensure individuals who rely on service animals have greater access to public facilities. The bills were created after a number of incidents where individuals were prevented entrance to some public places because they had a service animal, most commonly a dog, with them.

SB 298 (PA 144) makes it a crime to deny access to someone with a service animal, or to attack a service animal. SB 299 (PA 145) exempts service animals from licensing fees if they are assisting a person with a disability or a veteran with a service-related disability.

HB 4521 (PA 146) requires the Department of Civil Rights to offer voluntary identification for service animals, and HB 4527 (PA 147) makes it a misdemeanor to falsely identify a service animal.

Other bills signed by Mr. Snyder were:

SB 64, PA 155 — PATIENT CARE POLICIES (Hansen) Requires establishment of patient care policies and compliance procedures based on nationally recognized guidelines or best-practice resources, and provides other general amendments.

Signed: October 19, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 65, PA 156 — HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (Hansen) Allows employment of or contracting with health professional to provide medical treatment to nursing home patients regardless of business entity status of nursing home.

Signed: October 20, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 66, PA 157 — LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES (Hansen) Clarifies application of definition of learned profession to certain health professionals.

Signed: October 19, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 67, PA 158 — BUSINESS CORPORATIONS (Hansen) Clarifies application of definition of learned profession to certain health professionals.

Signed: October 19, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

SB 358, PA 159 — TEACHER CERTIFICATES (Hansen) Revises requirements for professional teaching certificate and requirements for alternative teaching certificate process.

Signed: October 20, 2015; Effective: January 18, 2016

Snyder Names Two To Oakland Circuit Court

Governor Rick Snyder on Tuesday named two people to the Oakland Circuit Court, one of which was Hala Jarbou to succeed new Court of Appeals Judge Colleen O'Brien.

Also named was Jerry Matis to succeed Judge Rudy Nichols (who served in the House for two years and then was elected to the Senate in 1984 succeeding the recalled Sen. Phil Mastin. He was elected to the court in 1990).

Ms. Jarbou is currently with the U.S. Department of Justice as an assistance U.S. attorney in the Drug Task Force. She must run for full term as judge in 2016.

Mr. Matis is in private practice and is also the vice chair of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. He previously had been on the Rochester City Council. He must run in 2016 to complete the term which will end in 2020.

Committee Roundup

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES: The committee began discussions Tuesday on legislation (HB 4908) to remove the sunset date on authority for the Natural Resources Commission to set regulations for recreational feeding of deer and elk.

Supporters said it was important for the commission to retain that authority as part of the effort to combat chronic wasting disease and other communicable diseases.

But Rep. Ken Goike (R-Ray Township) and Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) argued for extending the sunset three years.

Mr. Goike said he was happy with the commission's work now, but said that could change. "Why give it away and then have to do legislation to get the power back," he said of legislative control over the commission's actions.

Rep. John Kivela (D-Marquette), sponsor of the legislation, said the legislative process takes too long. "Three years from now, chronic wasting disease is going to be more of a threat, not less," he said.

Amy Trotter with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs said it would be a waste of time to keep a sunset on the authority given the small likelihood any of the parties would reverse their support for the commission's work.

Mr. McBroom noted there was nothing that would prevent the governor from taking the authority from the commission and giving it to the director, as former Governor Jennifer Granholm had done with oversight of invasive species.

Campaign Notes

GILBERT ENDORSEMENT: The United Food and Commercial Workers Local 951 has endorsed Democrat Melissa Gilbert in her run for the 8th U.S. House District.

"Melissa has a proven track record of protecting workers' rights and supporting unions, which strengthen the voices of American workers," John Cakmakci, president of the local, said in a statement. "I am confident that she will fight for Michigan's working families in Congress."

Capital Notebook

SIMON TO CHAIR AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES: Michigan State University President Lou Anna Simon will serve as chair of the Association of American Universities for the next year. Ms. Simon was elected to the post by the association's board on Tuesday.

The association includes 62 of the top research universities in the United States and Canada, and both promotes university research and the relationship between the United States government and university research.

As chair, Ms. Simon will act as the spokesperson for the association, especially on issue that directly concern research universities.

GORZ JOINS MAC: Elizabeth Gorz has joined the Michigan Association of Counties as the organization's governmental affairs associate. Before joining the counties organization, she was a lobbyist at Capitol Affairs, and had been a staffer for former Senate Majority Leader and now U.S. Rep. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester), and an aide to former Sen., now U.S. Rep. John Moolenaar (R-Midland) and to Sen. Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights).

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, October 21

Board of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 9 a.m. (Agenda; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following (Agenda))

Wednesday, November 4

Criminal Justice Policy Commission, Senate Appropriations Room, Third Floor, Capitol, Lansing, 9 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, October 28

Rep. Julie Plawecki **(D) Fundraiser, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.**

Thursday, October 29

Rep. George Darany **(D) Fundraiser, LaPita Banquet Hall, 22681 Newman, Dearborn, 5 p.m.**

Thursday, November 5

Rep. Robert Wittenberg **(D) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.**

Thursday, November 12

Rep. LaTanya Garrett **(D) Fundraiser, 208 North Capitol Avenue, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.**

Friday, November 13

Rep. Sheldon Neely (D) Fundraiser, Signature Chop House, 1537 Pierson Road, Flushing, 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 15

Rep. Erika Geiss **(D) Fundraiser, 24645 Muirfield Drive, Taylor, 4 p.m.**

Sunday, November 22

Rep. Jon Hoadley **(D) Fundraiser, 277 South Rose Street, Suite 5000, Kalamazoo, 11:15 a.m.**

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Wednesday, October 21

House Appropriations (Committee Record), **(Chr. Pscholka, 373-5795), House Appropriations Room, Capitol, 9 a.m.**

HB 4898 **ANIMALS** (McCready) Modifies pet shop, dog pound and animal shelters act to include large-scale commercial dog breeders and to make other general revisions.

House Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (Committee Record), **(Chr. Rendon, 373-8474), Room 326, House Office Building, 12 p.m.**

- **Presentation on Pure Michigan by David Lorenz, vice president of Travel Michigan.**

HB 4983 **NATURAL RESOURCES** (Rendon) Provides for prohibition on enforcement of recreational passport on free fishing weekends.

Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services (Committee Record), **(Chr. Emmons, 373-5323), Room 210, Farnum Building, 3 p.m.**

SB 517 **UNIFORM INTERSTATE FAMILY SUPPORT ACT** (MacGregor) Repeals and recreates uniform interstate family support act (UIFSA).
SB 518 **FRIEND OF THE COURT** (MacGregor) Updates friend of the court reference to the uniform interstate family support act.
SB 519 **CHILD SUPPORT** (Emmons) Updates child support reference to the uniform interstate family support act.
SB 520 **PARENTING TIME** (Emmons) Updates parenting time reference to the uniform interstate family support act.

Tuesday, October 27

Senate Finance (Committee Record), **(Chr. Brandenburg, 373-5312), Room 210, Farnum Building, 2:30 p.m.**

HB 4461 **REFUND INTEREST** (McCready) modifies timeline for interest claims on refunds.
HB 4462 **REFUND INTEREST** (Clemente) Aligns interest claims on city income tax with Revenue Act.
HB 4685 **SALES TAX ON GASOLINE** (Poleski) Revises provisions for prepaid sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuel.

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Click the ✉ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Michigan News & Opinion For October 21, 2015

News

Michigan lawmakers approve teacher evaluation framework (Associated Press, 10/21/2015)

Snyder signs bills improving access for service animals (Associated Press, 10/21/2015)

Top Dem calls for hearings, audit on Flint water crisis (Associated Press, 10/21/2015)

Legislature OKs increasing Michigan 529 college savings account limit to $500,000 (Crain's Detroit Business, 10/21/2015)

Bill to set new standards for teacher evaluations (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Lt. Gov. Calley holding fund-raiser in Lansing Thursday (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Senate calls for fast action on deal to fix state roads (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Snyder signs forfeiture reform laws (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Read state DEQ emails as lead-in-water crisis unfolded in Flint (Flint Journal, 10/21/2015)

Snyder orders flags lowered for fallen state worker (Lansing State Journal, 10/21/2015)

Meekhof urges action on 'last best deal' for Michigan roads (MLive, 10/21/2015)

Michigan DEQ 'completely failed' Flint residents, says Ananich, calling for water investigation (MLive, 10/21/2015)

Gov envisions progress on bridge with Canada's new PM (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Senate GOP leader seeks to kick-start road aid talks (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Editorials

Gov's plan to fix DPS: The best we've got (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Snyder gets the Boehner treatment (Detroit Free Press, 10/21/2015)

Flint water crisis exposes Michigan's infrastructure funding problem (Flint Journal, 10/21/2015)

Rep. Moolenaar: Constituent's idea becomes tax relief bill (Greenville Daily News, 10/21/2015)

Schor: End wage gap, bring pay equity for women (Lansing State Journal, 10/21/2015)

Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's schools will fall on deaf legislative ears (Michigan Radio, 10/21/2015)

Ken Braun: Should lying be illegal for everyone but the politicians? (MLive, 10/21/2015)

Right to Work lawmakers impose their own 'union dues' (MLive, 10/21/2015)

List mania putting our privacy, security at risk (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/21/2015)

Editor's Note: Minimum sentence bill not dangerous (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Heise: Presumptive parole is safe, smart justice (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

Letter: State's energy future at crossroads (The Detroit News, 10/21/2015)

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Subject: Michigan Report, Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Attachments: Oct21.htm; Oct21Senate.htm; 151021dayplan.htm; Oct21House.htm

Michigan Report for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

House Republicans Go It Alone, Pass Road Funding Plan

Business Groups Divided On Road Funding Plan

Snyder Names Flint Water Task Force

Snyder: Plan Could Mean More Students In Detroit Schools

Meekhof: Problems With DPS Plan; Wyant Should Not Be Fired

Large School Bond Proposals, Road Millages Highlight November Ballot

Lower Fuel Prices Should Permit Savings On Winter Bills, State Says

Johnson: County Treasurer's Office Needs Relationship With Legislature, Governor

Pavlov Announces Hearings On Academically Failing Schools

Large-Scale Dog Breeder Regulations Clear Committee

Committee Ties Homestead Credit To Inflation

Bill Would Allow More Residential Maintenance Work Without License

Court To Coast Guard: Issue Bridge Permit Or Explain Why Not

Senate OKs Blue Alert System

MIOSHA Violations Cited in Ypsilanti, Holland

Michigan In Top 15 For Energy Efficiency

Committee Roundup

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Volume #54, Report #209 -- Wednesday, October 21, 2015

House Republicans Go It Alone, Pass Road Funding Plan

House Republicans on Wednesday found the votes, mostly within their own caucus, to pass a $1.2 billion road funding plan with no guarantees of support from Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } or { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }.

The plan involved $600 million in new revenue through a gas tax increase and registration fee increases and $600 million from existing sources. An income tax rollback and an expansion of the Homestead Property Tax credit are also included.

Business groups were also split in their reception of the plan with some seeing it as a breakthrough and others as fiscally irresponsible (see separate story).

"I think that this is a very good plan," House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant) said after the bills passed. "We are going to be working with our partners. This is a huge step forward. I think this is a good grand compromise plan."

But House Democrats tore the plan apart as irresponsible and said the only reason the House Republicans wanted to vote on a plan this week is because Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) "challenged" Mr. Cotter to take a vote on a plan the quadrant leaders had been discussing.

"Let's just set the record straight here for everyone," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=269101&locid=1" } (D-Fraser), the minority vice chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. "This is a knee-jerk reaction plan simply to match egos with our counterparts in the Senate."

Those talks fell apart last week, with House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills) concerned about an income tax rollback.

Mr. Meekhof called for Mr. Cotter to hold a vote on the plan anyway. Mr. Cotter refused. At that point, as Gongwer News Service first reported Tuesday, Mr. Cotter began attempting to put together support for a 600/600 plan that could pass with Republican support only.

And about 9 p.m. Wednesday, he did.

It was seen as a retort both to Mr. Meekhof and Mr. Greimel.

"This plan is an embarrassment to the Legislature and it has managed to combine most of the worst aspects of the terrible plans we have seen over the course of the last year," Mr. Greimel said.

The plan would include a 3.3-cent increase effective in 2018 in the overall fuel tax, as well as an additional 4 cents for diesel to bring it up to the gas tax level effective in 2017.

The plan would increase registration fees by $400 million total, averaging $55 additional per vehicle for both passenger and commercial vehicles ($40 for passenger vehicles).

To offset the tax increases, the plan would increase the amount of homestead property tax credit available by both increasing the amount of income affected, to 3.5 percent from 3.4 percent, and increasing the income cap to $60,000, with the phase-out of the credit starting at $51,000. That is a $10,000 increase from the current caps.

The phase-in of the plan would provide $400 million for fiscal year 2016-17 and increase to $1.2 billion by FY 2020-21. Part of the increase is General Fund, which would increase from $150 million in FY 2018-19 to $600 million the final year.

The tax credit offset would start with $40 million in FY 2017-18 and increase to $200 million in FY 2020-21.

The plan also includes a proposed income tax roll-back beginning in 2019 if general fund revenue outpaces inflation.

Democrats criticized the income tax rollback for not having a floor and said it could severely strain the General Fund.

"It's a fiscal time bomb," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=267701&locid=1" } (D-Royal Oak)."And I don't know if anybody on this floor knows just how explosive it could be."

But Mr. Cotter said the income tax rollback was a crucial feature of the final plan in terms of getting votes.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB41401" }, the income tax rollback bill, is not tie-barred to the other bills in the package.

The bills passed with varying support, with 54 votes needed for passage, some bills passed narrowly: The gasoline tax increase passed 56-50 ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB461401" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB461601" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB473801" }

); { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB473601" } boosting vehicle registration fees passed 55-51; The competitive bidding bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB461001" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB461101" }) and the expansion of the Homestead Property Tax Credit ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB437001" }) passed 62-44; the income tax rollback passed 61-45 and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB473701" } concerning warranties passed 101-5.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) was the only Democrat to vote for many of the bills other than the legislation regarding warranties.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268601&locid=1" } (R-Utica) said the plan would "literally" pave our roads.

"Today we vote for investing in our future," he said. "We vote for tax relief for seniors, and families. ... We are choosing to govern. Today the residents of Michigan have a good roads solution."

Now the question is what the Senate and Mr. Snyder will do. The speculation was rife Wednesday night that Mr. Snyder could relent on his concerns about the impact to the General Fund.

"Forward progress is a good thing, though (the) governor does have some concerns," Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said, saying any solution must be "fiscally responsible."

Said Mr. Meekhof in a statement: "I am happy the House sent over an idea for the Senate to consider. I look forward to talking with the governor and legislative leaders about the proposal. I have not had an opportunity to review the legislation, yet. The next step is for my fellow caucus members and I to review the details."

Business Groups Divided On Road Funding Plan

Business Leaders for Michigan came out strongly against the plan, saying it relies too heavily on the General Fund.

"We believe this is unsustainable and fiscally irresponsible," the group said in a statement. "The state General Fund has not grown in real terms since 1999. Redirecting $600 million from the General Fund to roads means fewer dollars would be available to make college more affordable, train Michigan workers and incent job creation. All are important to our state's future. We should not have to choose between them. The plan adopted by the House would fix one problem but create another."

The group called for the Senate to pass a plan that fixes roads without putting other important priorities at risk.

Also voicing concern, prior to the vote, was the Detroit Regional Chamber, at least on the idea of going beyond $400 million from the General Fund for roads. While the chamber urged the Legislature to act, it warned, "further dedication of the General Fund beyond the $400 million ... would be short-sighted and run counter to Michigan's best interests."

But the Michigan Chamber of Commerce hailed the House vote.

"We commend Speaker Cotter and the House GOP for taking action this evening to pass a comprehensive plan to fix Michigan's roads," said Michigan Chamber President and CEO Rich Studley in a statement. "Breaking the impasse on this key issue is an important and positive step forward."

And the National Federation of Independent Business-Michigan praised the lower reliance on higher taxes and fees than other plans.

"Speaker Cotter and House Republicans deserve credit for listening to what the voters said with the Proposal 1 defeat - more prioritization of spending and less reliance on funding roads with across the board tax hikes," said NFIB State Director Charlie Owens in a statement. "The House plan attempts to look at existing resources and balance any tax increases with cuts in other taxes."

Snyder Names Flint Water Task Force

With controversy growing over how the state handled the water crisis in Flint, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } on Wednesday named a five-member independent advisory task force to investigate actions by the state involving water use and testing in the city.

As Mr. Snyder made the announcement, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306801&locid=1" } (D-Flint) and Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) called for the federal Environmental Protection Agency to investigate the controversy and its handling by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. Snyder's announcement and the separate calls by Mr. Kildee and Mr. Ananich come as revelations of some internal emails from the DEQ brought into question how seriously some officials viewed the problem.

When the state announced earlier this month it would push for Flint to be reconnected to the Detroit Water and Sewerage System - the city's emergency manager decided in 2014 to draw water from the Flint River while the city prepared to join a pipeline drawing water from Lake

Huron after no agreement could be reached on a short-term contract with the Detroit system - Mr. Snyder said he would create the independent body.

Along with looking into how the state handled the crisis, which after more than a year of complaints about water taste and smell broke wide open this past summer when tests showed elevated levels of lead in the water, the task force is to make recommendations to the state for "future guidelines to protect the health and safety of all state residents."

Co-chairing the task force will be former Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, now with Public Sector Consultants, and former Democratic Rep. Chris Kolb, now with the Michigan Environmental Council.

Also named to the task force is Matthew Davis of the University of Michigan Health System, Eric Rothstein of the Galardi Rothstein Group and Lawrence Reynolds of Mott Children's Health Center of Flint.

Mr. Snyder said he wanted an "unbiased report" that looked at past actions affecting the Flint water situation and recommendations to help ensure that all state residents have access to safe drinking water. He said administration officials would cooperate fully with the task force.

There was no time frame set on when the task force would issue a report.

Mr. Ananich on Wednesday, meanwhile, released a letter to the U.S. EPA asking for a formal review of the DEQ's handling of the Flint water situation, emphasizing that the public needed to know if "the misapplication of federal water testing rules was intentional or due to negligence.

"Our citizens deserve answers," Mr. Ananich said.

And Mr. Kildee also wrote to the EPA, saying to ensure failures like that with the Flint system does not occur again, an investigation into how the crisis occurred is necessary.

"Unfortunately, the citizens of Flint are the victims in this situation. They deserve a thorough investigation and answers to these questions," Mr. Kildee said in his letter.

Snyder: Plan Could Mean More Students In Detroit Schools

One of the structural issues facing Detroit Public Schools is loss of students, but { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said his plan to restructure the district could reverse that.

The plan Mr. Snyder outlined this week (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542070101" }) would, among other things, split the district, with educational functions moving to a new entity (new co) and historical debt remaining with the current district (old co).

"By leaving the debt with old co, you can see improved performance and hopefully that will lead parents to say they want to see their children go to DPS," Mr. Snyder said Wednesday on Detroit Public Television's MiWeek.

Mr. Snyder said his plan is also designed to balance the needs of the district with the desire of those outside Detroit to have control of the funds funneled there.

Under the plan, the old district would remain under the current elected board, but the new entity would be headed by a board appointed in part by the governor and in part by the mayor. That board would, over six years, move to an elected body.

Mr. Snyder said he had comments from Detroit residents and officials that they would like to see the district remain under elected control, or at least move back to that more quickly.

"I tried to propose a balance because I got comments from the rest of the state that if the state's making a huge investment, they should have some control," he said.

As to the state funds headed to Detroit under Mr. Snyder's plan, he said it was not substantially different from what the state has done on school pensions since he took office.

"The $70 million compared to what we've been helping districts with MPSERS is actually a smaller obligation," he said of the state funds that have gone directly to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System.

And he said not assisting the district could mean more dire consequences.

"If it's not done in this fashion, it's ultimately going to end up in court, not necessarily in bankruptcy, but in court," he said.

Action also needs to come soon, he said. His proposal would have the changes in place before schools start their new fiscal year in July.

"The longer we wait, the better chance we have of having an uncontrolled financial default," he said.

Meekhof: Problems With DPS Plan; Wyant Should Not Be Fired

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } said Wednesday his caucus has a number of concerns with a plan floated by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } earlier this week to reform Detroit Public Schools which includes providing $715 million over 10 years to get the district out of debt out of debt.

"There's some things in there to like and a lot of things we have concern over. My concern, and my caucus' concern, has been getting an educational experience in front of these kids that gives

them the best opportunity to be successful," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) told reporters after session. "We have all these great, new, innovative and cool jobs coming to Detroit, and it would be a shame if we couldn't put an educational experience in front of these kids that gives them the ability to be eligible for those jobs."

He said he hasn't even talked about the money aspect of the proposal with his caucus given how new it is, but there are general concerns there too.

"We want to do the best by all taxpayers, but again, the effort is to try to get performance improvement for those kids so they can get those great jobs in Detroit," he said.

Asked whether he thought the proposal and the money associated with it would be a tough sell to his caucus, Mr. Meekhof said "almost everything" is a tough sell at this point.

"We've done some very innovative and creative things over the last four or five years, very successful, and now we're at some really tough stuff that we have to solve, but that's why people sent us here. And we're going to do it," he said.

FLINT WATER: Mr. Meekhof said he hasn't talked with Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) on whether a legislative hearing could be had to review the actions taken - or not - by varying authorities when it comes to the Flint water crisis, but Mr. Meekhof did not believe Department of Environmental Quality { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=303801&locid=1" } need be fired over it.

"I support Dan. I think he's done a terrific job on a lot of other issues. This one is difficult for a host of reasons because a couple of local governments couldn't get their act together for some period of time," Mr. Meekhof said. "Decisions were made because they thought they needed to make those decisions separately, and the results weren't very good. There's a whole lot of blame to go around, but at this point we've fixed the problem."

Indeed, as Mr. Ananich has previously pointed out, the decision to switch the city's water source and then later deny a request to return to water from the Detroit system had gone through three state-appointed emergency managers. But Mr. Meekhof skirted on whether those people ought to be held responsible either.

"I don't know that the state knew that," he said to a question about the state needing to react if it in fact knew a public health crisis was growing. "If I'm understanding what's happening, they tested at the source, when they bring it in, and that was their only requirement. So after that, I'm not sure what their culpability would be."

Asked if the Legislature had the ability to hold emergency managers responsible for their actions while serving, Mr. Meekhof said he thought that to be the case but would also be interested in seeing "alternate opinions on that."

"I think Director Wyant and folks are doing an after-action and are concerned, and I want to see what their after-action reports are," he said.

Large School Bond Proposals, Road Millages Highlight November Ballot

Thirty-seven proposals for school bonds and nine proposals for new or increased local millages to fund road maintenance are among the many measures voters will see on their local ballots November 3.

Two cities - Keego Harbor in Oakland County and Portage in Kalamazoo County - will vote on whether to decriminalize possession of up to one ounce of marijuana on private property for those 21 and older.

Two other communities - Lathrup Village in Oakland County and Mount Pleasant - will decide on term limits for local elected officials.

Twenty-four school districts will vote on whether to renew their 18-mill property tax on all commercial and non-principal residences. Seven school districts will decide on passing sinking fund property taxes for infrastructure needs, and nine municipalities will vote on tax increases to fund public safety.

Several cities also will elect local elected officials. Among those generating interest at the Capitol are those for the Lansing and East Lansing city councils, as well as the Flint mayor's race, where Mayor Dayne Walling is trying to win re-election amid that city's water crisis.

A Gongwer News Service analysis of ballots in the communities that will hold elections showed 169 separate ballot proposals in school districts, municipalities and other voting jurisdictions.

The largest bond initiatives in school districts for infrastructure improvements:

- $185 million for Rochester schools
- $175 million for the Grand Rapids schools
- $128 million for the Portage schools and a separate bond for $16 million
- $67.5 million for the Saline schools
- $64.86 million for Kentwood schools
- $57.4 million for Woodhaven-Brownstown schools
- $55.24 million for the Kenowa Hills schools

- $49.55 million for the Owosso schools
- $44.6 million for the Hastings schools
- $32.6 million for the Grand Blanc schools
- $27 million and $10.2 million for the Dowagiac schools

Voting on new or increased road millages: Allen Park, Boston Township in Ionia County, Charleston Township in Kalamazoo County, Crystal Lake Township in Benzie County, Clare, Harbor Springs, Lapeer, Meade Township in Huron County and Pipestone Township in Berrien County. Grosse Ile Township in Wayne County also has an $18.8 million bond proposal to fund road and water needs.

Another six municipalities have road millage renewal questions in front of voters.

A complete chart of { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/public/Nov2015elections.xlsx" } is available via the Gongwer website. Subscribers can sort the chart by voting jurisdiction, county and type of proposal.

Lower Fuel Prices Should Permit Savings On Winter Bills, State Says

The Michigan Agency for Energy released its energy { HYPERLINK "http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/reports/energy/15winter/index.htm" \t "blank" } for the upcoming winter on Wednesday, expecting residents to save big on their heating bills "thanks to lower fuel prices and predicted warmer-than-normal temperatures," the agency said.

Michigan's energy market is also expected to have adequate reserves and lower prices, the agency said in a statement. With the expectation of a return to normal winter weather, consumption of home heating fuels such as natural gas, propane and distillate will fall, it said, while demand for motor fuels such as gasoline and diesel will rise.

The National Weather Service projects Michigan to have a 40-to-60 percent chance of a warmer than normal winter, as well as a 40 percent chance of a drier than normal winter.

Michigan's total electricity sales in 2015 are expected to decrease by 0.2 percent from 2014 sales, assuming normal weather for the rest of the year, the agency determined. The projected decrease is driven by the industrial sector, whose usage is expected to fall by 4.4 percent, while residential demand is projected to decrease by 0.5 percent. The commercial sector expected to increase by 3.6 percent, it said.

Total natural gas sales are projected to increase by 2.1 percent in 2015 to 859.5 billion cubic feet assuming normal winter weather for the remainder of the year, the agency found. The increase is primarily due to consumption in the electric generation sector, it said.

"In recent years, the electric power industry has begun a shift toward natural gas generation, in part to reduce air pollutants and in part to take advantage of lower fuel costs," the agency said. "With an expected return to normal winter weather, natural gas consumption for the residential and commercial sectors should fall below 2014 levels."

The average residential winter natural gas bill for the four largest utilities in Michigan is expected to average $512, an 18 percent reduction from last year.

Michigan propane usage is projected to decrease by 5.8 percent in 2015 assuming normal winter weather for the remainder of the year. Colder than normal temperatures and a concerted effort to promote early fills caused propane use to increase 15 percent in 2014. Propane prices this winter should be the lowest Michigan has seen in many years, the agency said.

U.S. crude oil production averaged 8.7 million barrels per day in 2014, the highest production levels seen in decades. Continued growth is expected through the 2015 calendar year, reaching 9.2 million barrels per day in 2015, but is expected to retreat in 2016 as new investments are reduced in light of current crude oil prices.

Finally, gas sales in Michigan are projected to increase by 2.1 percent in 2015, marking the third-straight year of increased demand. Consumption increases in 2015 are likely due to significant decreases in the retail cost of gasoline that resulted from lower crude oil prices.

In fact, the AAA Fuel Report determined the average price of unleaded gasoline in Michigan was $2.48 on October 1, 2015, down 26 percent from the same time last year when it averaged $3.36.

Johnson: County Treasurer's Office Needs Relationship With Legislature, Governor

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } is one of several candidates who have recently thrown their hat in the ring to be the next Wayne County Treasurer, and he said Wednesday his qualifications and relationships in the legislative and executive branch could make him a good candidate.

The Detroit Free Press { HYPERLINK "http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2015/10/16/eight-apply-become-wayne-countys-next-treasurer/74071732/" \t "blank" } that eight applications had been received for the position in the wake of the decision by current County Treasurer Raymond Wojtowicz to retire. Mr. Johnson (D-Highland Park) is said to be up against former Rep. Phil Cavanagh, a Democrat from Redford Township, as well as Etta Wilcoxon, who had previously run for Detroit city clerk and mayor; David Szymanski, who retired in September as former chief deputy county treasurer; Richard Hathaway, chief assistant to Prosecutor Kym Worthy; Beverly Kindle-Walker, who has run for county treasurer numerous times; James Williams IV, a former Wayne County Commission candidate; and George "Jerry" Paffendorf, who heads Detroit data firm Loveland Technologies.

"Michigan probably needs to undertake a very comprehensive rewrite of our property tax rules and our codes. It's how we fund our cities, how we fund our schools. I think it's a broken

system," Mr. Johnson told Gongwer News Service Wednesday. "I think a lot of that begins with stabilization of what it means to be the Wayne County Treasurer's Office and the property tax ordinances down there that govern the area. Wayne County is centrally important to not just Southeast Michigan but Michigan as a whole because when Wayne County is broken, the entire state does not work."

Mr. Johnson said the county is losing so much money in property as vacant or abandoned lots continue to go up for auction, and he's interested in changing that.

"I actually think, from the perspective that Wayne County has been a leader over the years in county government, that that office is as important as the work the Wayne County Executive has to do, if it can ever get right," he said. "I think part of getting right is having a legislative relationship here with both the legislative and the executive. I think then Michigan becomes a better place for people to live, work, play and pray."

The Free Press said a three-person committee made up of Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett, Chief Probate Judge Freddie Burton Jr. and Ms. Worthy are expected to meet at 2 p.m. Thursday in room 700A of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to discuss applicants - a meeting that is open to the public.

Mr. Johnson said interviews are currently slated for early November, though it remains unclear if every candidate will be interviewed or just a select few the committee determines are the best fit.

Pavlov Announces Hearings On Academically Failing Schools

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } on Wednesday announced his Senate Education Committee will conduct a series of hearings, beginning November 4, on Michigan's academically failing schools.

The hearings will involve the committee and State { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=393401&locid=1" }, Department of Education staff, Richard McLellan and former Oakland Schools Superintendent Vickie Markavitch. Invited guests also include State School Reform Officer Natasha Baker and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s Senior Advisor for Education, Karen McPhee.

The hearings are slated to begin at 8:30 a.m., a statement from Mr. Pavlov's (R-St. Clair) office indicated, and official public notices will still be posted for each hearing as the meetings approach.

The purpose, Mr. Pavlov's office indicated, is to continue the conversation on the fiscal health of the state's public schools, especially in light of Mr. Snyder's recent proposal for Detroit Public Schools (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542070101" }) and work the Legislature completed earlier this year on an "early warning system" for financially distressed schools.

"The academic health of our schools is equally important, and given the Legislature's purview over elementary and secondary education provided for in the Michigan Constitution, it is appropriate that the Senate Education Committee should lead this discussion," the statement said.

Large-Scale Dog Breeder Regulations Clear Committee

A bill regulating large-scale dog breeding kennels with 15 intact female dogs used for breeding in the state would be required to pay a $500 fee under the H-3 version reported from the House Appropriations Committee Wednesday.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB489801" } , under its original version, would have required a $25 fee to be paid by the kennels.

The bill was sent to the full House 24-2, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=179401&locid=1" } (R-Saginaw Township) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=274601&locid=1" } (D-Ann Arbor) voting no. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=207001&locid=1" } (D-Saint Clair Shores) abstained.

Under the bill, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development would receive $10,000 to implement the requirements.

However, the department would not perform regular inspections of the kennels and would largely rely on complaints and local animal control for kennel inspections.

The department would be required, 18 months after the bill is enacted and annually for four years after, to submit a report on:

- the number of registrations,
- the approximate number of animals housed at each registered location,
- the number of inspections performed,
- the number of complaints received,
- the number of penalties arising from complaints, and
- recommendations regarding staffing levels and best practices for working with partners.

Kennels found in violation of the regulations would be subject to a $5,000 fine.

Ms. Roberts offered two amendments on the bill but neither was adopted. The first would require the department to do unannounced inspections of at least 50 percent of the kennels.

"I feel the intent of the bill is good, and looking at some of these regulations they're a step in the direction. I just feel that there need to be inspections," she said.

The second amendment would have codified the amount of space that is in a dog enclosure.

In a statement from { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville), the chair of the committee, it said other Midwest states have regulations in place to prevent the establishment of '"puppy mills."

"I'm proud to vote on behalf of these animals," he said. "It's not often that this committee is in a position to take a first step on a moral or ethical issue. I'm thankful to Rep. McCready and the other advocates who brought the issue before us."

The bill establishes requirements for importation and sale of or resale of a dog, as well as vaccination and health certification requirements.

Committee Ties Homestead Credit To Inflation

Seniors and low-income residents would see more money back each year from the Homestead Property Tax Credit under legislation approved Wednesday by the House Tax Policy Committee.

The bill ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB487101" }) would index the credit to inflation. The caps on property value and income would also increase with inflation under the plan.

The program provides a credit for property taxes exceeding 3.5 percent of household income, with seniors able to claim all of that and low-income families 60 percent. But current law caps the credit at $1,200, the property taxable value at $135,000 and income at $50,000 (those with incomes more than $40,000 lose 10 percent of the credit for each additional $1,000).

As reported from committee, the changes would begin with the 2016 tax year. The bill also makes clear that the Consumer Price Index would apply to total household resources.

Though the committee did not take testimony on the issue Wednesday, the Michigan Catholic Conference praised movement on the bill.

"This is good tax policy that addresses the economic reality for Michigan's low-income families and senior citizens," Michigan Catholic Conference Vice President for Public Policy and Advocacy Tom Hickson said in a statement. "Each year people see their day to day costs rise due to inflation; this policy addresses those increases and provides relief for those who experience

daily the hardships of a strained family budget. House Bill 4871 is a welcome step toward recognizing the dignity of lower-income residents and seniors."

The committee also reported { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB34901" }, moving up the date on which county treasurers can send delinquency notices; and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB36901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB37001" }, which exempt equipment used in producing alcoholic from sales and use taxes as industrial processing equipment.

Bill Would Allow More Residential Maintenance Work Without License

The House Regulatory Reform Committee on Wednesday took up a bill that would increase the current threshold for when licensure is required for performance of residential improvement work from $600 to $4,000.

Currently, a license is not needed by a person working on one project by one or more contracts if the aggregate contract price for labor, material and any other item is less than $600. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB428201" } increases that to $4,000.

And { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB428101" } would modify how the funds in the Builders Enforcement Fund could be used. Under the bill, not more than 30 percent could be used for enforcement purposes and not more than 70 percent to issue grants to a statewide residential building and trade association for workforce development and outreach programs related to the residential building industry.

"This allows for those who do handyman work to not go through the entire licensing process for basically a handyman businesses," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701&locid=1" } (R-Onekama), the chair of the committee and sponsor of the bills.

Mr. Franz said the bill originally increased the dollar amount to $10,000, but after negotiations with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs agreed on $4,000.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=269101&locid=1" } (D-Fraser) said she would be more comfortable with a figure around $1,500. She said for $4,000, a significant amount of work can be done to a home. And without the license, the department would not be held accountable if something went wrong.

"It really takes away consumer protections," she said.

She also said she was concerned about the amount of funding the department would lose with the reduction of licensing fees.

Lee Schwartz, with the Home Builders Association of Michigan, spoke in support of the bill. He said when the legislation was introduced in previous sessions, the group was not in support, but the $600 threshold does not have many real-world applications.

ANIMAL SHELTERS: The committee also took up { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB491501" }, which would establish holding periods of animals for shelters in the state before other actions could be taken.

Rep. Mike McCready (R-Bloomfield Hills) said the intent of the bill was to allow local shelters to keep animals for longer than the holding period in the bill indicates. But the bill analysis said the holding period is a mandate and pre-empts local ordinances.

Mr. McCready said he would work with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322001&locid=1" } (D-Lansing), who asking about the holding period, to correct any issues.

Under the bill, for a dog that does not have current, traceable evidence of ownership and is not a candidate for adoption or a sterilization release program, the holding period would be four days. For dogs with traceable evidence of ownership, the period would be seven days.

For cats without current, traceable evidence of ownership, an animal control shelter or an animal protection shelter may observe a zero-day holding period for that cat if it is a candidate for adoption or a sterilization release program.

Amy Trotter with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs advocated for some changes to the bill. Ms. Trotter said the group would like to see the countdown of the holding period begin on the following business day from whenever an animal - particularly dog for her members - was found.

Ms. Trotter said when hunting with dogs, for example, sometimes the owner is not familiar with the area and doesn't immediately know what shelters to contact.

She also noted the group has seen those who oppose hunting with dogs take a collar off of a hunting dog before taking them to a shelter, which, under the bill, would reduce the holding period because the dog would not have traceable evidence of ownership.

Court To Coast Guard: Issue Bridge Permit Or Explain Why Not

The District of Columbia U.S. Court of Appeals has told the U.S. Coast Guard to either issue a navigation permit allowing construction of a second Ambassador Bridge span or explain why.

The order, issued Monday as part of a federal lawsuit the Detroit International Bridge Company has against Canada, requires the Coast Guard to issue a permit by January 4, 2016, or it and the litigants in the case shall explain why a permit has not been issued.

The order is the latest incident in the ongoing battle over new bridges between Detroit and Windsor. While the focus has been on getting final approvals and construction plans for development of the Gordie Howe International Bridge - promoted by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, most Detroit-area business and the Canadian government - the owners and operators of the Ambassador Bridge have not given up efforts to build a second span to the 86-year old bridge.

This specific issue - various aspects of the controversy have been litigated - has to do with a navigation permit from the U.S. Coast Guard. Such a permit is needed before a bridge could be built.

In 2009, the Coast Guard issued a draft finding that construction of a second span would have no significant adverse environmental effects.

But it held off on issuing a navigation permit for regulatory reasons. A U.S. District Court found the Coast Guard was justified in delaying the permit.

Mickey Blashfield, spokesperson for the Detroit International Bridge Company, said in response to the order, "The 'delay game' has gone on long enough. We look forward to the Coast Guard's response to the court."

The permit would be an important step in gaining final approval for a new bridge, though a question of whether the Canadian government would permit the second span to proceed remains.

Senate OKs Blue Alert System

A "blue alert" system to broadcast information on attacks on police is heading to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } for final approval after getting final approval from the Senate Wednesday.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB33601" } saw unanimous approval to concur in a House substitute to the bill that includes a definition of "law enforcement officer" and includes language that a law enforcement agency investigating the incident had information identifying an individual as a suspect connected to the incident.

Under the bill, the Department of State Police would have to establish and maintain a Blue Alert Plan to disseminate information to radio and television stations when a law enforcement officer was killed or seriously injured by an offender who had presumably not yet been apprehended.

A House Fiscal Agency analysis of the bill determined the bill would have a "significant" fiscal impact on the department to the extent the State Police would encounter costs to develop and

maintain such a system, estimated to include $10,000 to develop information technology systems, $10,000 for server storage and $300 a month to operate a plan in partnership with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

Various police organizations have spoken in support of the bill.

FAILURE TO YIELD: The chamber also passed by a margin of 36-2 legislation to prescribe a misdemeanor penalty for failure to yield to an approaching emergency vehicle (currently a civil infraction), as well as prescribe felony penalties for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle causing injury or death to emergency personnel ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB42101" }).

The misdemeanor would be punishable by a maximum fine of $500 and/or up to 90 days' imprisonment, while the felony for injury could be punishable by a maximum fine of $1,000 and/or up to two years' imprisonment and the felony for death could be punishable by a maximum fine of $7,500 and/or up to 15 years' imprisonment.

Its companion bill, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB42201" }, amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to add the felonies to sentencing guidelines.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701&locid=1" } (R-Clarklake) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=251401&locid=1" } (R-Canton Township) voted in opposition to the bills.

MIOSHA Violations Cited in Ypsilanti, Holland

The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued citations for alleged violations of worker health provisions in two separate cases involving companies in Ypsilanti and Holland.

DMC Consultants, Inc., in Ypsilanti, is facing $265,200 in penalties after a health inspection at two duplexes in the city between July 8, 2015 and August 14, 2015 was conducted and found 14 alleged violations. Citations were issued for a total of seven willful/serious violations related to asbestos at 955 Madison Street, and another five for the same issue at 113 Bell Street.

The company has 15 working days from receipt of the citations to comply or contest the violations and penalties, MIOSHA, part of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, said in a statement.

In Holland, Gates Electric, Inc. and Electrical Inspection Service, LLC face $357,000 in penalties. MIOSHA's Construction Safety and Health Division conducted a fatality inspection of the two companies at a Brink Warehouse between June 16, 2015 and August 19, 2015, during which time six alleged violations were identified.

Gates Electric was issued four willful and serious citations related to electrical installations while one willful citation was issued to Electric Inspection Service related to the General Duty Clause about following the National Electric Code and power being energized to work operation prior to the completion of installation.

Both companies also have 15 working days from receipt of the citations to respond.

Michigan In Top 15 For Energy Efficiency

Michigan is the 14th most energy efficient state in the nation, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy said in its annual scorecard released Wednesday.

Michigan received 23.5 points out of a possible 50 points in the { HYPERLINK "http://aceee.org/state-policy/scorecard" \t "blank" }.

Among the highlights the group noted were the loan programs for small businesses for pollution prevention and energy efficiency. It also lauded the state for having energy efficiency standards for state buildings.

The group also praised the state for the energy efficiency measures included in { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2007SB21301" }, which is currently under discussion for revision.

Among the areas where the state lagged was not having an energy efficiency standard for state fleets and adopting federal efficiency standards for both commercial and residential buildings.

But environmental interests raised issue with the rating though, noting that Michigan's ranking slipped from 12th place.

"Michigan's energy efficiency standard has saved families in Detroit and across the state billions of dollars on their energy bills and we must build upon this progress, not turn back the clock," said Guy Williams, president and CEO of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, in a statement. "Michigan families face the highest electricity costs in the Midwest and we must protect and expand our energy efficiency standard to rein in rising costs."

Committee Roundup

SENATE FAMILIES, SENIORS AND HUMAN SERVICES: The committee reported a package of bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB51701" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB51801" }, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB51901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB52001" })

that would amend various statutes related to child support, specifically that a Michigan tribunal issuing a spousal-support order consistent with state law have continuing, exclusive jurisdiction to modify that order throughout the existence of the support obligation. Similarly, a tribunal could not modify a spousal-support order issued by a tribunal of another state or foreign county having continuing, exclusive jurisdiction over that order.

The bills are to ensure the state is in compliance with current federal law on such matters or else risk losing about $175 million in child support funding for the current fiscal year. There is also a larger potential fiscal risk in that if the bills are not passed, the state may not be in compliance with policies governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant, risking another $775 million in federal funding, a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of the bills determined.

The bills were reported with unanimous approval and no amendments.

Campaign Notes

ROAD ASSOCIATION PAC ENDORSES HOWELL, STOREY: The County Road Association of Michigan RUSH-PAC announced its endorsements of candidates in the special election primary on Wednesday, choosing Republican Gary Howell of North Branch in the 82nd House District and Jim Storey of Holland in the 80th House District.

Mr. Howell is running to fill the vacancy caused by former Rep. Todd Courser's resignation and Mr. Storey is running to fill the vacancy caused by Rep. Cindy Gamrat's expulsion. The PAC also endorsed Democrat David LaGrand of Grand Rapids in the 75th House District.

Mr. LaGrand is running to fill the vacancy caused by former Rep. Brandon Dillon becoming chair of the Michigan Democratic Party.

"With legislators still unable to pass the type of road funding package needed in 2015, now more than ever RUSH-PAC recognizes the importance of supporting candidates who understand how important Michigan's local road system is to our economy and quality of life," said Denise Donohue, RUSH-PAC treasurer and director of the County Road Association of Michigan.

LASINSKI OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR 52ND: Democrat Donna Lasinski of Scio Township officially announced her campaign to run for the 52nd House District on Wednesday. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=318101&locid=1" } (D-Saline) currently holds the seat but is forgoing re-election to run for the 7th U.S. House District.

Ms. Lasinski currently serves as the Ann Arbor School Board treasurer and has a long career of education advocacy and volunteer service around Washtenaw County.

"I'm very excited to be running to serve you in Lansing. With a record of making positive change, I will bring a strong voice for our communities to Lansing," she said in a statement. "Together we can secure our kids' future and make sure everyone has access to the quality education they deserve."

Capital Notebook

PORTAGE BUSINESS EXPANSION: The Michigan Strategic Fund approved an $875,000 grant for Pro Services Inc., which provides skilled trades and maintenance technicians to a range of industries, as the company plans to construct a new Center of Excellence and corporate headquarters in Portage.

The project expects to generate a total capital investment of $3.9 million and create 175 jobs, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation said in a statement about the expansion.

MORENCI, ALLOUEZ TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY GRANTS: The Michigan Strategic Fund approved a $250,000 community development block grant fund for job training needed for a KAMCO Industries, Inc. expansion project that includes the acquisition of a building in Morenci. The project expects to generate $22.7 million in private investment and create 60 jobs. Michigan was chosen over other locations in the Midwest, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation noted.

And Keweenaw County was awarded a $20,000 community development block grant fund for the Keweenaw County Mountain Lodge Study Project located in Allouez Township. The project is a best-use study to consider possible change in ownership or operations, expecting to result in future job creation, the MEDC said.

MEDICAID IN THE CLOUD: The state has moved its Medicaid Management Information System to cloud-based servers, which officials said would both improve service delivery and cut costs.

"It's important for Michigan to look for more and better ways to take advantage of technology to improve services for our residents," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said in a statement. "This is an innovative approach, allowing us to more efficiently share information and resources in real-time, helping residents get the health care they need."

The system allows real-time access to data and allows Michigan and Illinois, one of the partners in the project, to share information.

FLU SEASON: The state has confirmed the first three cases of influenza for the season, Department of Health and Human Services officials said in a release Wednesday calling for residents to be vaccinated.

Officials said there was one case of influenza A (H1N1) and three cases of influenza A (H3N2) found October 4-10. The release did not say where the cases were but said all were adults.

Subscribers Please Note

The first name of Oakland Circuit Judge Jeffrey Mattis was misspelled in Tuesday's report.

The initial version of Wednesday's House Activity Report incorrectly said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB426801" } had been enrolled. The enrolled bill was actually { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB428601" }. The final version of the House Activity Report has been corrected.

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Michigan News & Opinion For October 22, 2015

News

Michigan Supreme Court hears arguments on prevailing wage law (Bridge Magazine, 10/22/2015)

Blue alert bill receives final passage in Legislature (Detroit Free Press, 10/22/2015)

House passes sweeping roads plan raising gas tax, fees (Detroit Free Press, 10/22/2015)

Task force appointed to examine Flint water controversy (Detroit Free Press, 10/22/2015)

City will conduct internal review of Flint water crisis, administrator says (Flint Journal, 10/22/2015)

Kildee, Ananich call for federal investigation into Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 10/22/2015)

State rep: MDOT leader has to go (Lansing City Pulse, 10/22/2015)

Service dog law signed, mental health bill passes House (Lansing State Journal, 10/22/2015)

Ann Arbor school board member launches campaign for State House of Representatives (MLive, 10/22/2015)

Fact check: Gamrat demands apology for reports she misused 'taxpayer dollars' to hide affair (MLive, 10/22/2015)

Meekhof goes 'Back to the Future' in push for action on road funding plan, fuel tax increase (MLive, 10/22/2015)

Michigan House approves brand new $1.2B road funding plan in late-night session (MLive, 10/22/2015)

Snyder sports Spartans tie after losing bet on Michigan: 'Now let's all root to beat Ohio State' (MLive, 10/22/2015)

Biden's decision gains Clinton a Michigan endorsement (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Court: Issue Detroit bridge permit or explain denial (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

House OKs debt limit plan as deadline looms (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Kildee calls for federal probe of Flint water crisis (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Michigan House passes $1.2B road funding plan (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Snyder becomes tied-up as a Spartan (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Editorials

MDEQ e-mails show stunning indifference to Flint peril (Detroit Free Press, 10/22/2015)

Flint, Detroit not only U.S. cities vulnerable to water problems (MLive, 10/22/2015)

Editorial: Michigan jobless rate shows economic growth (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Rep. Miller: Fiorina should be next president (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Thompson: Inkster fights to survive (The Detroit News, 10/22/2015)

Blogs

With The Canadian Election, Any Change In The Bridge Status? (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/21/2015)

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Building a path to better, higher-paying Michigan jobs (Bridge Magazine, 10/23/2015)

Three years later, jury still out on Michigan's cyber school expansion (Bridge Magazine, 10/23/2015)

Court: Parole board must consider inmate's release (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Everything we know about the House roads package (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

MDOT age discrimination claim tossed out (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Michigan poised for big shift in how it pays for roads (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Why Michigan lost shot at $45M for charter schools (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Detroit group meets with DEQ director on Flint water, asks him to resign (Flint Journal, 10/23/2015)

State says it will speed up money transfer to Flint for Detroit water (Flint Journal, 10/23/2015)

Fuel taxes, registration fees and tax relief: 14 things to know about new House GOP roads plan (MLive, 10/23/2015)

Gov. Snyder says $1.2B House road funding plan is positive, but needs 'extensive analysis' (MLive, 10/23/2015)

Michigan congressman asks FBI chief how refugees are vetted (MLive, 10/23/2015)

Michigan State Police using cell snooping devices (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

New Michigan roads plan strains budget, but 'doable' (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Editorials

We've seen what happens without a prevailing wage in Michigan (Detroit Free Press, 10/23/2015)

Chirkun: Let's find a road funding fix, Lansing (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Harris: Think outside the box in reforming DPS (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Our Editorial: Keep momentum on roads solution (The Detroit News, 10/23/2015)

Ferry operator looks out for Detriot (Toledo Blade, 10/23/2015)

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Snyder 'Rockin Out' To Paul McCartney (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/22/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For October 26, 2015

News

Officials select next Michigan civil rights chief (Associated Press, 10/26/2015)

Another week at the Capitol, two more abortion bills (Detroit Free Press, 10/26/2015)

Is emergency manager law to blame for Flint water crisis? (Detroit Free Press, 10/26/2015)

Lots of cash in elections, but not for Courser, Gamrat (Detroit Free Press, 10/26/2015)

Michigan State Police trains new motor carrier officers (Lansing State Journal, 10/26/2015)

Michigan House GOP roads plan could leave tough budget decisions up to future legislators (MLive, 10/26/2015)

Ousted Michigan Reps. Courser, Gamrat raise less than $2,000 each for re-election campaigns (MLive, 10/26/2015)

School starting before Labor Day? Bill to allow it raises alarms with Michigan tourism industry (MLive, 10/26/2015)

Bill lets retirees teach, get pension due to lack of subs (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Mich. lawmakers find new urgency to stop Asian carp (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Michigan joins suit to overturn feds' power plant rule (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Michigan State Police using cell snooping devices (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Editorials

Follow the money trail in campaign donations (Detroit Free Press, 10/26/2015)

Why presumptive parole is a bad idea for Michigan (Detroit Free Press, 10/26/2015)

Wolfram: Legislature should incentivize utilities (Lansing State Journal, 10/26/2015)

Michigan's dirty little secret (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 10/26/2015)

Editorial: Roads plan jammed up behind the barricades (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/26/2015)

Editorial: Snyder's DPS fix faces several tests (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Let's find a clean water solution for Michigan (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Our editorial: Scrap 'pay or stay' with court rule (The Detroit News, 10/26/2015)

Blogs

DNR Video Shows You How To Process A Deer; It's Probably A PG Film (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/23/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For October 27, 2015

News

Pension debt could give new Detroit Schools a stumbling start (Bridge Magazine, 10/27/2015)

Proposed state bill has doctors, nurses at odds over who can give anesthesia (Bridge Magazine, 10/27/2015)

Increase in drug abuse, death prompts state action plan (Detroit Free Press, 10/27/2015)

Michigan Farm Bureau asks to join clean water lawsuit (Detroit Free Press, 10/27/2015)

Michigan Senate to take up roads plan today (Detroit Free Press, 10/27/2015)

State school superintendent's son killed in car crash (Detroit Free Press, 10/27/2015)

Ex-emergency manager says local leaders made decision to use Flint River water (Flint Journal, 10/27/2015)

$1.2B House road funding plan set up for swift action in Michigan Senate (Lansing State Journal, 10/27/2015)

Michigan State Police trains new motor carrier officers (Lansing State Journal, 10/27/2015)

Murray who? Meet state office buildings' namesakes (Lansing State Journal, 10/27/2015)

Michigan marijuana legalization groups confident in cash backing for petition drives (MLive, 10/27/2015)

Report: DeVos family, Michigan's 'most potent interest group,' spent $4.9M in 2014 elections (MLive, 10/27/2015)

Calley: Fight overdoses with tighter drug monitoring (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Coalition: Lawmakers should target rising health costs (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

DeVos clan outspends UAW in 2014 Michigan election (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Gamrat goes on offensive in bid to win back House seat (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Group: Prevailing wage effort has duplicate signatures (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Michigan Senate prepares to vote on road aid bills (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Video: Mich. abortion clinic director recorded covertly (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Editorials

Many reasons to dislike latest road-funding bills (Detroit Free Press, 10/27/2015)

Legislature, feds should take on Flint water investigation (Flint Journal, 10/27/2015)

Dems learn what's not working for people (Midland Daily News, 10/27/2015)

Michigan prevailing wage supporters challenge 'woeful' petition drive signatures (MLive, 10/27/2015)

Column: Don't blame EM for Flint water disaster (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

Our Editorial: Weigh value of tax hikes (The Detroit News, 10/27/2015)

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State oil pipeline safety board to hold first meeting (Associated Press, 10/28/2015)

How Snyder's plan to fix Detroit school debt impacts other districts (Bridge Magazine, 10/28/2015)

Senate adjourns without consensus on a fix for roads (Detroit Free Press, 10/28/2015)

Senate leaders on roads plan (Detroit Free Press, 10/28/2015)

Student debt at Michigan colleges up 57% since 2004 (Detroit Free Press, 10/28/2015)

Tough new state exam stumps Michigan students (Detroit Free Press, 10/28/2015)

State DEQ pulls request for help with image amid Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 10/28/2015)

Disability worker: DHHS punished me for having MS (Lansing State Journal, 10/28/2015)

Murray who? Meet state office buildings' namesakes (Lansing State Journal, 10/28/2015)

Snyder merges retirement system boards (Lansing State Journal, 10/28/2015)

Ananich blasts former emergency manager for Flint water switch 'fairy tale' (MLive, 10/28/2015)

Michigan's autism fund will run out of money in November, officials say (MLive, 10/28/2015)

No deal: Road funding plan hits another snag in Michigan Senate (MLive, 10/28/2015)

See Todd Courser explain why he should be re-elected after resigning seat (MLive, 10/28/2015)

DeVos clan outspends UAW in 2014 Michigan election (The Detroit News, 10/28/2015)

DPS could be insolvent by spring, state treasurer warns (The Detroit News, 10/28/2015)

Ex-Rep. Courser: Wife endorses state House candidacy (The Detroit News, 10/28/2015)

House registration fee hike trips up Senate road talks (The Detroit News, 10/28/2015)

Michigan lawmakers spar on export subsidy bank (The Detroit News, 10/28/2015)

Editorials

Michigan is the dark money capital of American politics (Bridge Magazine, 10/28/2015)

Raising the talent level of Michigan workers (Bridge Magazine, 10/28/2015)

Now who needs an emergency manager? (Detroit Free Press, 10/28/2015)

State, emergency managers can't escape blame for Flint water switch (Flint Journal, 10/28/2015)

Medical marijuana should stay tax-free (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 10/28/2015)

House plan for Michigan roads funding is not a solution (MLive, 10/28/2015)

Ken Braun: 2018 GOP hopefuls for governor gathering ammo, taking shots (MLive, 10/28/2015)

Our Editorial: Weigh value of tax hikes (The Detroit News, 10/28/2015)

Blogs

The Latest Jam On Road Funding (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/27/2015)

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Agency criticized over Flint water drops marketing plan (Associated Press, 10/29/2015)

Ban on powdered alcohol signed into law (Detroit Free Press, 10/29/2015)

Barge, shipwrecked on Lake Erie in 1930s, leaking oil (Detroit Free Press, 10/29/2015)

Detroit to get $21 million more for blight demolition (Detroit Free Press, 10/29/2015)

Detroit to hold public hearing on new marijuana rules (Detroit Free Press, 10/29/2015)

Driskell's missed road aid votes set off highway fight (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

Michigan inks unique pact to help in 3 national forests (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

Michigan's Weiser chairs anti-Clinton super PAC (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

Editorials

Fish farms don't belong in the Great Lakes (Detroit Free Press, 10/29/2015)

Will Snyder give us straight talk or lipstick on roads? (Detroit Free Press, 10/29/2015)

Austin: Michigan is not done with bullying (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

Berman: Show me a hero to save Michigan's roads (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

Editor's Note: Detroit kids face woes beyond school (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

Editorial: State police dragnet should be stopped (The Detroit News, 10/29/2015)

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New Lottery Ticket Honors Fallen Veterans (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/28/2015)

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Improved smiles for some low-income Michigan children (Bridge Magazine, 10/30/2015)

Courser text scandal case heads to Lapeer prosecutor (Detroit Free Press, 10/30/2015)

Downriver, Allen Road miss out on U.S. DOT grants (Detroit Free Press, 10/30/2015)

Flint City Council votes to hire outside legal help on water issue (Flint Journal, 10/30/2015)

Seven key takeaways from a town hall meeting on Flint's water crisis (Flint Journal, 10/30/2015)

City Council president: Emergency manager set Flint on path to river water (MLive, 10/30/2015)

House Speaker Paul Ryan: See how Michigan lawmakers are reacting to election (MLive, 10/30/2015)

Whitmer/Richardville 2018? Former Senate GOP leader open to bipartisan gubernatorial run (MLive, 10/30/2015)

Why Michigan education officials aren't freaking out over dismal scores on new M-STEP test (MLive, 10/30/2015)

Mich. leads nation in Supreme Court election spending (The Detroit News, 10/30/2015)

Mystery group attacks GOP challenger to Gamrat (The Detroit News, 10/30/2015)

Pot legalization group stops collecting signatures (The Detroit News, 10/30/2015)

State police give Courser text report to prosecutor (The Detroit News, 10/30/2015)

Editorials

A small victory for regional transit in metro Detroit (Detroit Free Press, 10/30/2015)

Government messed up in Flint water crisis, what next? (Detroit Free Press, 10/30/2015)

Are we there yet? The Senate says no (Michigan Radio, 10/30/2015)

Susan J. Demas: GOP roads plan could kill Snyder's signature 2011 tax reform (MLive, 10/30/2015)

High schools should pay for SC4 classes (Port Huron Times Herald, 10/30/2015)

Our editorial: Anybody but Courser, Gamrat (The Detroit News, 10/30/2015)

Rothwell: Assessing Michigan's talent future (The Detroit News, 10/30/2015)

It's time for Americans and Canadians to own the Ambassador Bridge (Toledo Blade, 10/30/2015)

Blogs

The Subject Was Term Limits, The Discussion Elevated For Once (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/29/2015)

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2015 8:52 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 2, 2015

News

Courser, Gamrat seek 2nd chance after affair scandal (Associated Press, 11/2/2015)

Asian carp found 12 miles closer to Lake Michigan (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Auto insurance, liquor sales are subjects of new bills (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Ballot committee forms for LGBT constitutional amendment (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Courser-Gamrat special elections to cost thousands (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Michigan political odd couple join forces at NYC marathon (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

No roads fix, but more than 70 bills are now Mich. law (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Online vehicle registration system at risk, state says (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Senator Ananich says water woes will have lasting impact on Flint community (Flint Journal, 11/2/2015)

The auditor, the bureaucrat: A push for lean government (Lansing State Journal, 11/2/2015)

Forlini's bill to help families care for the disabled signed into law (Macomb Daily, 11/2/2015)

Bill introduced to manage digital assets after death or incapacity (Michigan Radio, 11/2/2015)

'Fiscal time bomb' or welcome relief? Income tax rollback linked to Michigan roads plan (MLive, 11/2/2015)

Cindy Gamrat says she is 'confident' going into Tuesday's election (MLive, 11/2/2015)

Michigan DEQ audit expanded to include Flint water response (MLive, 11/2/2015)

Michigan Political Points: Money flows to judges, gov prospects and Courser/Gamrat opponents (MLive, 11/2/2015)

No more money: Michigan autism fund runs dry as its architect calls for reconsideration (MLive, 11/2/2015)

Anti-prevailing wage group starts over on ballot issue (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

Bipartisan group seeks gay rights plan on 2016 ballot (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

DPS unions: Include labor contracts in Snyder overhaul (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

Mich. lawmakers pledge to save crop insurance program (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

Editorials

Help college students get their money's worth (Bridge Magazine, 11/2/2015)

Detroit schools plan shows lack of faith in democracy (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Education in Michigan can improve, if it's done right (Detroit Free Press, 11/2/2015)

Coy: Michigan energy law needs competitive bidding (Lansing State Journal, 11/2/2015)

Pardee: Prevailing wage law supports families, service (Lansing State Journal, 11/2/2015)

McCann: Energy policy should be fair to everyone (Midland Daily News, 11/2/2015)

We're all too fond of solutions in pill form (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/2/2015)

Blueprint for fixing Detroit schools (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

Finley: Gov. Snyder — break a leg, or several (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

Pannebecker: Prevailing wage bad for Michigan (The Detroit News, 11/2/2015)

Leading on juvenile justice (Toledo Blade, 11/2/2015)

George Weeks: Dark money and the Michigan Supreme Court (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 11/2/2015)

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Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 4, 2015

News

Federal agency conducting review of Flint water supply (Associated Press, 11/4/2015)

2015 Michigan General Election: Macomb County results (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

2015 Michigan General Election: Oakland County results (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Everything we know about the Senate roads plan (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Former Reps. Courser, Gamrat defeated in comeback tries (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Legislature passes funding plan for roads (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

U.S. EPA will conduct 'full review' of Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 11/4/2015)

Michigan Legislature OKs roads plan with gas, fee hikes (Macomb Daily, 11/4/2015)

Election results around Michigan (Michigan Radio, 11/4/2015)

ABC's '20/20' filming Cindy Gamrat as election results come in (MLive, 11/4/2015)

Cindy Gamrat: 'I'm at peace with how it turned out' (MLive, 11/4/2015)

Election results: Full coverage of school bonds, state House primary and city leaders (MLive, 11/4/2015)

In re-election defeat, ex-state Rep. Todd Courser says he's 'walking corpse' (MLive, 11/4/2015)

Karen Weaver makes history, elected Flint's first woman mayor (MLive, 11/4/2015)

Michigan road funding deal: How they voted, and what they're saying about $1.2 billion plan (MLive, 11/4/2015)

Two years after opening Detroit office, Republicans still eyeing long-term gains in Democratic stronghold (MLive, 11/4/2015)

Carson taps Mike Shirkey to chair Mich. campaign (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

Election results for Wayne County (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

Ex-DPS official 'steered' $40M deal, feds say (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

Snyder says he's ready to sign $1.2B road fund package (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

Editorials

Fixing our roads, at the expense of everything else (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Lawmakers fail LGBT in Mich., who deserve civil rights (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Michigan continues its dark money streak (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Michigan road funding bill: How we got to a bad deal (Detroit Free Press, 11/4/2015)

Judy Putnam: Medicare costs curbed but only for some (Lansing State Journal, 11/4/2015)

Ken Braun: Michigan needs a Taxpayer Bill of Rights (MLive, 11/4/2015)

State View: Why hasn't Michigan banned microbeads? (Petoskey News-Review, 11/4/2015)

Berman: UAW is neglecting workers (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

Michigan brings transparency to civil forfeiture (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

Wozniak: Campaign against clean air is embarrassing (The Detroit News, 11/4/2015)

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Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:43 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 5, 2015

News

Governor orders flags lowered for former Michigan senator (Associated Press, 11/5/2015)

Voters oust Flint mayor amid city's water problems (Associated Press, 11/5/2015)

Asian carp recommendations could take 4 more years (Detroit Free Press, 11/5/2015)

How legislators voted on the two main road-funding bills (Detroit Free Press, 11/5/2015)

Snyder cautious about borrowing against new road money (Detroit Free Press, 11/5/2015)

4 new things in the House bill to overhaul Michigan's energy policy, slated for a committee vote (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Could Democrats get a win in Michigan energy overhaul? Energy efficiency revived as bargaining chip (MLive, 11/5/2015)

GOP ready to 'move forward' after Courser, Gamrat crushed in Michigan primaries (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Inside Michigan's new road funding deal: fuel taxes, registration fees, tax relief and more (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Michigan awards $500k in campus sexual assault prevention grants; See which colleges got funding (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Michigan PTA president: 'Guns have no place in our schools' (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Walling plans to stay in Flint, won't rule out politics after mayoral defeat (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Wins for write-in mayor, openly gay candidate and recreational marijuana in Metro Detroit elections (MLive, 11/5/2015)

Drivers shouldn't expect big road gains in a hurry (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Mich. plan to cut algae relies on past measures (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Snyder hits Carson's political inexperience (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Snyder says he's ready to sign $1.2B road fund package (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Stabenow urges faster push to block Asian carp (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Editorials

Streams leading into Great Lakes need protection, too (Detroit Free Press, 11/5/2015)

Supporting education for all (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 11/5/2015)

Roads deal: mission accomplished or can kicked? (Michigan Radio, 11/5/2015)

Kelly: Getting state money should include real change (Midland Daily News, 11/5/2015)

Finley: Why Michigan can't fix its schools (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Our Editorial: Road deal not great but good enough (The Detroit News, 11/5/2015)

Blogs

Unpacking The Roads Proposal Headed To Snyder's Desk (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/4/2015)

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 11:00 PM
To: Larner, Trena (DHHS)
Subject: Michigan Report, Thursday, November 5, 2015
Attachments: Nov5Senate.htm; 151105dayplan.htm; Nov5.htm; Nov5House.htm

Michigan Report for Thursday, November 5, 2015

After Week-Long Negotiations, Energy Bills Sent To House Floor

Canvassers Rejects Prevailing Wage Petitions, State Continues Investigation

Meekhof Talks DPS, Post-Roads Agenda

Ananich Calls On Meekhof, Legislature To Hold Hearings On Flint Water

Report: Construction Could Renew Lead Contamination In Flint Homes

Senate Passes Alternative Teaching Certificate Bill, Ends Dower Rights

Snyder Signs Teacher Evaluation Legislation

State Must Do Better To Get More People In College, Panel Told

House Panel Urges Reversal At Veterans Homes

Poll: Carson Beats Democrats, Democrats Beat Trump

Sex Offenders Registration Act Revised Per Court Case

Snyder Expands Pipeline Board

PSC Eliminates DTE Electric's Renewable Energy Surcharge

Activity Reports

House

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Day Planner

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Volume #54, Report #220 -- Thursday, November 5, 2015

After Week-Long Negotiations, Energy Bills Sent To House Floor

Major energy legislation cleared the House Energy Policy Committee on Thursday with some significant changes, including changes to the proposed renewable energy definitions and a "goal" for utilities to get 30 percent of production from renewables and energy efficiency.

But advocates for expanding choice, or at least keeping it the same as current law, were not successful.

After convening at 8 a.m., recessing until 2:07 p.m. and then going until 7:45 p.m., coming in and out of order on its fourth attempt this week to meet on the issue, the committee reported HB 4298 - the bill involving choice and utility regulations - 18-7. Rep. Gary Glenn (R-Midland), the vice chair, Rep. Andrea LaFontaine (R-Columbus), Rep. Holly Hughes (R-White River Township), Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Potterville), Rep. Peter Lucido (R-Shelby Township), Rep. Derek Miller (D-Warren) and Rep. Scott Dianda (D-Calumet) all voted no.

HB 4297, dealing with the environmental aspects of energy, cleared the committee 21-3 with Rep. Julie Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) abstaining and HB 4575 cleared 19-4 with Ms. Plawecki and Rep. LaTanya Garrett (D-Detroit) abstaining.

Rep. Aric Nesbitt (R-Lawton), the chair of the committee, said his goal is getting the bills finished before the end of the year.

He said utilities are going to make investments and if the state is going to deal with capacity in the long run, it should deal with it proactively instead of reactively, which he believes the legislation does.

"As you can imagine this has been legislation I have been working on for years now and it's the first down, and I look forward to getting to a touchdown," he told reporters after the vote.

Throughout the meeting, and the week, it was clear Mr. Nesbitt was negotiating with House Democrats to get the votes needed for the legislation to clear the committee. House Minority Floor Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) attended the majority of the meeting Thursday and House Minority Leader Tim Greimel (D-Auburn Hills) also attended the meeting briefly and talked to Democrats serving on the panel.

Mr. Glenn has been criticizing the process for much of the week, and continued on Thursday before the vote, saying members likely were not clear on what certain amendments did in the context of a lengthy and complex bill.

But Rep. Bill LaVoy (D-Monroe), the minority vice chair of the committee, said he felt the process was fair and he was grateful the Democrats, despite being in the minority, were included.

Those following the issue said Mr. Nesbitt, if he wanted to get a bill out of the committee, would either need to compromise on choice or on environmental components. For several days, it seemed clear he had opted for the latter option.

Changes to the legislation include not requiring alternative energy suppliers to address local reliability needs unless a projected capacity shortfall was determined. Under the amendment there would be no changes to requirements on the alternative suppliers unless the Public Service Commission made certain determinations involving capacity.

Amendments adopted to HB 4298 would require alternative energy consumers to remain with the utility, if they go back, for 15 years if it doesn't cause an increased cost. For those consumers who would cause an increased cost, they would have to stay with the utility for 20 years.

Michigan Agency for Energy Executive Director Valerie Brader told the committee the changes regarding additional regulations for alternative suppliers would not go into effect unless there were some extreme circumstances.

But Mr. Glenn was unhappy he could not bring up an alternative energy supplier - or advocate - to confirm or deny Ms. Brader's statement. He said he simply doesn't know if the new language effectively kills choice or not.

An approved amendment offered by Mr. LaVoy would set up an energy efficiency program.

Another Democratic amendment would include in the language describing the Integrated Resource Plan that utilities would have a goal of reaching 30 percent of energy production through renewable energy and reduction of energy waste through energy efficiency by 2025.

Rep. Julie Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) noted it was a goal and not a mandate on utilities.

Another amendment provided financial incentives for utilities achieving annual incremental energy waste reduction of between 1.5 and 3 percent.

Another approved amendment would add a general taxpayer to the Public Service Commission with the intent of representing the average consumer, said Rep. Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan), the sponsor of the amendment. It would also increase the commission from three members to five.

It was not immediately clear if that amendment would remain the final version of the bill. Mr. Nesbitt said he would continue to work with Mr. McBroom.

Changes to HB 4297 include an amendment from Mr. Nesbitt and makes changes to the renewable portfolio standard, removing what the federal government does not consider renewable energy.

Another approved amendment offered by Mr. LaVoy "tightens up" the definition of renewable energy, but still expands the definition from the current law, including biomass and geothermal.

And another amendment, from Ms. Hughes, would ensure pet coke, hazardous waste, coal waste and scrap tires were not included in the renewable energy definition. That addressed a major criticism from Democrats, though some forms of waste to energy could still count.

Mr. Glenn attempted to make a variety of amendments regarding the 10 percent choice market, including ensuring all schools, community colleges and universities would not count against the cap.

Ms. Hughes attempted to pass an amendment, which she said the Michigan Chamber of Commerce supported, that would keep the choice market the same as current law. That amendment failed 10-10 with five members abstaining.

Throughout the committee meeting Thursday, which went at ease several times, comments from members indicated they weren't pleased with the process.

Mr. Glenn, when the committee first began, said he could not vote on Mr. Nesbitt's amendments because they were several pages and he had no time to know what they did.

Later, Mr. Glenn made another comment about the amendments and Mr. Nesbitt quipped: "The reason I did it as an amendment and not an additional sub is because of the criticism I've received," he said.

"Well I had zero time to read the amendments," Mr. Glenn said.

Mr. Glenn said after the meeting that he didn't think the legislation would be well received in the full House, particularly the Republican caucus. He said there would likely be concerns regarding the choice piece of the legislation.

Mr. Nesbitt said a vast majority of committee members supported the bills and he believes he would have the support of a majority of the House Republican caucus.

On the criticism on the process, Mr. Nesbitt said the legislation has been up for almost the entire year and everyone has their own thought son how to improve bills.

"This in terms of the legislative process, this is a part of it, we allowed a lot of amendments to be debated," he said, also adding more than 120 people have testified throughout the year.

But Mr. Glenn said he felt members were being pressured by the time frame, knowing the meeting would end with a vote. He said many of the questions members have will be answered in the coming weeks.

REACTION: Statements poured in Thursday evening after the committee reported the bill, with many slamming the choice provisions.

Michigan Freedom Fund President Terri Reid said the bills were reported after a "rushed" and "secretive" process.

"The result is substitute language approved today that hurts Michigan ratepayers, schools and job creators who already face the highest electric costs in the region," Ms. Reid said in a statement. "Electric choice should be expanded, not eliminated. Competition serves as the best method of lowering energy costs for Michigan's hardworking families and keeping the large, monopoly utility providers honest."

Wayne Kuipers, Energy Choice Now executive director, said the bill would kill electric choice, which has saved $1.1 billion for those "lucky enough" to have it.

"The process of passing this utility-friendly/consumer-hostile legislation out of committee was as flawed and damaging as the bill itself," he said in a statement. "No public testimony was allowed on what was essentially - as verified by the governor's own energy advisor - a brand new bill before the committee. The bottom line is: the members of this committee just passed a bill that will potentially cost 40 percent of Michigan's public schools $24 million annually and cost Michigan job providers nearly $100 million each year."

And environmental advocates said the bills do not go far enough.

"The only way to hold utilities accountable for increasing our use of clean, renewable energy is through mandates for renewable energy and energy efficiency," Anne Woiwode, conservation director for Sierra Club, Michigan Chapter, said in a statement. "The Nesbitt bill is a giveaway to utility shareholders and puts polluter profits before Michigan's ratepayers and natural resources."

"The bills passed out of committee tonight are a step in the right direction, but do not go far enough to increase our use of clean, renewable energy, or to ensure we lower energy costs through reducing energy waste," Jack Schmitt, deputy director for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, said in a statement. "We can and must do better to build upon the success of our clean energy standards. We look forward to working through the legislative process to strengthen this policy and to ensure Michigan continues to increase its use of renewable energy and takes further strides in reducing energy waste."

Finally, MI Air MI Health Coalition Director Rory Neuner said: "The Nesbitt plan ignores the health impacts of our energy choices and that's why health professionals are urging legislators to go back to the drawing board. We urge the legislature to support forward-looking legislation that will reduce dangerous pollution and protect public health."

Canvassers Rejects Prevailing Wage Petitions, State Continues Investigation

At a minimum, some of those who circulated petitions for Protecting Michigan Taxpayers in its effort to repeal the prevailing wage could face misdemeanor charges for lying on the circulator certificates on those petitions, a move both sides of the issue welcomed at Thursday's Board of State Canvassers meeting.

But opponents of the petition said the criminal investigation should go higher up the ranks than the circulators, and Elections Director Chris Thomas said his bureau would continue to investigate the petition gathering process to determine if there are additional safeguards needed.

The vote to reject the petitions as insufficient was fairly easy, with both opponents of the drive, Michigan Prevails, and Protecting Michigan Taxpayers supporting the move.

The staff report on the petition, released earlier in the week, found fewer than half of the sample signatures pulled was valid. Of the 503 signatures in the sample, only 301 were valid, with 104 not registered voters and 63 duplicates. At least 315 valid signatures were needed in the sample to make it worth checking more signatures and 348 valid signatures were needed to simply designate the petitions as sufficient.

Mr. Thomas said it was only through the checking opponents to the change made that the duplicates were found. He said the petitions would have been declared sufficient with only the department's check.

In the end, he said the petition had the lowest rate of valid signatures in any petition submitted since the state started using the sampling process.

"The circulating company clearly failed to put circulators in the field who could comply with this law," he said.

Proponents of the plan conceded there were not enough signatures.

"We reviewed the staff report and would urge this board to adopt the findings in the staff report," Eric Doster, attorney for Protecting Michigan Taxpayers, said. "After review of this matter, we have no problem forwarding this matter to the proper law enforcement authorities."

Dave Waymire, spokesperson for Michigan Prevails, argued after the meeting that the criminal investigation should go further than the circulators or even Silver Bullet, the company contracted to hire circulators. He said officials with the campaign knew of the rampant duplicates and other problems with the circulators and did not act.

"The question is, what did they know and when did they know it?" he said.

Mr. Thomas said at a minimum those circulators who signed the petitions themselves multiple times could face charges.

Mr. Doster said the campaign was still considering what, if any, action it would take against Silver Bullet.

The bigger issue, Mr. Thomas said, is preventing a repeat.

"The question going forward is whether this petition will remain an outlier or will it become the way business is done," he said. "Clearly, a close look at this petition is necessary to determine whether additional safeguards are necessary to safeguard the Michigan elections process."

Board members agreed on the need to review the petition process, but members from both parties chided the Legislature for failing to act on recommendations the board has already made.

In particular, board members pointed out that they will be meeting next week to decide whether a recall petition against Governor Rick Snyder includes factual allegations, but the law does not require that the drafter include support for the allegations when filing the petition.

Meekhof Talks DPS, Post-Roads Agenda

Now that the Legislature has sent a road funding solution to Governor Rick Snyder, Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof sees energy policy reform and a solution to the growing problems of academic and financial instability with Detroit Public Schools as two of the major issues next on his chamber's to-do list.

"We don't tackle simple things," he said. "They are major policy issues for the state, and I've had some very, very open and fruitful discussions about how we go about it."

He said he expects to rely "very heavily" on Sen. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) to lead the discussion on the best energy policy for Michigan as many provisions of the 2008 energy law either expire or need to be updated, and he is working currently on finding sponsors for legislation on DPS from both the Democratic and Republican sides of the aisle.

"I've given no timeline on DPS, but what I have said is it would be very, very important that we put something (together) for these children so they can get a great education and they can get all these really cool, great jobs being created in Detroit," he said.

As to any concerns he might have about the proposal Governor Rick Snyder put forth last month, Mr. Meekhof said all the details are still a work in progress.

"We've been meeting on different occasions with different interest groups and our policy folks, and it's still a work in progress," he said. "It's like every piece of public policy: not everybody is going to agree on it, so we're going to try to find the best possible thing that we can do."

He said his primary focus is on ensuring a quality education for DPS students but did not have any specific details on what that could look like in legislation.

And he said that while it has not currently been in the discussion to leave DPS to the charter school community, it could be a possibility if some agreement couldn't be reached otherwise. But "that would be unfortunate," he said.

Mr. Meekhof said restoration of the school board is a part of the discussion, but again, he was unsure if it will be part of the final solution.

"The folks that are there need to have some accountability and I think they'll want to, because if we're going to help in some way, they're going to want to make sure the process moves forward and we get improvement," he said. "We need different results."

But Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said that is a very important piece for him and his caucus.

"Whether or not it's required to get votes or not, I haven't spoken to all my colleagues about it, but it's very important to them and to me as well," he said after session.

Mr. Meekhof was uncertain where the financing piece could come from for the DPS fix, but as conversations have been ongoing, he is hoping to have at least some legislation on the situation introduced soon, he said.

Ananich Calls On Meekhof, Legislature To Hold Hearings On Flint Water

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich on Thursday called on Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof and his colleagues to put together legislative hearings to determine what went wrong in Flint, who should be held accountable and how it can be prevented.

Mr. Meekhof said he is waiting for other agencies and task forces to do their work force.

"The folks that are being charged with gathering that information, I want to let them do their work, because I don't want to duplicate their work either," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) told reporters after Mr. Ananich's formal floor speech about his proposal.

Mr. Ananich sent a letter to Mr. Meekhof's office and shared it with the chairpersons of the Senate Oversight, Government Operations and Health Policy committees.

In his speech, Mr. Ananich pointed to further reports on Thursday, especially coming from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, warning of additional health risks of lead in the water. He said such reports only highlight that "this is an ongoing problem, and the Legislature has a unique role and responsibility in thoroughly examining what went wrong, what still needs to be fixed, and how to ensure this sort of crisis never happens again."

He said the taxpayers who have essentially footed the bill on a $9.3 million supplemental appropriation in emergency funds for the city have a right to know how that money is being spent as well.

"The fact that several reviews have been promised by other entities does not remove the need for us to exercise our oversight role. It actually highlights the areas in which our investigation would strengthen the process," he said. "Each of the other reviews are either agencies investigating themselves or experts who do not have the powers or accountability elected officials have."

Mr. Ananich said the benefit of legislative hearings is primarily subpoena power "to make sure everyone who needs to be asked questions are forced to answer them," he said. "We can provide a public, transparent look that none of these approaches (by others) are guaranteed to deliver."

Speaking to reporters after session, Mr. Ananich said, "Folks have shown their willingness to not tell the truth, or be fuzzy with it for sure, but if they're asked a question when someone isn't requiring them to tell the truth, they can continue with that. So I think we can hold them accountable better through the subpoena process."

But Mr. Meekhof did not seem to exercise the same sense of urgency. He said he has been talking with Mr. Ananich about the idea but reiterated he'd like folks in charge of gathering that information currently to do so first.

"We've got a lot of other good stuff in front of us right now, too. We've got energy; we've got Detroit Public Schools. I'm not discounting he says it's important, because he and I have been talking about it," Mr. Meekhof said.

And he said, as he has previously, that he has "very high marks" for Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant.

"I believe they will be able to find solutions and they will find things that need to be corrected," Mr. Meekhof said.

But Mr. Ananich said an agency investigating itself when it had already potentially skirted doing the right thing is exactly why a different approach needs to be taken, especially by the Legislature.

"We have such troubling individuals in the drinking water division, which is the main division that's supposed to keep us safe, showing time and time again there's some serious problems there," he said. "We need to get to the bottom of how that happened and how we can address it.

He added that there is still a role for the agencies investigating themselves or the various task forces associated with the drinking water problem in Flint, but those reviews could take many more months and the Legislature's public hearings would provide a platform for information to potentially come through faster.

"There's a role for them, but I think a thorough investigative process needs to happen," Mr. Ananich said. "Independently would've been preferable, but if that's not going to happen, I think it's our responsibility to do some check and balance just for that alone, for us to do it."

HOUSE CALLS FOR FEDERAL INVESTIGATION: While Mr. Ananich made his request on the Senate floor Thursday, Flint-area state representatives pushed for a federal investigation into the Department of Environmental Quality after a story came out Thursday claiming the department knowingly dropped two lead test samples to avoid exceeding a federal drinking water standard.

Had the tests been counted, action could have been taken earlier on the water crisis, they alleged in a statement late Thursday.

Rep. Sheldon Neely (D-Flint) called for Mr. Wyant to be removed from his post by the governor and sent several letters to the governor and Attorney General Bill Schuette requesting such, a statement indicated.

"It is shameful and appalling to me that the men and women we entrust to keep us safe at the highest levels of state government would purposely put the health of Flint's residents at risk," Mr. Neeley said. "For the past year, the Flint community has been subjected to high levels of lead in their water. Action clearly could have been taken earlier to protect the children who have been the most at risk. This behavior borderlines on criminal activity. The governor should immediately terminate the director of the DEQ and all culpable members of the staff."

Rep. Phil Phelps (D-Flushing) said the DEQ's explanation in the story (by Michigan Radio, the statement indicates) doesn't add up.

"This is just one more instance of the DEQ covering something up, and even more of a reason they fought me when I sent a FOIA requesting information relating to the water crisis in Flint," Mr. Phelps said. "There must be a full federal investigation into the state on how they handled these samples."

Report: Construction Could Renew Lead Contamination In Flint Homes

Flint is taking steps to be sure its municipal water is not dissolving lead from the inside of old pipes as it passes to consumers, but construction projects that come in contact with those old pipes could still make them hazardous, a final U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report on the issue said.

Department of Environmental Quality officials noted the report says they are already implementing the recommendations from an earlier draft of the report.

The report, issued Wednesday, said not only are the lead pipes themselves a risk, but any pipes downstream of them in the water system could also pose a risk. The pipes develop scale inside that could contain lead where the pipe itself is lead or where the water coming into the pipe first ran through lead, the report said.

"Consequently, even with corrosion control treatment in place in the future, physical disturbances will be capable of dislodging the high lead-bearing scale and sediment from non-lead pipes as well as lead pipes, as was the case in the earlier EPA study," the report said. It included pictures from studies of another water system that showed where the scale had been dislodged by construction near the water lines.

The report did note that one of the first homes tested based on complaints of water quality problems had a longer than usual lead service line. Flint officials said the home was probably

one of the first on the block and so had a service line that ran to a water main on a major street rather than the newer main that runs down the street on which it is located.

The report recommended that EPA develop a procedure for minimizing effects of construction near or including pipes that might have lead-containing scale in them. It also recommended education efforts for both residents and contractors on the risks of disturbing the pipes.

"Residents should be notified of scheduled work by water and non-water utilities and informed of the potential risk of increased lead levels due to these disturbances," the report said.

The letter attached to the report notes that the state and Flint have already taken steps to correct the issue, including changing back to Detroit's water system.

Even so, Flint-area legislators are calling on their colleagues and the administration to do more to ensure the problem not only does not happen again, but the appropriate agencies or individuals be held accountable (see separate story).

"We appreciate the EPA's acknowledgement that most of the recommendations from the draft version of the report are already being implemented by DEQ," department spokesperson Brad Wurfel said.

But he said the EPA has also taken some of the blame for the situation and issued new copper and lead guidelines designed to clarify some of the confusion that led to the actions in Flint.

"The ambiguity of the lead and copper rule on the issue of corrosion control has been central to the situation in Flint," Mr. Wurfel said. "We appreciate having that acknowledged and clarified. It can only help Michigan and every other state into the future."

Senate Passes Alternative Teaching Certificate Bill, Ends Dower Rights

Individuals who are not certified or endorsed to teach certain critical shortage disciplines such as writing, journalism or health sciences might still be able to teach under legislation passed largely along party lines in the Senate on Thursday.

SB 491 has seen numerous changes since first introduced, but in the bill's final form, an individual's service as a full-time instructor in a field of specialization at the college level would be considered occupational experience in that field, which is one of the conditions for teaching as a non-certificated teacher.

Such an individual could teach in a field of specialization if he or she had, in the previous seven years, at least five years of occupational experience (rather than a major or a graduate degree in that field) for certain subjects, or met other requirements if teaching a foreign language, a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis indicated.

"Expanding the number of subjects is a problem. It dilutes the teaching pool by putting more unqualified people in the classroom," Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) said in a

statement through his spokesperson. "Rather than striving for the best, we are setting for the lowest common denominator. Michigan kids deserve better."

The bill also requires an alternative teaching program (for an interim teaching certificate) to include training in classroom management.

Certain career and technical education instructors would be exempt from the requirement to have a bachelor's degree in order to receive an interim teaching certificate, and the Department of Education would determine what specifically those areas would be.

The bill allows an individual seeking an interim teaching certificate to have more than one subject matter endorsement if he or she had more than one graduate degree or had a bachelor's degree with more than one major, as well as meeting other requirements.

Initially, the bill cleared the chamber on a 30-8 vote with all Democrats except Mr. Ananich, Sen. Virgil Smith of Detroit and Sen. Bert Johnson of Highland Park voting in opposition. But a motion to reconsider the vote was later made and the bill passed on a 27-11 with all Democrats except Mr. Smith voting in opposition and Sen. Tory Rocca (R-Sterling Heights) joining them.

DOWER RIGHTS: Some controversy was generated over a package of bills (SB 558, SB 559 and SB 560) seeking to repeal certain provisions of law related to dower rights, or a wife's right, upon her husband's death, to a life estate in one-third of the land that he owned.

SB 558 specifies that in most cases a wife's dower right would be abolished and unenforceable either through statute or common law, though that would not apply to a widower's dower elected by a woman whose husband died before the bill's effective date or a widow's right to elect dower under the Estates and Protected Individuals Code if her husband died before the bill's effective date.

Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) on the Senate floor expressed some concerns about the bills as it relates to a woman's right to receive the property or assets she is entitled to in cases of domestic violence relationships or other scenarios.

But bill sponsor Sen. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) said dower "is an ancient, archaic law when women were not supposed to own property. It's outdated and unconstitutional," he said, pointing to the legislation having support from the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and others.

"The titles are a complete mess when this happens, and we have many more modern laws protecting both spouses in the case of divorce," Mr. Jones said.

The package was sent to the House on a 34-4 vote, Ms. Warren joined by Sen. Coleman Young II (D-Detroit), Sen. Margaret O'Brien (R-Portage) and Sen. Bert Johnson (D-Highland Park) in opposition.

Snyder Signs Teacher Evaluation Legislation

Governor Rick Snyder signed into law Thursday legislation setting a portion of a teacher's annual evaluation contingent upon student growth during the academic year and requiring districts to select or develop an evaluation tool.

Mr. Snyder's signing of SB 103 (PA 173, immediate effect) brings to a close an arduous, at times acrimonious, years-long effort to overhaul how districts evaluate teacher performance.

"Michigan has wonderful teachers, dedicated to helping all their students reach their full potential and become lifelong learners," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "This new law helps them grow as educators through improved feedback and evaluations."

Starting in the 2017-18 school year, 25 percent of a teacher's evaluation would be based on student growth. That would rise to 40 percent for the 2018-19 school year.

Growth would be based on two parts. In grades where students take state assessments, the assessments would count for at least 40 percent of the growth measurement. In grades where state assessments are not administered, at least 50 percent of the growth measurement would come from research-based growth measures or alternative assessments.

The portion of teacher evaluation not related to student growth would come from the new evaluation tool each district or charter school chooses.

All teachers will be assigned an effectiveness rating of highly effective, effective, minimally effective or ineffective.

A teacher rating ineffective on three consecutive evaluations must be fired under the new law.

Similar provisions will apply to school administrators.

State Must Do Better To Get More People In College, Panel Told

For several years, officials have argued more Michigan residents need to attend college to help the economy, but at a committee hearing on Thursday, education and college officials said more also needs to be done to encourage students to attend college to help prevent the possibility of declining enrollment at universities.

The main message remains the need for higher education to help improve the economy. State Board of Education President John Austin (D-Ann Arbor) said that by 2025, the state will need 490,000 more students than current trends forecast who have at least an associate's degree or workplace certification. The state will also need 231,000 more people with at least a bachelor's degree than trends forecast to keep the economy chugging.

But the state also faces demographic factors that indicate the number of traditional high school students will not increase over the years, members of the House Higher Education and Community Colleges Appropriations Subcommittees were told.

Eric Guthrie, Michigan's demographer, said the state, like the rest of the nation, is getting older.

But Michigan is getting older a little faster than the rest of the U.S. The median age of Michigan's population is now 39.6, while nationally the median age is 37.7, he said.

Mr. Guthrie also said total college enrollment, in both universities and community colleges, tends to increase when the economy is bad. Individuals needing work will often attend college to update and improve their skills.

As the economy has improved, the total enrollment in Michigan's community colleges has declined. In 2010, there were approximately 200,000 community college students, and that number has fallen to about 160,000. But Mike Hansen, president of the Michigan Community College Association, said the current enrollment is still at the level it was in 2008, and enrollment has grown significantly at the state's community colleges over the last 15 years.

Guarding against enrollment decline, Susan Borego, chancellor at the University of Michigan-Flint, said the state must continue to attract international students and students from other states, but it must do a better job of getting more Michigan elementary and secondary students to be ready both academically and emotionally to attend college.

The state must "double down" on those efforts, she said, which means getting students into a mindset of going to college very early, as research shows that as early as the third grade students begin thinking about attending college.

Now, just 18 percent of 9th grade students in Michigan anticipate attending college; in Massachusetts - the state with the highest number - it is 30 percent, she said.

While more has to be done to encourage students to attend college, Ms. Borego also said efforts have to continue to have students academically ready for college. Just 1 percent of Flint High School students are ready for college, she said.

Efforts to boost academic preparedness were also discussed by Mr. Austin. Schools have to be able to determine early enough if students will need remediation classes to be college ready, he said.

Mr. Austin also stressed that additional student aid to make college affordable and simplified rules to make it easier for students to get aid is needed.

House Panel Urges Reversal At Veterans Homes

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is moving toward having fewer people in each room at its veterans homes, but members of the House Appropriations Military and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee said the move was wrong-headed.

A leader for the union at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans also questioned the motives behind the move.

Jim Dunn, deputy director of the Veterans Affairs Agency, which oversees the homes within the department, said the move from four residents per room to two was an effort to bring the homes up to current standards for veteran care.

Mr. Dunn said the Grand Rapids home would not likely meet that standard. "We'll probably never get to one person rooms because of the layout," he said. But he expected to be able to drop the occupancy to two per room.

And he said plans for the currently vacant fourth floor of the Grand Rapids campus main building was a "neighborhood" design where residents would have access to all their needs, including cooking space, on the floor.

Mr. Dunn said the remodel was expected to cost about $3 million, but he also expected to be able to continue the practice of getting federal matching funds to cover much of the costs.

He said the program so far is able to live within its budget and would only be coming back to the state for more General Fund if it is not able to keep its occupied bed count at the levels projected when the budget was adopted. Part of the budget is a per diem from the federal government that drops if occupancy drops too far, he said.

But committee members said the program was going in the wrong direction in trying to reduce number of occupants per room.

"My experience in the medical profession, often we isolate people into a room by themselves and that often is not healthy either," Rep. Edward Canfield (R-Sebewaing) said. "I'm not suggesting that you abandon your plan, but I'm suggesting you reevaluate."

While he agreed on the need for some of the improvements Mr. Dunn had discussed - like new boilers to replace those that had failed - he cautioned against renovations that could impinge on the facilities' ability to serve as many veterans as possible.

"The important thing is to take care of people, not have a nice place to take care of people that's state of the art," he said.

Rep. Larry Inman (R-Williamsburg), chair of the subcommittee, said his father had initially been in a private room in his nursing home but was moved to a shared room.

"That ended up being a real blessing for my father because suddenly he had somebody he could talk to," Mr. Inman said. "To sit in a room alone is a lonely experience."

Rep. Philip Potvin was vehemently against the plan.

"You're really self-destructing that facility by going from a four-bed room to a one-bed room," Mr. Potvin said. "Our goal here is to take care of as many vets as possible."

Mr. Potvin also argued that many of the younger veterans coming back from the Middle East are suffering ailments, physical and mental, that would not allow them to care for themselves as the proposed renovations would envision.

He said the facilities could risk losing state support if they move ahead with the plans.

Mr. Inman tried to dial back the discussion near the end of the meeting.

"We have deep feelings on a number of issues," he said. "No one representative can tell a department head what to do. It takes the full body of the Legislature to give the department a directive."

While he directed his comments to the whole subcommittee, Mr. Potvin was the sole member remaining at the time.

Mr. Potvin also agreed with Rep. Henry Yanez (D-Sterling Heights) that the subcommittee needed a separate hearing on a recent audit by the state and inspection by the federal government.

Mr. Yanez particularly chastised the agency for security at the Grand Rapids facility.

"I and Rep. Miller went to visit facility," he said, referring to Rep. Derek Miller (D-Warren). "We went in a side door. We even escorted a vet to his physical therapy appointment. We were never challenged once."

To references of pulling state support for the homes, Mr. Dunn noted that the federal assistance helping to run and repair the facilities flows only to state homes, not to private facilities.

Mark Williams, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees local that represents practical nurses in the facility (and a former worker laid off when the facility moved to a private contractor for direct care workers), said the proposed renovations are designed in part to reduce the capacity of the home to fall in line with staffing ability while keeping federal funds flowing.

Mr. Dunn said both homes exceeded the care hours required by federal standards. The homes must provide at least 2.5 hours of nursing care daily for each resident, and he said the Grand Rapids home was at 2.9 hours.

Mr. Williams argued that came from counting staff as direct care workers who should not be. He said the facility is also regularly under-staffed, sometimes with more staff absent than present.

"They knew they couldn't staff the home as a 755-bed facility," he said. "We needed to reduce the population of the facility."

He said he would provide documentation on the staffing shortfalls at a future meeting.

Poll: Carson Beats Democrats, Democrats Beat Trump

Michigan native Ben Carson, running for the 2016 Republican presidential nominee, would top both the two leading Democrats for president in the state, a poll released Thursday showed.

However, both Democrats - former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont - would beat Donald Trump in Michigan, the same poll showed.

The poll was conducted by Lansing-based EPIC-MRA of 600 likely voters in the state between October 25 and October 31. The poll has an error rate of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The poll showed slightly more of those asked identified as Democrat than Republican or independent (40 percent compared to 36 percent and 20 percent, respectively). Most of those people (52 percent) believed women should have the right to an abortion, and by one percentage point - 48 percent to 47 percent - approved of President Barack Obama's job performance.

However, the poll also showed 35 percent of respondents considered themselves conservative, 34 percent considered themselves moderate and 21 percent saw themselves as liberal.

Asked to choose between Mr. Carson - a retired neuro-surgeon who has gained notice for his soft-spoken approach and open embrace of religion - or Ms. Clinton or Mr. Sanders, the poll found Michigan voters leaned toward Mr. Carson. He won a plurality of voters against each.

Against Ms. Clinton, Mr. Carson was favored by 46 percent of those asked. Another 40 percent backed Ms. Clinton, while 14 percent were unsure.

Mr. Carson did even better against Mr. Sanders, though his support did not match that against Ms. Clinton. A total of 45 percent backed Mr. Carson to 36 percent support for Mr. Sanders. The remaining 19 percent were unsure.

However, both Democrats were favored over business-executive and promoter Donald Trump. Again, though, they lead Mr. Trump with a plurality, not a majority.

If Mr. Trump were the nominee against Ms. Clinton, she would poll 46 percent to his 38 percent, with 16 percent undecided.

Against Mr. Sanders, the Vermont senator polled 48 percent support to Mr. Trump's 36 percent, with again 16 percent unsure.

Sex Offenders Registration Act Revised Per Court Case

After the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan held that several provisions of the Sex Offenders Registration Act were unconstitutional in a case at the end of March, Sen.

Rick Jones drafted legislation to clarify language in the statute that cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously Thursday.

In short, the plaintiffs in the case were six Michigan residents required by SORA to register as sex offenders and comply with the act for life, but they argued portions of the act violated the Due Process Clause because certain provisions are vague, interfere with the registrants' fundamental right to engage in common occupations of life, and infringe on their right to direct the education and upbringing of children, a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis of SB 581 indicates.

The bill revises the prohibition against a sex offender registrant's loitering near a school to indicate that a parent or guardian would not be loitering if he or she was on school property to transport his or her child to or from school or a school event; attending an event sanctioned by his or her child's school; or meeting with a school employee regarding his or her child enrolled at that school.

The bill also defines loitering to remain for a period of time, whether or not in a vehicle, with the intent to engage or solicit another person to engage in an act prohibited by a listed offense involving a minor for which registration is required under the act.

"School safety zone" is also redefined to mean school property and the area that lies 1,000 feet or less from the property line of school property. And "school property" is redefined as a building, playing field, or other property used for school purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by a school that is clearly marked and identified as a school property.

The bill also revises information a registrant is required to provide, including information that must be reported immediately and in person; and it revises information that must be included in the law enforcement database of registrations and the publicly available website maintained by the Department of State Police.

Finally, the bill revises provisions dealing with a waiver of initial and annual registration fees for a registrant who is indigent (in which case the fee must be waived until the first reporting month in which he or she was no longer indigent, under the bill).

"It is important to clarify the law so that we are protecting our children and still meeting the federal guidelines," Mr. Jones (R-Grand Ledge) said of his bill, in a statement.

A substitute was adopted to the bill and sent to the full Senate for consideration.

MINOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG EXEMPTION: The committee also reported without substitute HB 4843 exempting a person under 21 years of age from prohibitions against possessing and using certain prescription drugs if he or she sought medical assistance or accompanied another person who sought assistance for a drug overdose or other perceived medical emergency.

The exemption would not, under the bill, prevent investigation and prosecution of a person for any other violation, or be grounds for suppression of evidence in the prosecution of other criminal charges.

And the bill requires a health facility or agency to develop a process for notifying the parent, guardian or custodian of a minor under the age of 18 who sought or was presented for emergency medical treatment for a drug overdose or other perceived medical emergency.

"It is my hope this bill help reduce the number of deaths among young people and encourage youth to do the right thing (as necessary)," Rep. Al Pscholka (R-Stevensville), sponsor of the bill, told the committee. "We shouldn't be afraid to save a life."

Snyder Expands Pipeline Board

Governor Rick Snyder issued an executive order Thursday adding a tribal government representative to the Pipeline Safety Advisory Board.

With the new order (EO 2015-14), Mr. Snyder appointed Homer Mandoka, chair of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, to the board.

"Michigan's tribal governments play a vital role in the preservation of our state's world-class resources," Mr. Snyder said in a statement. "I am confident Chairman Mandoka's passion and work ethic will be an asset to the board and I thank him for his willingness to help ensure our lakes, streams and rivers are protected for years to come."

Mr. Mandoka, of Bronson, becomes the 16th member of the board.

PSC Eliminates DTE Electric's Renewable Energy Surcharge

As has been the case with numerous other utilities that had imposed a surcharge upon their customers to pay for their renewable energy investments as mandated by the 2008 energy law, the Public Service Commission on Thursday approved a settlement agreement amending DTE Electric Company's renewable energy plan to eliminate the utility's energy surcharge of 43 cents per meter per month, effective January 1, 2016.

"The falling cost of wind-generated energy has prompted DTE to eliminate its renewable energy surcharge," PSC Chair John Quackenbush said in a statement about the settlement (case U-17793). "DTE joins Consumers Energy, which eliminated the renewable energy surcharge last year. More Michigan customers will see the tangible benefits of lower renewable energy costs on their bills."

In a separate case, the PSC approved a settlement agreement reconciling DTE Electric Company's 2014 energy optimization plan expenses, resulting in an increase of 29 cents on the monthly bills of residential customers using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, effective January 1, 2016 (case U-17832).

CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC BECOMES MEMBER-REGULATED: The PSC also directed Cloverland Electric Cooperative to make certain filings and to meet with PSC staff as it transitions to a member-regulated cooperative effective January 19, 2016. It will become the eighth electric cooperative to do so since the new law became effective, the PSC said (case U-17971).

INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY DECREASE: The PSC also approved a settlement agreement reconciling Indiana Michigan Power Company's 2014 energy optimization plan expenses, resulting in a decrease of 21 cents on the monthly bills of residential customers using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity effective with the next billing cycle (case U-17833).

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Michigan News & Opinion For November 6, 2015

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Appeal denied: Medical marijuana firings get jobless pay (Associated Press, 11/6/2015)

Sue Snyder touts plan to decrease Michigan cancer deaths (Associated Press, 11/6/2015)

The graying of Michigan farmers, and what they will leave behind (Bridge Magazine, 11/6/2015)

Flint lawmaker wants hearings on water controversy (Detroit Free Press, 11/6/2015)

Poll: Michigan voters favor Ben Carson for 2016 (Detroit Free Press, 11/6/2015)

Flint sending out 1,800 new notices for past-due water bills (Flint Journal, 11/6/2015)

Legislators call for investigation into altered Flint lead report (Flint Journal, 11/6/2015)

How Michigan lawmakers voted on fuel tax, vehicle fee hikes (Grand Haven Tribune, 11/6/2015)

Wurfel leaving Snyder's office (Lansing State Journal, 11/6/2015)

Ananich seeks subpoena power in call for legislative hearings on Flint water crisis (MLive, 11/6/2015)

Failed prevailing wage repeal petition drive prompts calls for investigation, prosecution (MLive, 11/6/2015)

Politics at the pump: Will Michigan road funding deal help or hurt House Republicans in 2016? (MLive, 11/6/2015)

Snyder signs Michigan teacher evaluation overhaul into law (MLive, 11/6/2015)

Detroit school rescue plan hits resistance (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

Experts: Water health dangers don't subside in Flint (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

Mich. lawmakers want Canada nuke waste facility blocked (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

Same-sex marriage pioneers, kids cheer joint adoption (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

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Detroit students unfairly pay the price for the district's debts (Bridge Magazine, 11/6/2015)

Cotter: Michigan roads plan gets the job done right (Detroit Free Press, 11/6/2015)

Try every way to get to bottom of Flint water crisis (Detroit Free Press, 11/6/2015)

How Flint's water crisis pushed road funding plan ahead (Michigan Radio, 11/6/2015)

Susan J. Demas: Angry Michigan voters will hate the GOP roads plan (MLive, 11/6/2015)

Bill restores fairness to tax assessing (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/6/2015)

Immigration reform would help Detroit (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

Jacques: In Detroit schools debate, listen to parents (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

Opinion: Feel-good state policies cost you money (The Detroit News, 11/6/2015)

Michigan's bad road bills (Toledo Blade, 11/6/2015)

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One Republican On Road Funding And The General Fund (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/5/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For November 9, 2015

News

Michigan road-fix plan becomes 2016 campaign issue (Associated Press, 11/9/2015)

State rolls dice on sports betting (Crain's Detroit Business, 11/9/2015)

House wants tougher penalties for abuse of elderly (Detroit Free Press, 11/9/2015)

Metro Detroit itching to get new aid for roads (Detroit Free Press, 11/9/2015)

Michigan ranks last in laws on ethics, transparency (Detroit Free Press, 11/9/2015)

New program gives expanded care for low-income people (Detroit Free Press, 11/9/2015)

Bill would give some state workers police powers (Lansing State Journal, 11/9/2015)

More than scales: A day with a motor carrier officer (Lansing State Journal, 11/9/2015)

Gov. Rick Snyder backs committee-approved House energy plan for Michigan (MLive, 11/9/2015)

How to thank this veteran (and others): Support prevailing wage (MLive, 11/9/2015)

Michigan AG Bill Schuette targeted by national PAC for Clean Power Plan lawsuit (MLive, 11/9/2015)

Michigan Political Points: Tough-vote fatigue, buyers remorse in wake of road funding deal (MLive, 11/9/2015)

Michigan lawmaker calls for swift action against Asian carp threat (Petoskey News-Review, 11/9/2015)

Experts: Water health dangers don't subside in Flint (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

Lawmakers, Snyder pivot to energy, Detroit schools (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

PAC ad knocks Schuette for opposing clean energy plan (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

Prison call rate cuts help inmates, hurts jail budgets (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

Senate leader opposes bonds to accelerate road fixes (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

Editorials

Robert Erwin: Republican roads fix unfair, unrealistic (Battle Creek Enquirer, 11/9/2015)

Is Michigan on the road to ruin? (Detroit Free Press, 11/9/2015)

Year before water change, state knew of risks in Flint (Detroit Free Press, 11/9/2015)

Full investigation needed at every level in Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 11/9/2015)

Rick Haglund: Will new UAW contracts help restore Michigan's middle class? (MLive, 11/9/2015)

Bill restores fairness to tax assessing (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/9/2015)

Arellano: Strong evaluations can boost teaching (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

Finley: Politics of road deal are baffling (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

Our Editorial: Blight program needs diligent watchdogs (The Detroit News, 11/9/2015)

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About That Poll On Central Registration For Schools In Detroit… (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/6/2015)

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Michigan Report for Monday, November 9, 2015

Senate Panel To Vote On Eliminating Straight-Ticket Voting

Casperson Announces For Congress

State Report: Gas Tax Revenue Down More Than $100M Since Peak

Schuette: Ads Lie About Environmental Record

House, Senate Dems Seek To Change Campaign Finance Law

DEQ Launches Video To Update Flint Water Testing Results

MIChild Becomes Medicaid Expansion Program

Virtual Tour Of Capitol Debuts

Capital Notebook: Poll Shows Opposition To Guns In Schools

Campaign Notes

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Supplemental Event Planner

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

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Volume #54, Report #222 -- Monday, November 9, 2015

Senate Panel To Vote On Eliminating Straight-Ticket Voting

A bill that would eliminate straight-ticket voting is set for a committee hearing on Tuesday in the Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee, and the chair of the committee expects the bill will head to the full Senate floor.

Michigan general election ballots allow voters, if they wish, to vote for a party's entire slate of candidates with a single mark instead of having to individually select each candidate for partisan office.

"I think there is merit to having individuals observe the choice on the ballot between one party and another. The overwhelming majority of states in nation have eliminated straight ticket," Sen. Dave Robertson (R-Grand Blanc), chair of the committee, said Monday. "Michigan is one of only a small handful (of states) that has straight-ticket voting."

The last attempt to end straight-ticket voting came in 2001, but voters repealed the law in the 2002 election after Democrats gathered enough signatures to put the legislation up for referendum. There has been no serious attempt to eliminate straight-ticket voting in Michigan since, but the straight-ticket option has long been seen as helping Democrats more because more of their voters vote a straight ballot.

Sen. Marty Knollenberg (R-Troy) is the lead sponsor on the bill, SB 13, among the first 20 bills introduced when the Senate re-convened for its new session in January (See Gongwer Michigan Report, January 20, 2015). Mr. Knollenberg did not return a request for comment on the legislation.

"He feels very strongly about the issue and I find it has merit as well," Mr. Robertson said of Mr. Knollenberg. "I think certainly it's something that has been discussed for some time. It's been attempted on some other occasions, (and) I'm happy to support it."

The committee is set to meet at 9 a.m. in room 110 of the Farnum Building.

OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE: SB 110, a bill by Mr. Robertson to change the election of county executive in a county government to gubernatorial election years, is also slated for final passage in the Senate, a tentative session agenda released Monday indicated. The bill was reported from committee in early June and has Democrats on watch (See Gongwer Michigan Report, June 5, 2015).

UNION LEAVE TIME: Also expected to see final passage is a pair of bills, SB 279 and SB 280, to disallow paid leave time for union officials of state and local government unions as they

conduct contract negotiations. The bills were reported from committee in mid-June (See Gongwer Michigan Report, June 16, 2015).

Casperson Announces For Congress

Sen. Tom Casperson confirmed Monday what has been expected: he is running for the 1st U.S. House District.

Mr. Casperson (R-Escanaba) is the first Republican officially announced to succeed retiring U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek (R-Crystal Falls). And this would be his second attempt at the seat, having lost to then-U.S. Rep. Bart Stupak in 2008.

He said he would bring Upper Peninsula sensibilities to Washington.

"Way too often it seems that Washington, D.C., is where common sense goes to die," Mr. Casperson said in the statement announcing his candidacy. "Unaccountable bureaucrats, unresponsive government agencies, regulations, restrictions and taxes. Here in the 1st District, we've seen all that and more, and more often than most other places.

"I'm running for Congress because it's time we make Washington listen to us. I'm running to bring our values, our common sense and our voice to our nation's Capital," he said.

He said he also has the elective office experience needed for the post. Mr. Casperson would be forgoing his final two years in the Senate if he wins the seat. He moved to the Senate after serving six years in the House.

Rep. Peter Pettalia (R-Presque Isle), who has been considering a run for the seat, said Mr. Casperson's announcement was not a surprise and would not affect his own decision or timeline.

"We are still evaluating the challenges of running for Congress," he said.

Mr. Pettalia said he has been traversing the district seeking support and would announce "shortly" whether he has enough. As to how long shortly is, he said, "I don't want to box myself into that."

Military and Veterans Affairs Deputy Director Jason Allen, a former senator from the region and another potential Republican candidate, did not return calls Monday.

Mr. Casperson, one of the Legislature's best retail campaigners whom many Republican consultants see as the party's best choice to win what will be a competitive race against the Democratic nominee, immediately faced fire from the right and the left.

Democrats were quick to strike out at Mr. Casperson's campaign, dubbing him "Tom Taxperson".

"This morning, Tom Casperson, who just voted to punish seniors and working families with higher prices at the pump and a new 'birthday tax' on the vehicles they drive, announced he's running for Congress," Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon said in a statement. "Time and again, Casperson has put corporate special interests and the wealthy above families that struggle to make ends meet. With his latest vote to hurt and tax seniors and working families, voters in the 1st Congressional District will no doubt reject Tom 'the Taxperson' Casperson."

But Republicans with a more conservative bent than Mr. Casperson - who besides supporting the road funding package also backed Medicaid expansion - hope to deny him the GOP nomination. Scott Hagerstrom, head of a new group, Tax-Hiking Republicans, slammed Mr. Casperson for his voting record in the Legislature.

"Tom Casperson supported Medicaid expansion, the largest tax hike in the last 50 years with Proposal 1, and raising the gas tax 15 cents," Mr. Hagerstrom said. "We don't need tax-hiking Republicans in Congress like Tom Casperson. We need true conservatives to represent us."

State Report: Gas Tax Revenue Down More Than $100M Since Peak

Michigan's gas tax revenues totaled $820.6 million in fiscal year 2013-14, down more than $120 million since their peak more than a decade before, a report by the Department of Treasury shows.

During the same time frame, total gasoline usage is down more than 600,000 gallons annually.

And what is now the state's largest transportation-based revenue source, the registration tax, collected $940.6 million. While that figure is $120 million more than the fuel tax raised, it is also just slightly more than the amount the tax raised approximately a decade ago.

The report was issued before the Legislature last week approved a package that will ultimately increase both the fuel and registration taxes to add $600 million in revenues to road and transportation funding. The package also calls for some $600 million to come from the General Fund for transportation funding. The tax and spending changes in the package would not start until at least 2017.

The report did not have figures for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

But the report did point out that at the current 19 cents a gallon, Michigan's gasoline tax puts the state at 37th compared to all states for their gasoline taxes. Connecticut has the highest gasoline tax at 46.8 cents. Alaska has the lowest gasoline tax at eight cents a gallon.

Michigan is also one of a number of states that charges a sales tax on gasoline sales. Combined with the gasoline tax, the report said the state would average 37 cents a gallon on gasoline, ranking it as the 10th highest state for total gasoline taxes.

The report also shows that Michigan is the largest state by population to not have any toll roads. In all, 29 states have toll roads.

And of the $3.5 billion in transportation funds raised in the 2013-14 fiscal year (which included bond sales), more than $1.3 billion came from federal funds.

Local governments received $1.4 billion, or 42 percent of the funds raised, in transfers.

In terms of the gas tax, the peak for funds raised came in the 2001-02 fiscal year, when the tax raised $938.9 million. In fact, since the gas tax was last increased in 1997, the report said gas tax revenues have declined by 0.6 percent a year on average.

Sharp increases in the cost of gasoline and oil, brought on by more expensive production and particularly economic competition from other nations - the biggest competitor being China - has helped drive down total fuel consumption.

Gas consumption hit its peak in 2003, with more than 5.049 billion gallons used in Michigan. At the time, the average price per gallon was $1.55, the report said. By 2014, total consumption was 4.43 billion, with an average price of $3.53 a gallon.

In late 2014, oil prices began to slide and for more than a year gasoline has sold for close to an average of $2.50 a gallon. The report had no data, however, on how that may have affected consumption in Michigan.

Reduced fuel consumption is also a product of improved fuel efficiency in cars and light trucks. In 2014, both domestic and imported models of cars averaged more than 36 miles a gallon. A decade ago, both domestic and imported models averaged less than 30 miles a gallon.

In terms of the registration tax, a major shift the state made in 1983 - to base vehicle registration fees on a vehicle's value instead its weight - played a major role in how the state's tax has grown in collections. That is particularly true given how vehicles have become lighter to improve mileage.

The report showed that the current registration tax for a Ford Focus SE is $106 and for a Cadillac CTS it is $211. If both vehicles were taxed on their weight, they would be charged $29 and $37 respectively.

Schuette: Ads Lie About Environmental Record

Attorney General Bill Schuette said television advertisements that began running over the weekend are designed to cow him and other attorneys general into dropping a challenge to new federal power plant emissions standards, but he said the plan won't work.

Mr. Schuette said he had no plan to drop the challenge to the Clean Energy Plan developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon emissions from power plants.

"This is an effort to intimidate attorneys general not to enforce the law, not to push back," he said.

He said attorneys general had already succeeded against EPA overreach and he expected they would again.

"It's a question are you following the provisions of the Clean Air Act, and they're not being followed," he said.

He said he was one of four attorneys general targeted in ads by Independence USA PAC because of his leadership on efforts to rein in government.

"Big government is on the march ... and I've been leading the fight against the Obama administration," he said.

He noted he would begin November 16 as chair of the Republican Attorneys General Association, where he would be involved both with development of policy and with trying to get more Republicans elected as their state's top attorney.

"We've grown our ranks across the country," he said. "The majority of the attorneys general across the country are Republican."

But he said his media event to counter the ads was not driven by politics (as he is widely believed to be running for governor in 2018 when Governor Rick Snyder cannot seek re-election due to term limits).

"If someone makes a false, nonsensical accusation, I respond," he said, adding, "These ads are just nonsense. I have a very strong record on the environment."

He noted his efforts on Asian carp, the settlement against Enbridge for the Kalamazoo River oil spill and the agreement to prevent tar sands oil from flowing through a pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac.

He said there was no conflict in his efforts to fight the rule and the Department of Environmental Quality's rules that would impose similar emissions standards on power plants.

"You can do more than two things at once in America today," he said.

House, Senate Dems Seek To Change Campaign Finance Law

Two House Democrats announced Monday they would be joining forces with colleagues in the Senate to try to pass a series of bills they say would increase transparency in state government.

The same day, the Center for Public Integrity announced Michigan had placed dead last among all 50 states for its State Integrity Investigation ranking of state transparency and accountability.

"Our lobby law is so weak that it is nearly impossible to determine which companies are spending millions of dollars to influence our elections," Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) said at a news conference Monday with Rep. Vanessa Guerra (D-Saginaw).

He pointed to the report released Monday, as well as a recent one that found the Michigan Supreme Court election campaign in 2014 was "the most expensive and least transparent in the nation" in terms of judicial elections, Mr. Hoadley said.

Overall, the legislation seeks to require super political action committees to disclose information of donors and for the state to lower its contribution limits back to pre-2013 levels.

The legislation would also require all late filing fees to be paid by the candidate, not through committee funds, as well as require monthly campaign finance reports and doubling all penalties for late filing by elected officials. It would also establish uniform campaign finance reporting dates for all committees.

"In changing the nature of reporting, we'll make it so people can see real-time the effect that last-minute money can make," Ms. Guerra said.

Mr. Hoadley admits there is "no one solution that's going to solve all the money in politics," which is why Democrats are attempting a more comprehensive approach, he said.

CPI REPORT: And the report released Monday by the Center for Public Integrity underscores the need for such legislation, Mr. Hoadley noted.

The report places Michigan at the bottom of all states in terms of government transparency and accountability laws and practices. It received an F in 10 of the 13 categories of government operations that were examined: political financing, executive accountability, legislative accountability, judicial accountability, state civil service management, procurement, lobbying disclosure, ethics enforcement agencies and state pension fund management.

What appeared to hurt Michigan most severely are its comparatively weak Freedom of Information Act, which does not apply to the governor's office, Legislature or judiciary; lack of any personal financial disclosure for elected officials and candidates for office; relatively toothless campaign finance act; and a weak law on lobbying expense disclosure.

Michigan received a similar overall score and letter grade of an F with the first State Integrity report was released in 2012, but it ranked 44th at that time. But the CPI notes the two scores are not directly comparable due to changes made to improve and update the project and its methodology.

However, Michigan received a B- and 5th place ranking for its electoral oversight, though, and B+ (8th place) for state budget processes. It also received a C+ (ranked 32nd) for internal auditing.

The best grade in the nation went to Alaska, who had earned a C, the CPI noted. Only two others earned better than a D+ -- California and Connecticut - and 11 states total receiving failing grades.

The State Integrity Investigation also found that in two-thirds of all states, ethics agencies or committees routinely fail to initiate investigations or impose sanctions when necessary, often because they're unable to do so without first receiving a complaint. Michigan received a score of 25, because based on the cases it has handled, the ethics commission responds to complaints and does not initiate investigations either.

And Michigan is not among the nine states that have adopted open data measures, according to the Sunlight Foundation. Some of those open data measures, though, do little more than create an advisory panel to study the issue.

DEQ Launches Video To Update Flint Water Testing Results

Freeman Elementary School in Flint has some fixtures where lead levels were high, but most of the building had safe water, Department of Environmental Quality officials said in a video released Monday by the department.

State officials tested 31 faucets and drinking fountains in the school and found nine with lead levels above the 15 parts per billion that requires remediation, George Krisztian, Flint Action Plan coordinator, said in the video.

"What our testing showed was that it was clearly fixture-specific," Mr. Krisztian said.

The state is recommending that the school turn off water to those nine faucets, flush the faucets every morning before students arrive, or replace them.

The video said the state has also tested more than 300 water samples from residences and businesses since the beginning of October, with less than 10 percent of those showing lead levels exceeding safe drinking standards.

"The homeowner data that we've looked at so far closely parallels the data that we've been finding in the schools in that we've been able to determine that this is very much a site-specific issue," Mr. Krisztian said.

He urged residents to test their water to determine whether they have lead concerns.

MIChild Becomes Medicaid Expansion Program

Officially on January 1, Michigan's MIChild program to provide health insurance through Medicaid to the children of lower income households will be considered a Medicaid expansion program, the Department of Health and Human Services said on Monday.

The change should mean no practical change in children's coverage, the department said in its notice, although all children getting dental services would now get them through Delta Dental Plans (some children were receiving the benefits through Golden Dental).

The state did not say whether as an expansion plan MIChild would be considered in the same class as the Healthy Michigan plan. MIChild would not be subjected to the same federal waiver requirement as Healthy Michigan (although DHHS officials have requested a waiver from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reflect that, beginning in the 2015-016 fiscal year, children in all 83 counties are eligible for dental coverage).

The program will continue to be called MIChild, the state said.

And recipients should be able to get access to even more benefits, the state said.

Some recipients will have to switch their current plans, which could also mean a change in providers. Recipients will need to choose a plan certified by the state and located in their geographic region.

The state is changing some plans that will be eligible to provide coverage to regular Medicaid recipients as part of its new contract that takes effect in January. A number of the plans left out of the decision by the state are challenging those actions before the Administrative Board.

Letters to all recipients explaining the changes will be issued, the department said in its announcement.

Virtual Tour Of Capitol Debuts

A virtual tour of the Capitol is now available.

A project of the Michigan State Capitol Commission, the tour enables users to traverse the halls of the Capitol, get a peek inside the House and Senate chambers and even learn about the many portraits and other artwork adorning the Capitol walls.

Part of the idea behind the virtual tour is to give student groups a chance to prepare in advance for their trips to the Capitol.

Capital Notebook: Poll Shows Opposition To Guns In Schools

A poll commissioned by the Michigan Coalition to End Gun Violence shows overwhelming opposition to letting those with concealed pistol licenses carry a firearm onto an educational campus, whether the person is carrying concealed or openly.

Now pending before the Senate is SB 442, which would end the ability for those with concealed pistol licenses to openly carry a firearm into an area now designated otherwise off-limits to firearms and instead allow those license-holders to carry a concealed firearm. Besides

schools, gun-free zones include hospitals, houses of religious worship, entertainment and sports venues and child day care centers.

According to the survey conducted by EPIC/MRA, 69 percent of those polled said they oppose allowing license-holders to open carry on school property with just 27 percent in support. Fifty-seven percent oppose allowing CPL-holders to carry concealed onto school property with 39 percent in support.

And 53 percent said they agreed with the view that schools should have the right to prohibit firearms on their property and is not a diminishment of the right bear arms while 40 percent said the U.S. Constitution ensures the right to carry a firearm onto school property.

The survey was conducted October 25-31 among 600 active and likely general election voters. The error margin was plus or minus four percentage points.

TARVER TO HEAD REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S FEDERATION OF MICHIGAN: Republican activist Linda Lee Tarver has been elected president of the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan.

BEAR REGULATIONS: The Department of Natural Resources announced Monday that it was beginning the process to develop bear hunting regulations expected to be in place for the 2017 hunting season.

The department's Bear Forum, a 17-member group made up of bear hunters, agricultural interests and the U.S. Forest Service, has scheduled a public meeting at 10 a.m. December 9 at Little Bear East Arena, 275 Marquette Street, St. Ignace.

The group will use the public comment collected at the meeting to draft recommendations to the Natural Resources Commission, which has the ultimate authority over hunting regulations.

EPA AWARDS NEARLY $20M TO CLINTON RIVER PROJECTS IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded new funding for major Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Projects in the Clinton River Area of Concern totaling nearly $20 million, the agency announced Monday.

Once completed, the projects announced Monday will move the Clinton River Area of Concern toward a more vibrant environment and local economy, Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator Cameron Davis said in a statement.

"Our lakes and rivers are part of who we are and our way of life," U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, said in a statement. "Investing in the Clinton River watershed is critical to the health and conservation of our waterways and wildlife habitats. This support for our counties, townships and cities will help keep our waters clean and healthy for generations to come."

Campaign Notes

COLLEEN CARL FORMALLY ANNOUNCES IN 33RD HOUSE: Republican Colleen Carl has officially declared she is running for the 33rd House District in Macomb County. Ms. Carl, who runs a private children's music education business and is a Republican activist, is the daughter of former Sen. Doug Carl. The current seat-holder, Rep. Ken Goike (R-Ray Township), cannot seek re-election to the seat because of term limits.

@PAYTAXESMELISSA: Republicans over the weekend launched a Twitter account to call out Melissa Gilbert, Democratic candidate for the 8th U.S. House District and actress, for unpaid taxes.

Ms. Gilbert has said she has an installment plan to repay the $360,551 in federal income taxes owed for 2011 through 2013.

As of Monday, "Melissa Gilbert should pay her taxes @gilberformi" was the sole post to the new account.

CLEMENTS ENDORSEMENTS: The Sierra Club has announced its endorsement of Democrat Paul Clements in his second attempt to unseat U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph).

Mr. Clements announced the endorsement in a brief fundraising email over the weekend.

SCHUETTE BULLISH ON BUSH: Despite flagging polls and little love from the pundits for his debate performances, Attorney General Bill Schuette said Monday he still expects Jeb Bush to be the Republican Party nominee for president.

Mr. Schuette said Mr. Bush is in about the same place for the 2016 election as Mitt Romney was for the 2012 election.

"This is all about stamina," Mr. Schuette said. "Jeb is the marathon man."

The key, he said, will be for Mr. Bush to ease away from some of his handlers' advice. "Just be yourself," he said has been his advice. "You have to just be direct."

He also said Mr. Bush's coming campaign stop in the state shows the importance of winning Michigan. "You don't come to the state just for a picnic," he said.

Of the current 16 Republican presidential candidates, Mr. Schuette said about 10 are viable, but he expected there would be about five left by the time Michigan's primary comes in March.

TAX-HIKING REPUBLICANS: Scott Hagerstrom, former head of Americans for Prosperity Michigan, announced a new effort Monday to call out Republicans who have voted for tax increases.

The new federal campaign committee, Tax-Hiking Republicans, will be based in Michigan and its first effort will be to prevent Sen. Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) from being nominated in the 1st U.S. House District.

"We're holding the fire to the feet of Republicans," Mr. Hagerstrom told Gongwer News Service of the purpose of the new fund.

Mr. Hagerstrom said Mr. Casperson was a logical first target because he had supported the Medicaid expansion and several efforts to increase fuel taxes. "He was a perfect person to be first to attack," Mr. Hagerstrom said. "We'll see how this goes and we'll look at others down the road."

He declined to indicate, prior to filing campaign finance reports, who was financing the new committee.

Presented To The Governor

By The House

November 9, 2015

HB 4039 PROPERTY TAX (Bumstead) Revises delinquent tax notice by publication.
HB 4134 OCCUPATIONS (Barrett) Authorizes certain military experience as the basis for licensure for a boiler installer, boiler repairer and boiler special inspector.
HB 4195 VENTURE FUND (Pscholka) Prohibits Michigan early stage venture corporation entering new investments or creating additional venture funds.
HB 4196 VENTURE FUND (McCready) Modifies sunset for the Venture Capital Authority Fund.
HB 4362 WORKER'S COMPENSATION (Sheppard) Defines ownership of surplus by self-insurers.
HB 4370 INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX (Hughes) Eliminates limitations and restrictions on deduction of certain retirement or pension benefits and restores treatment of senior citizens and the homestead property tax credit.
HB 4390 ECONOMICS CREDIT (Tedder) Allows 1/2 credit of personal economics or financial literacy to satisfy economics credit required for Michigan Merit Curriculum.
HB 4562 HIGHWAY (Bumstead) Designates a portion of M-37 as the "Brian Derks Memorial Highway."
HB 4614 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING (LaFontaine) Includes tax on motor fuel and alternative fuel in streamlined sales and use tax revenue equalization act.
HB 4616 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING (McCready) Eliminates flat tax rate and establishes an 18-month limitation period for filing refund claims.
HB 4736 VEHICLE REGISTRATION (McCready) Increases passenger vehicle and motorcycle registration fees.
HB 4737 TRANSPORTATION DEBT SERVICE (McCready) Earmarks revenue from increased vehicle registration fees to debt service under 1951 PA 51.
HB 4738 MOTOR FUEL (McCready) Modifies wholesale rate for motor fuel.

By The Senate

November 9, 2015

SB 244 ILLEGAL HUNTING (Pavlov) Increases restitution for the illegal killing or possessing of certain game.
SB 245 ILLEGAL HUNTING (Zorn) Increases penalties for illegally taking or possessing certain game.
SB 246 SENTENCING GUIDELINES (Zorn) Updates references to sentencing guidelines.
SB 414 INCOME TAX (Schmidt) Reduces income tax rates.
Supplemental Event Planner

Thursday, December 3

Rep. Mike Callton **(R) PAC fundraiser, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 8 a.m., (Guests: Rep. Tom Barrett, Rep. John Bizon, Rep. Martin Howrylak, Rep. Holly Hughes, Rep. Brandt Iden and Rep. Jason Sheppard. Special Guest: Ron Weiser)**

Wednesday, December 9

Sen. Marty Knollenberg **(R) fundraiser, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.**

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, November 10

House Financial Services (Committee Record)**, (Chr. Forlini, 373-5176), Room 307, House Office Building, 8:15 a.m.**

HB 5017 **CREDIT UNIONS** (Forlini) Makes general amendments to the Credit Union Act.
HB 5018 **CREDIT UNIONS** (Pettalia) Makes certain revisions regarding administration and operations of credit unions.
HB 5019 **CREDIT UNIONS** (Clemente) Revises authority to organize or invest in credit union service organizations that provide trust services and other services.
HB 5020 **CREDIT UNIONS** (Theis) Revises requirements regarding examinations by the Department of Insurance and Financial Services and provides for confidentiality of certain documents.
HB 5021 **CREDIT UNIONS** (Barrett) Revises provisions relating to mergers.
HB 5022 **CREDIT UNIONS** (Love) Authorizes loan promotion raffles.

Senate Elections and Government Reform (Committee Record)**, (Chr. Robertson, 373-1721), Room 110, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.**

SB 13 **STRAIGHT-TICKET VOTING** (Knollenberg) Eliminate straight-ticket voting procedures.

House Transportation and Infrastructure (Committee Record)**, (Chr. Pettalia, 373-1260), Room 521, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.**

HB 4567 **EDUCATION FACILITIES** (Jacobsen) Clarifies jurisdiction of superintendent of public institution over approval of public school buildings and sites. (Testimony only)

HB 5006 **HIGHWAYS** (Cochran) Names certain portion of I-496 the "Lansing Firefighter Dennis E. Rodeman Memorial Freeway."

House Communications and Technology (Committee Record), **(Chr. Jacobsen, 373-2002), Room 519, House Office Building, 12 p.m.**

HB 5034 **DIGITAL ASSETS** (Forlini) Enacts fiduciary access to digital assets act.

Thursday, November 12

~~**Canceled: House Financial Services** (Committee Record), **(Chr. Forlini, 373-5176), Room 307, House Office Building, 8:15 a.m.**~~

HB 5017 CREDIT UNIONS (Forlini) Makes general amendments to the Credit Union Act.

HB 5018 CREDIT UNIONS (Pettalia) Makes certain revisions regarding administration and operations of credit unions.

HB 5019 CREDIT UNIONS (Clemente) Revises authority to organize or invest in credit union service organizations that provide trust services and other services.

HB 5020 CREDIT UNIONS (Theis) Revises requirements regarding examinations by the Department of Insurance and Financial Services and provides for confidentiality of certain documents.

HB 5021 CREDIT UNIONS (Barrett) Revises provisions relating to mergers.

HB 5022 CREDIT UNIONS (Love) Authorizes loan promotion raffles.

~~**Canceled: House Insurance** (Committee Record), **(Chr. Leonard, 373-8538), Room 521, House Office Building, 9 a.m.**~~

SB 177 **CONTROLLING INTEREST** (Hune) Requires notice of divesting or acquiring controlling interest in an insurer.

SB 178 **RISK AND SOLVENCY ASSESSMENT** (Hune) Provides for procedures for own risk and solvency assessment.

House Workforce and Talent Development (Committee Record), **(Chr. Johnson, J., 373-5176), Room 519, House Office Building, 10:30 a.m.**

SB 500 **TAXABLE WAGES** (Horn) Modifies benefits provision related to taxable wage base reduction.

HB **SCHOOL COUNSELORS** (Roberts, B.) Revises requirements for employment as a

4552 middle school and high school counselor.
HB 4813 **ELECTRICIANS** (Price) Revises number of apprentice electricians allowed for each journeyman or master electrician on a jobsite.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, November 10

Canceled: ~~Indiana-Michigan Boundary Line Commission, County Commissioners Meeting Room, Seventh Floor, 227 West Jefferson Boulevard, South Bend, IN, 11 a.m.~~

Tuesday, January 12

Indiana-Michigan Boundary Line Commission, County Commissioners Meeting Room, Seventh Floor, 227 West Jefferson Boulevard, South Bend, Indiana, 11 a.m.

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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 8:49 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 12, 2015

News

Michigan touts net reduction of 2,100 rules since 2011 (Associated Press, 11/12/2015)

'88 Free Press article helps clarify Ben Carson claims (Detroit Free Press, 11/12/2015)

Gloves off as Senate OKs ban on straight-ticket voting (Detroit Free Press, 11/12/2015)

Gov. Rick Snyder signs $1.2B road funding package (Detroit Free Press, 11/12/2015)

Lawmaker arrested for drunk driving near Lansing (Detroit Free Press, 11/12/2015)

Lawmaker: Give Flint $50M to replace lead water pipes (Detroit Free Press, 11/12/2015)

Appeals court: State worker not disabled (Lansing State Journal, 11/12/2015)

DHHS to lawmakers: We're not 'playing police' (Lansing State Journal, 11/12/2015)

Senate nixes paid union release time for public workers (Lansing State Journal, 11/12/2015)

Democrat to seek Speaker Cotter's seat representing 99th District (MLive, 11/12/2015)

Michigan Democrats run 'birthday tax' ads blasting Republican road funding plan (MLive, 11/12/2015)

Michigan police propose changes to medical pot dispensary bill, end of caregiver model (MLive, 11/12/2015)

Pay to play: How Michigan makes it hard to fight for property seized by police (MLive, 11/12/2015)

What Michigan's new road funding rules mean for you, your taxes and your roads (MLive, 11/12/2015)

Why Michigan's proposed 30 percent clean energy goal may not be as impressive as it sounds (MLive, 11/12/2015)

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver talks water (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

GOP rivals Bush, Rubio differ in tactics in Michigan (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

Michigan's public disclosure laws slammed (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

Snyder signs road-spending bills with tax hikes (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

Editorials

Road deal made by politicians who won't face the consequences (Bridge Magazine, 11/12/2015)

Legislators play kick the can (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 11/12/2015)

Moolenaar: Medals for our heroes (Midland Daily News, 11/12/2015)

On parole reform, evidence says the sky won't fall (MLive, 11/12/2015)

Lansing set to ignore '02 voting referendum (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/12/2015)

Jacques: Lawmakers reluctant on fixing Detroit schools (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

Pavlov: Michigan needs more jobs, not handouts (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

Thompson: Flint mayor sees hope, challenges ahead (The Detroit News, 11/12/2015)

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To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 16, 2015

News

Michigan moves toward renewable power goal (Associated Press, 11/16/2015)

Nearly 100 apply but no pardons yet in 2015 from Snyder (Associated Press, 11/16/2015)

Pure Michigan sells its return on investment in new campaign (Bridge Magazine, 11/16/2015)

FAQ: Michigan moves toward renewable power goal, not mandate (Crain's Detroit Business, 11/16/2015)

Big issues left for Legislature: DPS and energy reform (Detroit Free Press, 11/16/2015)

Study delays difficult decision on Isle Royale wolves (Detroit Free Press, 11/16/2015)

Report: Families file lawsuit in Flint water crisis (Flint Journal, 11/16/2015)

Dogs and booze: 17 laws from Greater Lansing lawmakers (Lansing State Journal, 11/16/2015)

Michigan Political Points: Senate Republicans flex muscle following road funding deal (MLive, 11/16/2015)

Sexual assault 'no big deal' survey response baffles those addressing it on Michigan campuses (MLive, 11/16/2015)

Snyder vows to veto bill allowing concealed guns in Michigan schools: 'It should be a local option' (MLive, 11/16/2015)

Lapeer County prosecutor will not prosecute Joe Gamrat (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Parents flood to Flint pediatricians fearing for kids (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Petition to recall Snyder over Flint's water denied (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Snyder puts Syrian refugee efforts on hold (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Snyder suspends Syrian refugee effort in Michigan (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Editorials

John Bizon: We delivered on roads (Battle Creek Enquirer, 11/16/2015)

More needs to be done for Michigan sex-trafficking victims (Bridge Magazine, 11/16/2015)

Snyder's Detroit schools plan falls short on leadership (Detroit Free Press, 11/16/2015)

Time to finally end mandatory sentencing minimums (Detroit Free Press, 11/16/2015)

Lott: Gun Free Zone puts criminal minds at ease (Lansing State Journal, 11/16/2015)

Opinion: What makes a vibrant community? (Midland Daily News, 11/16/2015)

Export-Import Bank should be revived to aid Michigan industries (MLive, 11/16/2015)

If you want to boost school achievement, tackle the effects of poverty (MLive, 11/16/2015)

Michigan consumers deserve 'patient-centered' care (MLive, 11/16/2015)

Rick Haglund: Education, job skills must keep up with today's Michigan workplace (MLive, 11/16/2015)

Our Editorial: DPS deal needs realistic funding (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Rubin: The Michigan Senate thinks you're an idiot (The Detroit News, 11/16/2015)

Blogs

Michigan Lottery Looks To Cash In On Friday The 13th (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/13/2015)

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Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 25, 2015

News

Michigan to finalize more than 120 adoptions today (Detroit Free Press, 11/25/2015)

Appeals court greenlights hearing on Flint water rate ruling (Flint Journal, 11/25/2015)

Lansing improves chronic absenteeism 3 years running (Lansing State Journal, 11/25/2015)

Arrest report: 'Super drunk' Michigan lawmaker was swerving, speeding, nearly hit another car (MLive, 11/25/2015)

Michigan's presidential primary ballot can include local races, proposals under new law (MLive, 11/25/2015)

State strikes new deal with Fiat Chrysler on MEGA credits (MLive, 11/25/2015)

Ted Cruz supporters plan live Christian nativity scene at Michigan Capitol (MLive, 11/25/2015)

Dingell probes why Ann Arbor VA cancels vets' surgeries (The Detroit News, 11/25/2015)

Public hearing set for Dec. 17 on medical pot centers (The Detroit News, 11/25/2015)

State talks to GM; Fiat Chrysler accepts $1.7B tax cap (The Detroit News, 11/25/2015)

Editorials

'Dark store' tax assessment loophole hurts local governments (MLive, 11/25/2015)

Syrian refugees present a choice: our fears or our ideals of freedom (MLive, 11/25/2015)

Optional kindergarten is a quaint, outdated idea (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/25/2015)

Editorial: Privacy bill could hurt mentally ill (The Detroit News, 11/25/2015)

Labor Voices: Online charter schools pose problems (The Detroit News, 11/25/2015)

Blogs

Booth Newspapers Rises Again In State Government Communications (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/24/2015)

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To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For December 1, 2015

News

Michigan colleges offering best bang for the buck (Bridge Magazine, 12/1/2015)

More Michigan schools may face higher borrowing costs (Detroit Free Press, 12/1/2015)

White House offers governors more info on refugees (Detroit Free Press, 12/1/2015)

KWA picks Sanilac drain commissioner as chief, new Flint mayor tries for the job (Flint Journal, 12/1/2015)

State overpaid disability claim by more than $100K, auditor says (Lansing State Journal, 12/1/2015)

Split government? Open seats in 2016 could give Democrats a chance at state House control (Michigan Radio, 12/1/2015)

3 major issues facing Michigan Legislature with just 3 session weeks left in 2015 (MLive, 12/1/2015)

Officials: Concealed pistol licensees unlikely to notice change in law (Oakland Press, 12/1/2015)

Michigan's straight-ticket voting option may be eliminated (Petoskey News-Review, 12/1/2015)

Rubio gets support of some key Detroit area execs (The Detroit News, 12/1/2015)

Stabenow among 13 female senators who back Clinton (The Detroit News, 12/1/2015)

Editorials

To rebuild Detroit, restore the schools (Bridge Magazine, 12/1/2015)

Drivers who block first responders deserve jail (Port Huron Times Herald, 12/1/2015)

Editor's Note: Unions can't force members to stay (The Detroit News, 12/1/2015)

Michigan should adopt 'criminal intent' rule (The Detroit News, 12/1/2015)

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:14 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI);[redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Jeremy:
Thanks for the update. A few folks have asked me about the filters since my announcement in church on Sunday. Hope that you, [redacted] are well.

-----Original Message-----
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) (CEPI) [redacted]
Sent: Mon, Oct 5, 2015 4:18 pm
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Please distribute broad and wide. See below for details.

God bless!

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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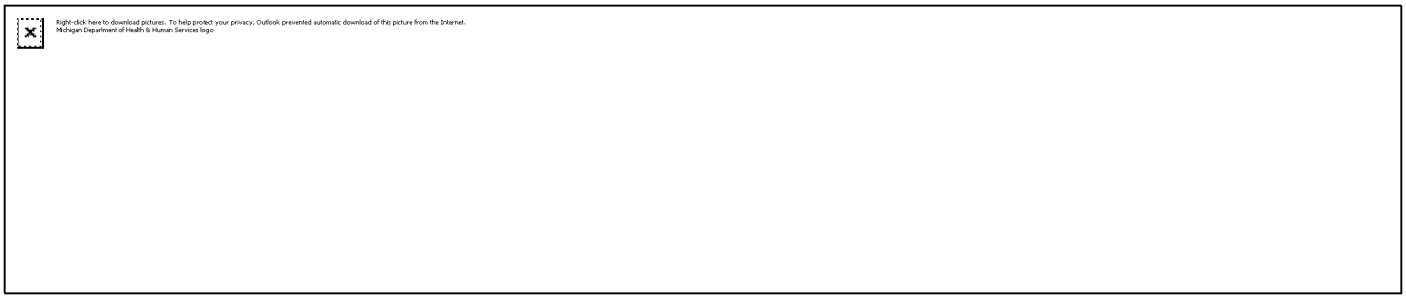
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) [redacted]
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015
CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

LANSING, Mich. – Free water filters will be available to current Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients and Flint residents at four locations beginning Tuesday, October 6, at 9 a.m. through a partnership between the MDHHS and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Free National Sanitation Foundation certified water filters are being provided to Flint residents as part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area.

Current MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location to obtain a free, certified home water filter. Residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices located at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be onsite at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

"Ensuring that families in the Flint area have access to resources that will help reduce the potential for lead exposure is our top priority," said Nick Lyon, director of the MDHHS. "I want to thank our partners who have mobilized to make water filters available – a point that highlights the importance of continued collaboration at the local, state and federal level as we move forward."

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active Family Independence Program (FIP), Food Assistance Program (FAP), Child Development and Care (CDC), State Disability Assistance (SDA), or Social Security Insurance (SSI) recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office to receive their filter free of charge. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their water bill to the GCCARD location.

Although blood lead levels throughout the city of Flint have remained steady, last week, MDHHS data was found to be consistent with a recent Hurley Children's Hospital study indicating increased blood lead levels in children residing in two Flint ZIP codes after a 2014 change in water source. While lead paint remains the number one cause of lead poisoning in Michigan, the recent data prompted MDHHS to take action to reduce potential lead exposures through water sources.

MDHHS is urging parents in Flint and throughout the state to do their part in preventing elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information about steps you can take now, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and available resources, visit www.michigang.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf

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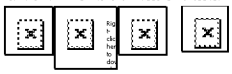

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From: Anna <annadutcher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 11:31 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Received it

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 5, 2015, at 4:17 PM, Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov> wrote:

> Please distribute broad and wide. See below for details.
>
> God bless!
>
> v/r
>
> *Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA*
> Center for Educational Performance and Information
> Department of Technology, Management & Budget
> Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
> 702 W. Kalamazoo Street
> Lansing, MI 48915
>
> CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
> PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION

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[mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
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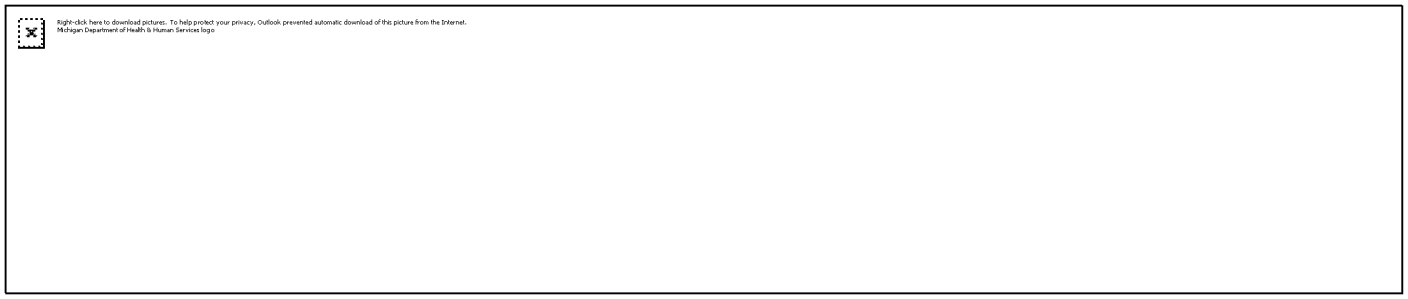

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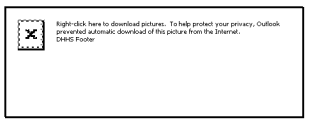
# # #

- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf



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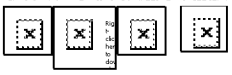

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Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 9:41 AM
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Michigan News & Opinion For October 12, 2015

News

Active shooter training part of security plans at Michigan universities and colleges (Associated Press, 10/12/2015)

Michigan State researchers studying algae on Torch Lake (Associated Press, 10/12/2015)

State under mounting scrutiny for Flint's water crisis (Associated Press, 10/11/2015)

DTE, Consumers Energy want to shut off Michigan's renewable energy mandates (Crain's Detroit Business, 10/12/2015)

Flint doctor makes state tell truth about lead in water (Detroit Free Press, 10/12/2015)

Major reforms afoot for juvenile offenders (Detroit Free Press, 10/12/2015)

Michigan House looks at banning microbeads (Detroit Free Press, 10/12/2015)

Michigan's Energy Evolution: A Special Report (Detroit Free Press, 10/11/2015)

U-M freshman class has more minorities (Detroit Free Press, 10/12/2015)

Who gets money in Vets Day raffle? (Detroit Free Press, 10/12/2015)

First warning of rising lead levels in Flint water came 9 months ago (Flint Journal, 10/10/2015)

Flint water crisis doesn't change KWA pipeline plan to finish in June or July (Flint Journal, 10/11/2015)

Trust needed for Flint to rebound from water crisis, say those who know (Flint Journal, 10/12/2015)

8 facts about property assessments and tax rates in Michigan (Kalamazoo Gazette, 10/12/2015)

Bill would reopen Maxey, restore 65 state jobs (Lansing State Journal, 10/12/2015)

State nurses say they work too much OT (Lansing State Journal, 10/11/2015)

Report: Nearly $24 million in suspected drug assets seized (Macomb Daily, 10/12/2015)

Detroit-area law enforcement join AG Bill Schuette to oppose parole reform (MLive, 10/12/2015)

Michigan AG Bill Schuette alleges anti-police sentiment, elitism in presumptive parole legislation (MLive, 10/12/2015)

Michigan Political Points: Sponsor sees 'green' on medical marijuana dispensary bill (MLive, 10/12/2015)

Lawmakers, parents seek 'Wyatt's Law' to protect kids (The Detroit News, 10/10/2015)

Mich. cops seized $24M in 2014 in drug cases (The Detroit News, 10/11/2015)

Michigan finds electronic thieves at the gas pump (The Detroit News, 10/12/2015)

Schuette calls complaint about campaign ads 'pathetic' (The Detroit News, 10/12/2015)

Snyder officials take on painkiller overdose 'epidemic' (The Detroit News, 10/12/2015)

Editorials

Battle is on for control of Michigan's marijuana market (Detroit Free Press, 10/11/2015)

Brian Dickerson: Was Schuette's $2-million lesson a bargain? (Detroit Free Press, 10/11/2015)

Our view: Time for an independent redistricting commission? (Midland Daily News, 10/11/2015)

Prison time, forfeiture and medical pot: Lansing is on a bipartisan roll (MLive, 10/12/2015)

Proposed legislation addresses Michigan's gap in early literacy: guest column (MLive, 10/12/2015)

Rick Haglund: Finding funds for road repair not an easy fix (MLive, 10/12/2015)

Improvements in college counseling are underway (The Detroit News, 10/12/2015)

Our Editorial: Detroit's blight progress (The Detroit News, 10/12/2015)

Jack Lessenberry: Matty Moroun and the Port Authority (Traverse City Record-Eagle, 10/12/2015)

Blogs

Flint Water Catastrophe Roils Snyder Administration (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 10/9/2015)

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Michigan News & Opinion For November 13, 2015

News

Senate bill would drop protections for gray wolves (Associated Press, 11/13/2015)

What's so good about land banks? A Q and A (Bridge Magazine, 11/13/2015)

Bills seek to assure clean, affordable water for all (Detroit Free Press, 11/13/2015)

Candidates set for 2016 Michigan presidential primary (Detroit Free Press, 11/13/2015)

State board to consider Gov. Snyder recall petition (Detroit Free Press, 11/13/2015)

County Health Department, state partner to educate Flint area on lead (Flint Journal, 11/13/2015)

Four ways Flint failed in its testing for lead in water (Flint Journal, 11/13/2015)

DHHS improving technology for caseworkers (Lansing State Journal, 11/13/2015)

Snyder's plan for Detroit Public Schools faces serious challenges (Michigan Radio, 11/13/2015)

'I know how to do this,' Jeb Bush says in Grand Rapids (MLive, 11/13/2015)

'Water is a human right,' Democrats say with new bills addressing Flint crisis, Detroit shutoffs (MLive, 11/13/2015)

Big new tenant for Steelcase pyramid is 'a done deal,' says State Rep. Ken Yonker (MLive, 11/13/2015)

Detroit school overhaul unlikely by end of year (The Detroit News, 11/13/2015)

Flint may have failed to follow US water testing rules (The Detroit News, 11/13/2015)

Weather costs Jeb Bush campaign time in Grand Rapids (The Detroit News, 11/13/2015)

Editorials

College affordability will shape Michigan's future economy (Bridge Magazine, 11/13/2015)

When the Free Press met Dr. Ben Carson ... in 1988 (Detroit Free Press, 11/13/2015)

Anderson: Road funding "fix" needs to be fixed (Lansing State Journal, 11/13/2015)

Rising resolve is protecting The Great Lakes now and in future (Macomb Daily, 11/13/2015)

Is the state to blame for local financial distress? (Michigan Radio, 11/13/2015)

Susan J. Demas: What Snyder gets wrong about welders and higher education (MLive, 11/13/2015)

Clean up regulations, don't forget obligations (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/13/2015)

Dickens: Enforce Detroit pot laws with care (The Detroit News, 11/13/2015)

Our Editorial: Michigan growing, but not fast enough (The Detroit News, 11/13/2015)

Williamson: Let's transform Detroit schools (The Detroit News, 11/13/2015)

Snyder's OK of road bill has basis (Toledo Blade, 11/13/2015)

Blogs

A Little Analysis On Medicaid Expansion Across The States (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/12/2015)

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From: Rev. Monica Villarreal <salemflintpastor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:29 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

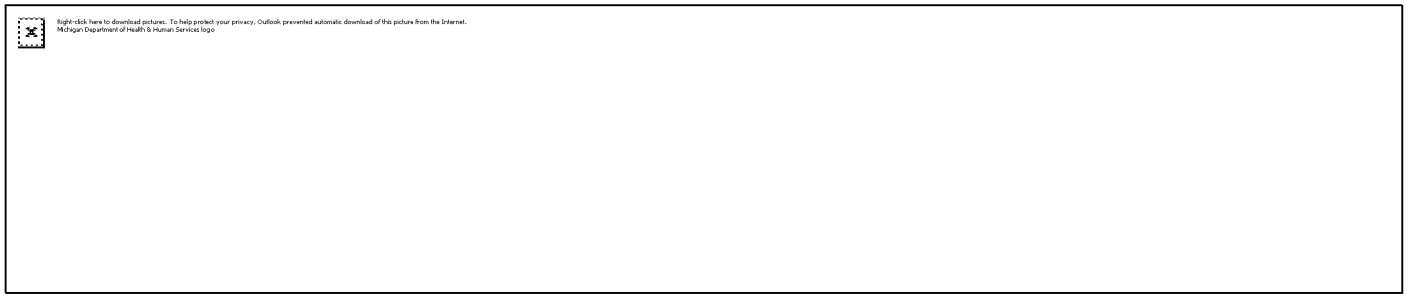
Thanks so much!
-Pastor

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 23, 2015, at 3:04 PM, "Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)" <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov> wrote:

New data available

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
[mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2015

CONTACT: Angela Minicuci, 517-241-2112

Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its bi-weekly summary report on lead testing in Flint. Preliminary data indicate that 43 of 2,182 adults and

children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"In partnership with the Genesee County Health Department, we are working to engage and provide resources to residents to reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Case management and home lead analysis are available for families in which an elevated blood lead level has been detected."

The first MDHHS summary report on blood lead levels in Flint was issued Dec. 3, 2015. Updated reports are posted on a bi-weekly basis on the www.michigan.gov/flintwater website. After refining our methods to identify age, some people are now counted in a different age group than on previous reports. The total counts for each year have not changed.

The report includes both capillary and venous blood tests, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS, together with the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), is working with local partners to distribute educational information around lead testing and prevention. Supplemental state dollars are funding GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected.

Families with an elevated blood lead level can also choose to have a nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to help identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources. Families with questions about their blood lead levels or test results are also encouraged to contact their primary care physician or local health department.

In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities to recommend blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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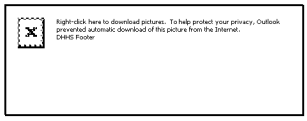
- Flint Blood Testing Report 23Dec15 .pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release 122315.pdf



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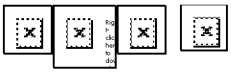

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:12 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Go pick one up for our house, [redacted].

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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services logo

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

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assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

“Ensuring that families in the Flint area have access to resources that will help reduce the potential for lead exposure is our top priority,” said Nick Lyon, director of the MDHHS. “I want to thank our partners who have mobilized to make water filters available – a point that highlights the importance of continued collaboration at the local, state and federal level as we move forward.”

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###

- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:18 PM
To: 'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com'
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com';'wndywendyj@aol.com';'hocketwn09@yahoo.com';'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Please distribute broad and wide. See below for details.

God bless!

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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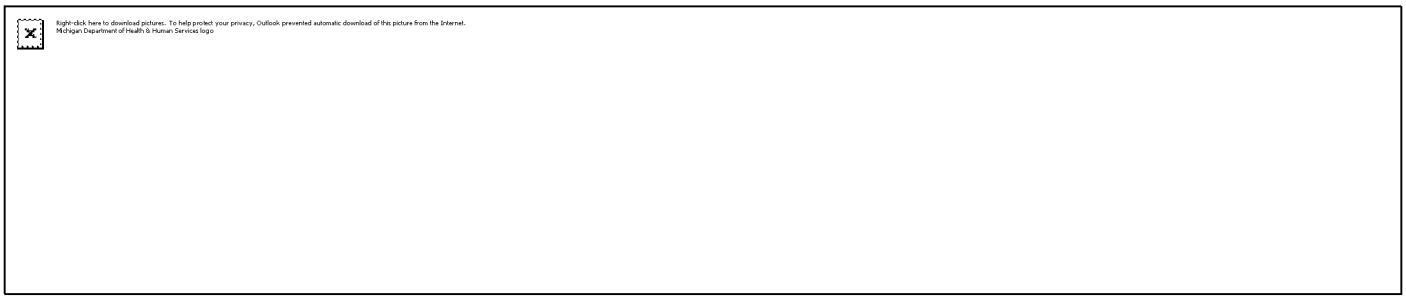
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

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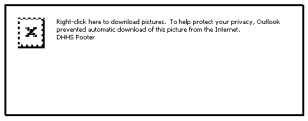

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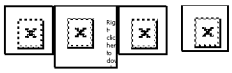

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:21 PM
To: 'salemflintpastor@gmail.com'
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com';'hockeytwn09@yahoo.com';'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

See below, distribute wide (removing my contact information, please).

God bless!

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services logo

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

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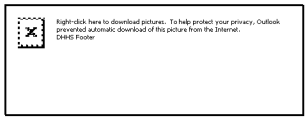

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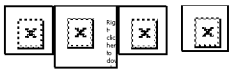

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:47 AM
To: 'wndywendyj@aol.com';'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com'
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com';'hocketwn09@yahoo.com';'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Of course, you are very welcome! Please help, Wendy, pass this along to any family that may be in the infected area, are a Flint resident, and is in dire need of the filter.

JNG

From: wndywendyj@aol.com [mailto:wndywendyj@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:14 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>; Salemflintpaster@gmail.com
Cc: salemlutheranflint@gmail.com; hocketwn09@yahoo.com; annadutcher@gmail.com
Subject: Re: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Jeremy:
Thanks for the update. A few folks have asked me about the filters since my announcement in church on Sunday. Hope that you, Anna and Bobby are well.

-----Original Message-----
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
To: 'Salemflintpaster@gmail.com' <Salemflintpaster@gmail.com>
Cc: 'salemlutheranflint@gmail.com' <salemlutheranflint@gmail.com>; 'wndywendyj@aol.com' <wndywendyj@aol.com>; 'hocketwn09@yahoo.com' <hocketwn09@yahoo.com>; 'annadutcher@gmail.com' <annadutcher@gmail.com>
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Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

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v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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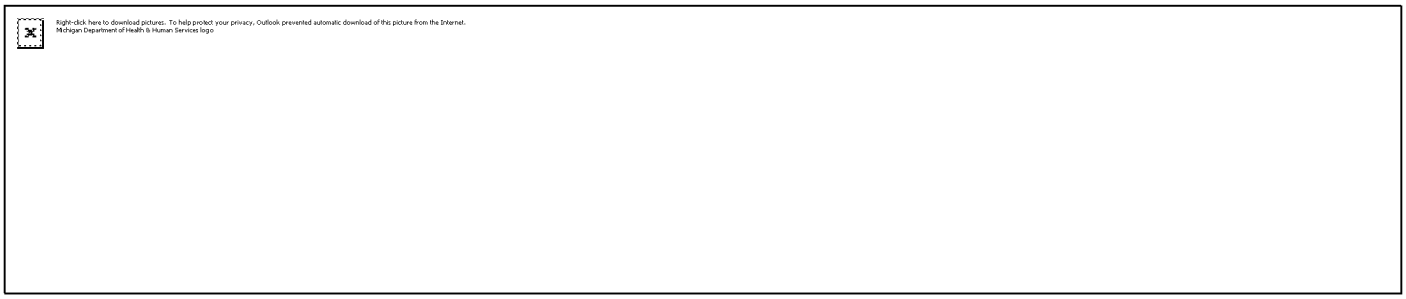
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday



Press Release

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CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

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- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf

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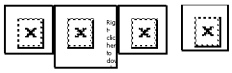

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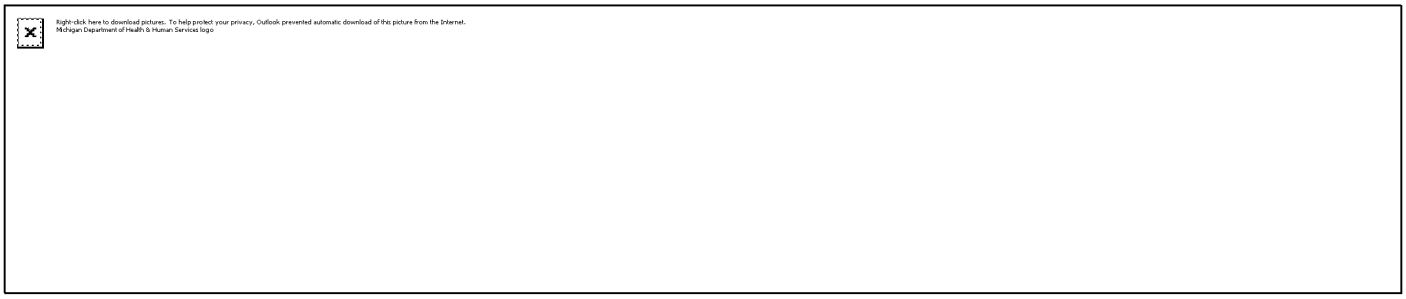
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:34 PM
To: hockeytwn09@yahoo.com;annadutcher@gmail.com
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint

Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

LANSING, Mich. – Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the state's action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

"Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education

efforts."

Information comes from tests administered citywide to 1,361 children and adults since October 1. Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and 9 of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report covers test results reported to MDHHS since the state action plan was put in place Oct. 2. It includes the number of tests and number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests that have been reported to MDHHS since the beginning of October. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Five micrograms per deciliter is the level that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers elevated and triggers health care professional follow up with families.

The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available.

When reviewing historical trend data, the risk of lead exposure is highest during the third quarter of each year – July through September. Seasonal variation is the result of a number of factors including increased exposure to lead in dust and soil in the summer months.

In the third quarter of 2010, 8.3 percent of Flint children 6 and under showed elevated blood lead levels. The figure gradually decreased to 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013. During the same months in 2014, the figure increased to 7.5 percent and decreased to 6.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letters to Flint parents regarding lead testing. The state is providing funding for GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected. During these follow-up visits, nurses coordinate with environmental health investigators to meet with families in their homes to identify lead exposures, address questions and provide water filters. People can be exposed to lead from paint, soil, plumbing and other sources.

MDHHS continues to provide free water filters and replacement cartridges to Flint residents at four locations, including the MDHHS Flint offices and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Blood Lead Level Summary Report December.pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release.pdf

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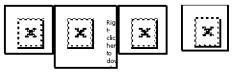

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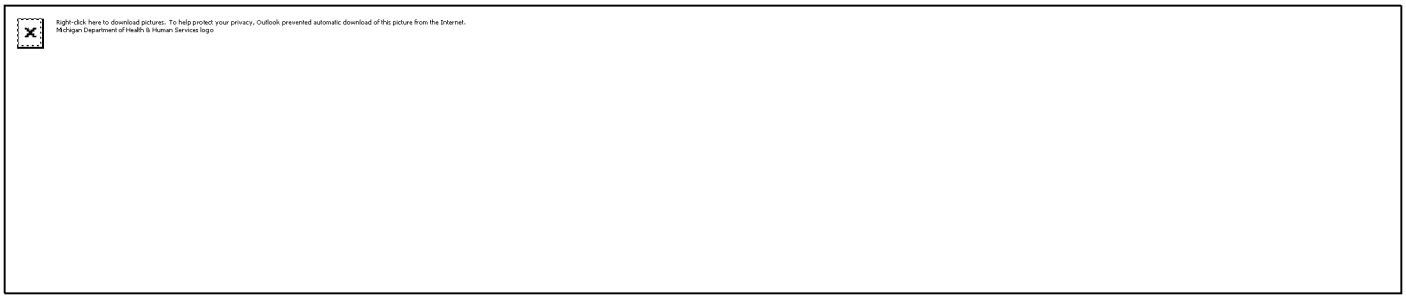
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 8:08 AM
To: annadutcher@gmail.com;salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its newest summary report on lead testing in Flint. According to preliminary data, 39 of 1,836 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"As testing continues, our focus remains on helping families reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We are working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to provide information and offer tools in the community, and encourage families to explore the resources that are available to them."

Both capillary and venous blood tests are included in the report, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5

micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS is working closely with local partners to offer resources and distribute important lead testing and prevention information. Additional state funding has allowed for Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. These families can also choose to have the nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources.

To support these efforts, the state is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities on enhanced screening and testing. In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS has recommended blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are still available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Blood Testing Report December 11.pdf

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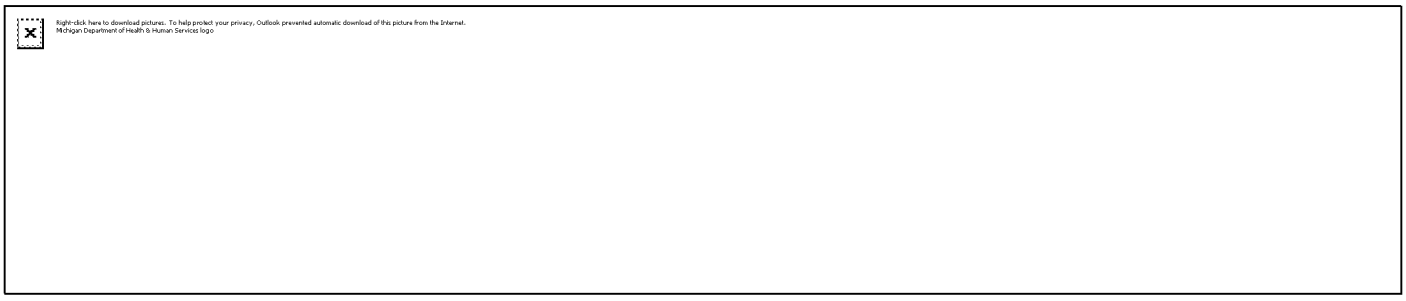
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:04 PM
To: salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Cc: annadutcher@gmail.com
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

New data available

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2015

CONTACT: Angela Minicuci, 517-241-2112

Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its bi-weekly summary report on lead testing in Flint. Preliminary data indicate that 43 of 2,182 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"In partnership with the Genesee County Health Department, we are working to engage and provide resources to residents to reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Case management and home lead analysis are available for families in which an elevated blood lead level has been detected."

The first MDHHS summary report on blood lead levels in Flint was issued Dec. 3, 2015. Updated reports are posted on a bi-weekly basis on the www.michigan.gov/flintwater website. After refining

our methods to identify age, some people are now counted in a different age group than on previous reports. The total counts for each year have not changed.

The report includes both capillary and venous blood tests, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS, together with the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), is working with local partners to distribute educational information around lead testing and prevention. Supplemental state dollars are funding GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected.

Families with an elevated blood lead level can also choose to have a nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to help identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources. Families with questions about their blood lead levels or test results are also encouraged to contact their primary care physician or local health department.

In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities to recommend blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Blood Testing Report 23Dec15 .pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release 122315.pdf

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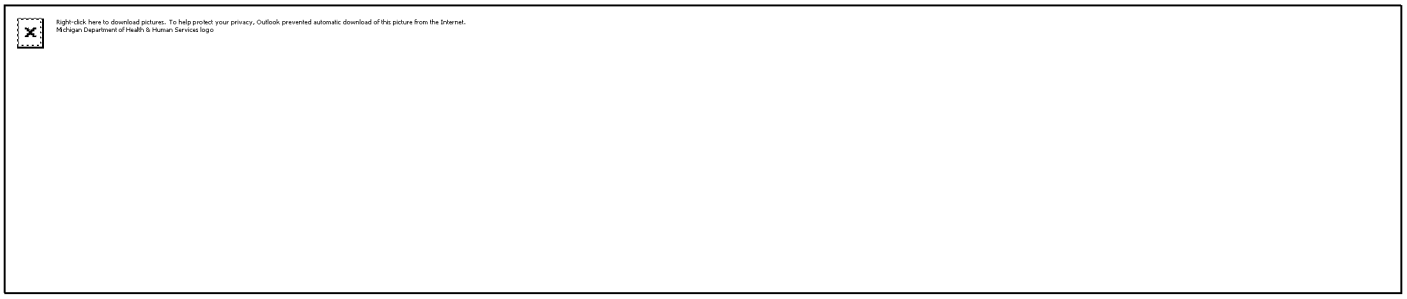
From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:48 AM
To: salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

Please note the highlighted text below. More emails to follow, and please remember to redact my name/email/any identifiable characteristics.

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its newest summary report on lead testing in Flint. According to preliminary data, 39 of 1,836 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"As testing continues, our focus remains on helping families reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We are working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to provide information and offer tools in the community, and encourage families to explore the resources that are available to them."

Both capillary and venous blood tests are included in the report, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5

micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS is working closely with local partners to offer resources and distribute important lead testing and prevention information. Additional state funding has allowed for Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. These families can also choose to have the nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources.

To support these efforts, the state is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities on enhanced screening and testing. In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS has recommended blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are still available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint EBL Data Press Release Dec 11.pdf
- Flint Blood Testing Report December 11.pdf

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:48 AM
To: salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

See highlighted below

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services logo

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint

Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

LANSING, Mich. – Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the state's action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

"Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education efforts."

Information comes from tests administered citywide to 1,361 children and adults since October 1. Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and 9 of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report covers test results reported to MDHHS since the state action plan was put in place Oct. 2. It includes the number of tests and number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests that have been reported to MDHHS since the beginning of October. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Five micrograms per deciliter is the level that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers elevated and triggers health care professional follow up with families.

The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available.

When reviewing historical trend data, the risk of lead exposure is highest during the third quarter of each year – July through September. Seasonal variation is the result of a number of factors including increased exposure to lead in dust and soil in the summer months.

In the third quarter of 2010, 8.3 percent of Flint children 6 and under showed elevated blood lead levels. The figure gradually decreased to 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013. During the same months in 2014, the figure increased to 7.5 percent and decreased to 6.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letters to Flint parents regarding lead testing. The state is providing funding for GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected. During these follow-up visits, nurses coordinate with environmental health investigators to meet with families in their homes to identify lead exposures, address questions and provide water filters. People can be exposed to lead from paint, soil, plumbing and other sources.

MDHHS continues to provide free water filters and replacement cartridges to Flint residents at four locations, including the MDHHS Flint offices and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Blood Lead Level Summary Report December.pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release.pdf

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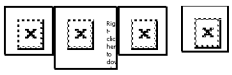

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:50 AM
To: salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Subject: FW: NEWS UPDATE--State To Contribute $1M As Part Of Flint Water Fix

Every outbound email blast notification clearly denotes that Flint 'residents' will have access to filters. I have found no societal limitations regarding who is able to or not able to receive a water filter.

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:46 PM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--State To Contribute $1M As Part Of Flint Water Fix

Friday, October 2, 2015, 02:45 PM

State To Contribute $1M As Part Of Flint Water Fix

In the short term, Flint residents will have access to water filters, some purchased with state funds, and in the longer term the city will be improving its corrosion controls to keep lead out of water supplies, state and city officials said today in unveiling a plan to address recent water safety concerns in the city.

Moving Flint back to getting water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage System is also still on the table for both state and local officials, but will require negotiations, both sides said.

Both sides said the water itself is not the source of lead and the city will be working in the coming years to replace the lead service lines that are the source.

Environmental Quality Direct Dan Wyant acknowledged that testing shows increased lead levels in the water since the city moved from the Detroit system in 2014, but he argued the problem was the switch and not the water source. He said one of the state's efforts is to ensure the city has sufficient corrosion controls in place so when it switches sources again away from the Flint River, the problem does not recur.

Mr. Wyant said the state has continued quarterly testing of the city's water source and those tests have continued to show no lead.

Eden Wells, chief medical officer for the state, said blood tests for children in the city did not change after the water change, but she said tests of children in two high-risk ZIP codes did, as tests by Hurley Medical Center had shown earlier, show increased blood lead levels in those areas after the water change.

But she and others said it was still not confirmed that the water was the source of the additional lead exposure.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said the city was still considering switching back to Detroit water while efforts to finish an agreement with Karegnondi Water Authority are completed. But he said the switch would cost the city up to $2 million a month it does not have.

Mr. Wyant, asked if the state would cover those costs, said only that the state had committed $1 million already toward the problem but that Governor Rick Snyder had said he would be willing to mediate discussions between the city and the Detroit system.

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in the full Michigan Report.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 8:52 AM
To: salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Subject: HERE IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT

Here is the major announcement. See highlighted below.

From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:12 PM
To: 'annadutcher@gmail.com'
Subject: FW: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

Go pick one up for our house, Anna.

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services [mailto:MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI) <GlasstetterJ@michigan.gov>
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

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Michigan Department of Health & Human Services logo

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

LANSING, Mich. – Free water filters will be available to current Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients and Flint residents at four locations beginning Tuesday, October 6, at 9 a.m. through a partnership between the MDHHS and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Free National Sanitation Foundation certified water filters are being provided to Flint residents as part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area.

Current MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road

MDHHS office location to obtain a free, certified home water filter. **Residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs** should visit the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices located at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be onsite at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

"Ensuring that families in the Flint area have access to resources that will help reduce the potential for lead exposure is our top priority," said Nick Lyon, director of the MDHHS. "I want to thank our partners who have mobilized to make water filters available – a point that highlights the importance of continued collaboration at the local, state and federal level as we move forward."

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active Family Independence Program (FIP), Food Assistance Program (FAP), Child Development and Care (CDC), State Disability Assistance (SDA), or Social Security Insurance (SSI) recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office to receive their filter free of charge. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their water bill to the GCCARD location.

Although blood lead levels throughout the city of Flint have remained steady, last week, MDHHS data was found to be consistent with a recent Hurley Children's Hospital study indicating increased blood lead levels in children residing in two Flint ZIP codes after a 2014 change in water source. While lead paint remains the number one cause of lead poisoning in Michigan, the recent data prompted MDHHS to take action to reduce potential lead exposures through water sources.

MDHHS is urging parents in Flint and throughout the state to do their part in preventing elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information about steps you can take now, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and available resources, visit www.michigang.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf

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From: Glasstetter, Jeremy (CEPI)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 8:02 AM
To: salemflintpastor@gmail.com
Cc: annadutcher@gmail.com
Subject: Just FYI

Flint, Genesee County Formally Request Emergency Assistance On Water

Declaring that the water crisis goes beyond the ability of local resources to resolve, the Genesee County Board of Commissioners agreed Monday with the Flint mayor's call to declare a state of emergency in the city.

The Flint Journal reported the request will seek more than $50 million to replace lead service lines and other yet to be determined needs.

Several residences and other facilities in Flint use water service lines made of lead. When the source of the city's water was switched from the Detroit system to the Flint River without corrosion control treatment, lead-based service lines began leaching lead into the water, resulting in lead levels beyond those when the federal government requires remediation. Blood samples showed elevated lead levels in many children.

The request will go through the Department of State Police's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, which will meet with the Genesee County emergency management coordinator.

Snyder press secretary Dave Murray said the governor will seriously consider a state declaration of emergency or disaster, but given the time involved following the procedures to make that decision, the state is treating the situation as an emergency.

"Prior to a formal declaration, we are recognizing this as an emergency and are working with city and county leaders to coordinate efforts, streamline communication and tap all available resources at the state's control," he said. "A formal declaration could take a fair amount of time as people assess their needs and the damages."

Mr. Murray said the State Police have been closely engaged since the beginning of the crisis.

"Due to the uniqueness of this situation, we have to look at all possible options to help Flint residents," Mr. Murray said.

Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich (D-Flint) called for Mr. Snyder to act quickly on the request.

"This is an important step in the process and the governor should make a swift decision," he said in a statement. "I'll continue pushing hard to make sure we receive additional resources that address immediate and long-term needs, and that they are used efficiently and effectively."

- See more at:
http://www.gongwer.com/programming/news.cfm?article_id=550010102#sthash.XVqa7N9w.dpuf

v/r

Jeremy N. Glasstetter, MBA
Center for Educational Performance and Information
Department of Technology, Management & Budget
Library of Michigan Building, 3rd Floor
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915

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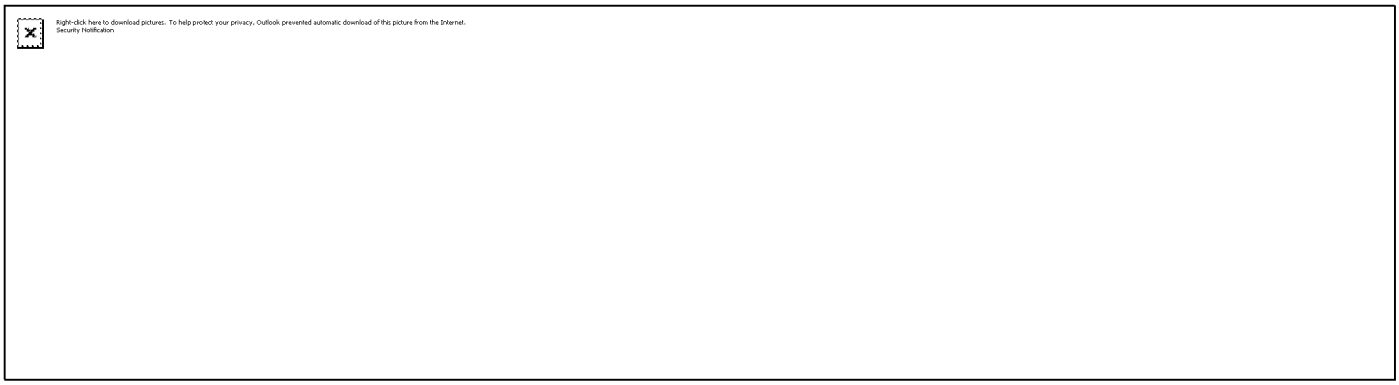
From: Good, Amy (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 10:38 AM
To: Hague, Patrick (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Facility Notification: Constitution Hall

From: DTMB Facilities [mailto:dtmb@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Good, Amy (DNR)
Subject: Facility Notification: Constitution Hall



Protest Activity

Date/Time:

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Details:

Please be aware that there is a protest event planned for today, October 28, outside of the Constitution Hall from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The event is being held in response to the water condition in Flint. Please plan your daily activities with this in mind as a large turnout for this event is anticipated. DTMB and MSP will be working together to monitor the situation.

Contact:

DTMB Customer Service Center, DTMB-Customerservice@michigan.gov or 517-373-6227

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 8:38 AM
To: gongwerreports@gongwer.com;Michigan_HTML@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News

Parlors to Partnership (Dome Magazine, 2/25/2011)

Judge: State can't nullify wage increase with fee (Associated Press, 2/25/2011)

Washtenaw County Democrats say changes to emergency manager rules would harm cities, schools (AnnArbor.com, 2/25/2011)

NMU chief sees tough times (Marquette Mining Journal , 2/25/2011)

Zeeland's preliminary budget facing trims (Holland Sentinel, 2/25/2011)

Michigan workers plan to show support in Wisconsin (Lansing State Journal, 2/25/2011)

Schor eyes run for Bauer's House seat (Lansing State Journal, 2/25/2011)

Judge: Law making state workers contribute 3% to retiree health care 'unconstitutional' (Lansing State Journal, 2/25/2011)

It's still an increase, but Attorney General Bill Schuette's office wraps up litigation with Blue Cross Blue Shield (MLive, 2/25/2011)

Flint could be test case if new emergency financial manager bill becomes law (Flint Journal, 2/25/2011)

You too can balance Michigan's budget in just a few easy steps (budget simulator involved) (MLive, 2/25/2011)

State Senate approves additional $10 million for Pure Michigan; bill headed to Gov. Snyder's desk (Associated Press, 2/25/2011)

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling outlines agenda to supporters, protesters during State of the City (Flint Journal, 2/25/2011)

Michigan House approves ergonomics standards ban (Associated Press, 2/25/2011)

Podcast: Why Rick Snyder won't pick same fights as embattled Wisconsin governor (Grand Rapids Press, 2/25/2011)

Some Republicans soften tough talk on unions (Associated Press, 2/25/2011)

Federal government plans to exit General Motors quickly, rather than wait to maximize returns (MLive, 2/25/2011)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder isn't fazed by the firestorm (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

Michigan movie industry gears up for a film tax credit fight (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

Failure to remove snow gets Wayne County's Road Division director fired (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

Bills labor opposes (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Mich. UAW group to show union solidarity in Wis. (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Judge rules unconstitutional forcing state workers to pay retiree health care (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Unions slam bills as 'anti-labor' (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Film credit supporters pack rally (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Snyder stands firm on budget (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Michigan Opinions

John Lindstrom: Weathering the Political Blizzards (Dome Magazine, 2/25/2011)

Eric Freedman: Don't Write Off Legacy Media (Dome Magazine, 2/25/2011)

Lawrence Glazer: Scholars Explore Michigan Supreme Court Upheaval (Dome Magazine, 2/25/2011)

Jack Lessenberry: 'Holding Pen' Education (Dome Magazine, 2/25/2011)

Julie Hinds: Movie makers waiting, but many still hope to film here (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

Wirtz: Budget battles deserve open -- and adult -- debate (Midland Daily News, 2/25/2011)

Frank Beckmann: State worker revolt may spread from Wisconsin (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

Editorial: Prison upgrades are big savings, in more ways than one (Jackson Citizen Patriot, 2/25/2011)

Editorial: Wisconsin governor has valid concerns (Jackson Citizen Patriot, 2/25/2011)

Some people will suffer more than others from Snyder's budget proposals (Royal Oak Tribune, 2/25/2011)

Rochelle Riley: Please reconsider ending a new industry, Gov. Snyder (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

City leaders need to make serious pitch for tax hike (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 2/25/2011)

Don't give early parole to sexual predators and convicted killers (Macomb Daily, 2/25/2011)

Cities right to question end of tax credits (Lansing State Journal, 2/25/2011)

Editorial: Negotiate a fix for retiree health care (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

Ron Dzwonkowski: Cut funding for Great Lakes? Study proves it's a bad idea (Detroit Free Press, 2/25/2011)

Editorial: Public retiree health costs must be confronted (Detroit News, 2/25/2011)

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 9:07 AM
To: Michigan_HTML@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For July 1, 2013

News

Experts: If Detroit files for bankruptcy, case likely to stay local (Detroit Free Press, 7/1/2013)

Teen's mom files police report in alleged Pugh relationship (Detroit News, 7/1/2013)

Gov. Rick Snyder: Domestic partner law was about fiscal responsibility, will review ruling (MLive, 6/30/2013)

FAA investigating use of Michigan's state-owned planes (Lansing State Journal, 6/30/2013)

5 other key issues Michigan lawmakers failed to address (Associated Press, 7/1/2013)

A new farm bill could completely reform agricultural subsidies (Port Huron Times Herald, 6/29/2013)

DEQ OKs Eagle Mine permit changes (Marquette Mining Journal , 7/1/2013)

Criminal complaint filed in Madison Heights against Charles Pugh (WXYZ TV, 7/1/2013)

Criminal complaint filed in Madison Heights against Ex-Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh (Oakland Press, 7/1/2013)

Plans for Medicaid questioned; Livingston's Hune says expansion measure doesn't add up (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 7/1/2013)

Write-in campaign for Detroit mayor energizes Mike Duggan supporters, leaves others skeptical (MLive, 7/1/2013)

Public safety still a big concern as Mike Brown readies return as Flint's emergency manager (MLive, 6/30/2013)

Former University of Michigan VP and general counsel Marvin Krislov on affirmative action in higher education (AnnArbor.com, 7/1/2013)

OCC spending, restructuring spur lawsuit (Detroit News, 6/30/2013)

Michigan State Police helicopters help combat crime to mixed reviews (Detroit News, 7/1/2013)

Mich. Senate leader expects Medicaid vote by September (Detroit News, 6/29/2013)

Detroit area hospitals fight to stem emergency room violence (Detroit News, 7/1/2013)

Mike Duggan announces write-in campaign to be next Detroit mayor (Detroit Free Press, 6/28/2013)

5 Michigan issues in doubt besides Medicaid expansion (Detroit Free Press, 6/29/2013)

Editorials

OUR VIEW — America's seismic shift on same-sex marriage (Holland Sentinel, 6/30/2013)

Liberty wins in gay marriage ruling (Detroit News, 6/30/2013)

Nolan Finley: Duggan takes a big gamble (Detroit News, 6/30/2013)

Jennifer Gratz: Affirmative action is almost dead - finally (Detroit Free Press, 7/1/2013)

Editorial: The high cost Michigan pays for excluding gay people (Detroit Free Press, 6/30/2013)

The insanity of higher education costs in Michigan (Detroit News, 7/1/2013)

Brian Dickerson: Ruling shows rough road ahead for state-sanctioned discrimination (Detroit Free Press, 6/29/2013)

Eric Baerren: Destroying Michigan trout streams for China is considered 'progress' (MLive, 7/1/2013)

Editorial: DNR right to use discretion in case of Lilly the deer (Flint Journal, 7/1/2013)

Craft a Voting Rights Act for today's threats (Detroit News, 7/1/2013)

Blogs

Duggan Write-In Bid Makes Polls Pointless On Detroit Mayoral Race (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 6/28/2013)

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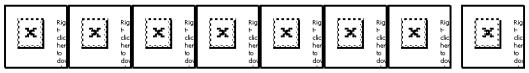
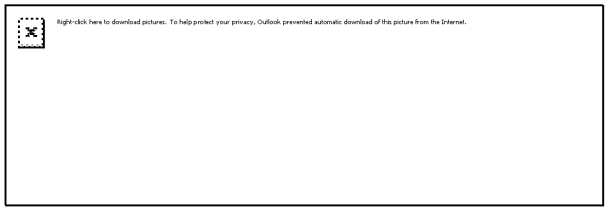
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**						
2	**FY 2015 BUDGET SIGNING PACKAGE PREPARATION**						
3	**AS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE**						
4							
5	**Description**	**SB 774**	**HB 5313**	**Unenforceable**	**Veto**	**Earmark**	**GF/GP**
6	River Raisin National Battlefield Foundation Grant	Sec. 115 Line Item	Not Included		X	X	$2,000.0
7	Flint River Dike Repair	Sec. 115 Line Item	Not Included		X	X	$1,000.0
8	Saginaw River Deepening Feasibility Study	Sec. 115 Line Item & Sec. 1201	Not Included		X	X	$280.0
9	BMP Audit for Water Quality and Forestry	Not Included	Sec. 808		X	X	$125.0
10	Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grants	Sec. 901	Sec. 901	X			N/A
11	ORV Trail Improvement Grants	Sec. 1002	Sec. 1002	X			N/A
12							
13	**The recommendations contained in this draft are subject to change pending conference committee action.*						

	H	I
1		
2		
3		
4		
5	**Gross**	**Justification**
6	$2,000.0	Veto new legislative earmark. Park is owned and managed by the National Park Service, therefore funds should be allocated at the federal level.
7	$1,000.0	Veto new legislative earmark. This project should not be elevated above other water control structures in critical need of repair/replacement. The project could compete against other similar projects for a dam management grant.
8	$280.0	Veto new legislative earmark. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is responsible for the dredging of the Saginaw River and should conduct the study, if one is needed. The U.S. ACOE performed dredging in 2013.
9	$125.0	Veto new legislative earmark, which runs counter to the Executive Budget and should not be included in the DNR's budget.
10	N/A	Boilerplate section amends MCL 324.82107 by reference.
11	N/A	Boilerplate section amends MCL 324.81119 by reference.
12		
13		

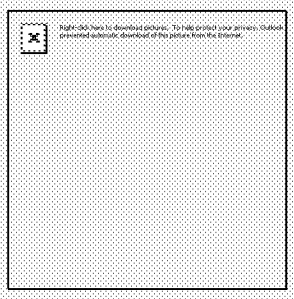
From: Bridge Magazine <ajones@thecenterformichigan.ccsend.com> on behalf of Bridge Magazine <info@thecenterformichigan.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Gossman, Colleen (DTMB)
Subject: What is the state's role in Flint's water fiasco?





News & Analysis from The Center for Michigan

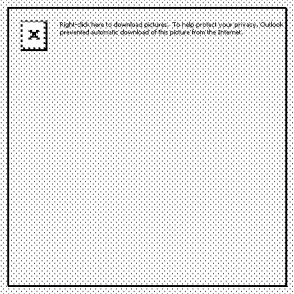
Cringe over troubled water - Flint's smelly dilemma



Flint calls on the state to clear up the city's low-quality drinking water. Who is responsible for the city's water problems?

READ FULL STORY

MSU Dean: Obama's free college plan is not best path to a degree



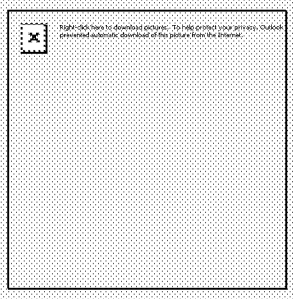
Where will the money come from? Why would Republicans embrace it? Wouldn't aid be better spent on only those students truly need help? Too many questions for now.

READ FULL STORY

Commentary: Michigan criminal code encroaching on civil liberties

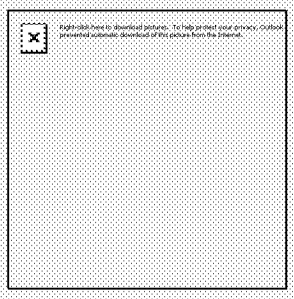
New, get-tough laws requiring DNA swabs or field sobriety tests from people who have not yet been convicted stretch the limits of government power.

READ FULL STORY



Coming Next Week: 2014 Academic State Champs

Bridge ranks every district, school and charter in the state by how much their students overachieve or underachieve academically, based on their socioeconomic status. The results may surprise you.



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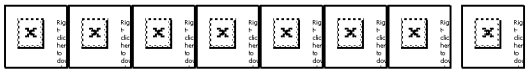
From: Bridge Magazine <ajones@thecenterformichigan.ccsend.com> on behalf of Bridge Magazine <info@thecenterformichigan.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 12:07 AM
To: Gossman, Colleen (DTMB)
Subject: Week in review: Great Start off to a great start



Week in review

BRUNCH WITH BRIDGE

Brunch with Bridge columnist Rich Robinson looks at the dawning battles of the political year and sees trying times ahead. And Ken Winter recollects the now 40-year-old PBB crisis in Michigan agriculture.

New year, old battles and an upcoming year of more of the same (only worse)

After 40 years, effect of Michigan's PBB crisis still not fully known

NEWS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

A Great Start to preschool expansion

How one Michigan community is benefiting from preschool expansion

Cringe over troubled water - Flint's smelly dilemma

COMMENTARY

MSU Dean: Obama's free college plan is not best path to a degree

Michigan criminal code encroaching on civil liberties

Conflict is inevitable in policy debates. An outside facilitator can help forge agreement.

Phil Power: Gov. Snyder goes big, bold in reimagining government programs

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From: Kaiser Health News <emails@kaiserhealthnews.org>
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 10:11 AM
To: Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Subject: KHN Morning Briefing: October 9, 2015

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Morning Briefing

Friday, October 09, 2015
Check Kaiser Health News online for the latest headlines

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES
1. Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds
2. Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'

MEDICARE
3. CMS Releases Star Ratings For 2016 Medicare Advantage Plans

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION
4. Insurers Seeking More Obamacare Aid Could Wait Years

QUALITY
5. Bill Would Require Drug, Device Makers To Disclose Pay To Nurses, Physician Assistants
6. Med Schools Trying To Adapt To New Health Care Environment

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11. Biotech Stock Poised For Big Gain Or Big Fall

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

12. Oncologists Skipping Expensive Cancer Drugs That Offer Little Or No Benefit
13. Proposed Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Fails To Get Enough Signatures To Make Ballot
14. FDA Recognizes Salt As Generally 'Safe'; Advocacy Group Wants That Status Removed

STATE WATCH
15. State Highlights: Another Rural Hospital Closes; N.Y. Expands Low-Cost Health Care To Immigrants; Fla. Kids Losing Special-Needs Services

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH
16. Research Roundup: Observation Care At VA; Meeting Charity Standards; Medicare Drug Plans

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS
17. Viewpoints: War Of Words On Kansas Medicaid; Sebelius' Legacy; Mental Health Care Reform

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds

Researchers report that prices for a dozen procedures and tests were 8 to 26 percent higher in counties with the highest level of physicians concentrated in large group practices. (Michelle Andrews, 10/9)

2. Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'" by Nate Beeler, The Columbus Dispatch.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE BALANCE

Who will be Speaker?
Choice may set tone for budget
And key health issues.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

MEDICARE

3. CMS Releases Star Ratings For 2016 Medicare Advantage Plans

Almost three out of four beneficiaries are enrolled in medical and drug coverage plans that received at least a four-star quality rating, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The rankings did show a drop for some companies, especially in regard to prescription drug benefits.

Modern Healthcare: Medicare Advantage Star Ratings Reveal Mix Of High, Low Performers
More Medicare Advantage plans nabbed top quality marks for their 2016 plans than last year, a potential sign that private insurers are trying to meet the federal government's standards for high-quality products and coordinated healthcare for seniors. But the CMS' star ratings, released Thursday, also showed that private Medicare plans are still failing on many levels, particularly when it comes to prescription drug benefits. (Herman, 10/8)

Meanwhile, 2016 Medicare Part D premiums will rise for many -

Reuters: Unwelcome News About Medicare's Rising Drug Costs
Seniors have received some unpleasant news in their mailboxes in recent weeks: premiums for many Medicare prescription drug insurance plans will rise at double-digit rates next year. Premiums for the ten most popular Medicare Part D prescription drug plans (PDPs) will rise an average of 8 percent next year - the fastest clip in five years, according to Avalere Health, a consulting and research firm. And five of the top plans will boost their average premiums anywhere from 16 percent to 26 percent. (Miller, 10/8)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

4. Insurers Seeking More Obamacare Aid Could Wait Years

Insurers who hoped to get billions in aid after opening-year losses from their participation in the health law's insurance marketplaces are only getting 12.6 percent of what they requested after the fund to pay them fell short. In the meantime, Obamacare dropouts get picked up by employer coverage in California, and Wyoming loses one of its two health law insurers.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Affordable Care Act Aid Could Take Years To Reach Insurers
Health insurers that lost millions of dollars last year under the Affordable Care Act may wait years for the government to deliver the aid it promised them. Companies, including Downtown-based insurer Highmark, want about $2.87 billion to help cover their first-year losses from online insurance marketplaces — a centerpiece of the landmark

health care law. But a federal relief program meant to limit their risk is more than $2 billion short, leaving the companies to collect only 12.6 percent of those requests late this year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said this month. (Smeltz, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: Many Obamacare Dropouts In California Picked Up Employer Coverage, State Says

Nearly half of the estimated 700,000 Californians who have dropped their Obamacare policies during the past two years have enrolled in an employer-based plan, a new report from the Covered California exchange shows. In a news conference Thursday, Peter Lee, the organization's executive director, said there were about 1.3 million Californians enrolled in the exchange's plans as of June 30. That was about two-thirds of the 2 million who have enrolled in the exchange since it opened Oct. 1, 2013. (Sisson, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Wyoming Loses 1 Of Its 2 Affordable Care Act Insurers

One of the two companies offering health insurance coverage in Wyoming under the federal health care law has decided to drop out of the program after receiving word that the federal government would be providing drastically less financial help than it expected. The news comes as state leaders debate whether the federal government can be trusted to help pay for expansion of a health insurance program for the working poor. (Moen, 10/8)

Also, lawmakers in New Jersey ask the attorney general there to delay proposed insurance plans from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield that are meant to save money --

The Associated Press: New Health Insurance Plan Sparks Debate In New Jersey

Two New Jersey senators have asked the state attorney general to delay the biggest health insurer in the state from offering a set of insurance plans that are being sold as money-saving ways to cover health care. Critics fear the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield plans could hurt some patients and hospitals. Democratic Sens. Nia Gill and Joseph Vitale say the state should first set up a way to oversee how health insurers rate health care providers when they set up tiered systems. Here's a look at the issue. (Mulvihill, 10/8)

Colorado's cooperative insurance plan faces an uncertain future over cost concerns, and a patient advocacy group rates California's best HMO and PPO plans --

The Associated Press: Low-Cost Health Insurer In Colorado Faces Uncertain Future

Colorado's biggest nonprofit health insurer faces an uncertain future, and its 80,000 or so customers don't know whether their insurer will be able to offer new polices when next year's enrollment period begins soon. Colorado HealthOP, which emerged from the Affordable Care Act, faces possible insolvency because the U.S. government said it won't be able to cover payments to help stabilize premiums in federal insurance markets. (Wyatt, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: California Agency Ranks Kaiser As Best HMO, Anthem And Cigna As Best PPOs

Kaiser Permanente was the highest-rated HMO and Anthem Blue Cross and Cigna the top-rated PPOs in a new state report. The California Office of the Patient Advocate

released ratings Wednesday of 10 HMOs, six PPOs and more than 200 medical groups, just as Californians prepare to choose their health plans for next year from their employers or Covered California, the state's Obamacare exchange. (Pfeifer, 10/8)

QUALITY

5. Bill Would Require Drug, Device Makers To Disclose Pay To Nurses, Physician Assistants

The legislation, introduced in the Senate, would close a loophole in the law that requires public disclosure of such payments to doctors and some other health providers.

ProPublica: Bill Would Add Nurses, Physician Assistants To Pharma Payments Database
A bill proposed Wednesday by two U.S. senators would require drugmakers and medical device manufacturers to publicly disclose their payments to nurse practitioners and physician assistants for promotional talks, consulting, meals and other interactions. The legislation would close a loophole in the Physician Payment Sunshine Act, which requires companies to report such payments to doctors, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists and podiatrists. Companies have so far released more than 15 million payment records, covering August 2013 to December 2014. (Ornstein, 10/8)

And on prices for medical services -

Kaiser Health News: Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds
Prices for many common medical procedures are higher in areas where physicians are concentrated into larger practice groups, according to a new study. The October Health Affairs study examined the average county prices paid by preferred provider insurance organizations in 2010. It focused on 15 high-volume, high-cost medical procedures across a variety of specialties, including vasectomy, laparoscopic appendectomy, colonoscopy with lesion removal, nasal septum repair, cataract removal and knee replacement. The prices studied reflected the negotiated prices between the PPOs and the physician groups, including payments made by both the plan and the patient. The average price ranged from $2,301 for a total knee replacement to $576 for a vasectomy. (Andrews, 10/9)

6. Med Schools Trying To Adapt To New Health Care Environment

With a revolution in U.S. health care -- in both how care is delivered and paid for -- schools that train doctors are scrambling to revamp. Also, a Michigan paper examines the burden on nurses at an understaffed state hospital, and a study analyzes patient attitudes about being discharged from the hospital.

The Washington Post: A Different Kind Of Care Package
U.S. health care is in a revolution that is starting to shake up one of the most

conservative parts of medicine: its antiquated model for training doctors. Once paid a la carte for the procedures and services they perform, physicians are beginning to be reimbursed for keeping their patients healthy. ... The AMA is worried enough about the problem that it has been giving out millions of dollars to prod new kinds of teaching, in the hope that doctors' training can adapt as quickly as the system they will soon join. (Johnson, 10/8)

The Lansing State Journal: Michigan Mental Health Nurses Say OT Hurts Patient Care
The well-being of some 700 patients in state psychiatric hospitals is in the hands of nurses who say they're overworked, overtired and overstressed because of excessively mandated double shifts. Sometimes several days a week, nurses in Michigan's five state-run hospitals end their regular eight-hour shifts only to be ordered to cover staffing shortages by working another eight hours. Against the recommendations of nursing groups and one of the state's own task forces, several current and former nurses at the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services told the State Journal they're worked to the point of exhaustion and ragged nerves, more prone to errors or poor judgment as they deal with unpredictable, sometimes violent patients. (Hinkley, 10/8)

Reuters: Patients Who Feel Ready To Leave The Hospital Are More Satisfied
In a small study of hospitilized patients, those who felt ready to go home when they were discharged were more satisfied with the hospital and their caregivers than those who didn't feel ready to go. It may be useful to use patient readiness for discharge as one measure of quality of care, the authors write in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. (Doyle, 10/8)

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

7. House Panel Finds No Financial Wrongdoing By Planned Parenthood, Rep. Chaffetz Says

Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) says his committee's hearings have not found that the reproductive health organization is improperly handling its finances. He says investigations may continue. At a hearing yesterday, a former employee said that Planned Parenthood did bill Medicaid for abortion services. The woman made similar claims in a lawsuit that in 2014 an Iowa appeals court said did not have enough evidence to go forward.

The Huffington Post: GOP Probe Into Planned Parenthood Funding Comes Up Empty
Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Thursday [during a Judiciary Committee hearing] that the GOP's investigation into Planned Parenthood's use of federal funds hasn't turned up anything. ... Chaffetz said Thursday that he still supports digging into Planned Parenthood's activities, even if they're using their money appropriately. "I think there will continue to be investigations," he said. (Bendry, 10/8)

The Hill: Planned Parenthood Billed Medicaid For Abortion Services, Ex-Employee

Claims

A former Planned Parenthood employee told lawmakers Thursday that she had firsthand knowledge that the organization has billed the federal government for abortion-related ultrasounds and medications, in violation of federal law. Susan Thayer, who spent 17 years working as a clinic manager for Planned Parenthood in Iowa, told lawmakers Thursday that the group had overbilled Medicaid by about $28 million, reasserting claims that have been the subject of a drawn-out court battle in Iowa. ... an appeals court in Iowa ruled in fall 2014 that Thayer did not have detailed enough evidence to accuse Planned Parenthood of submitting false claims. (Ferris, 10/8)

8. From Planned Parenthood To Obamacare: Speaker Race Will Impact Key Health Care Issues, Funding

House Republicans will meet Friday morning to discuss next steps in electing a leader following Rep. Kevin McCarthy's surprise withdrawal from the race Thursday. Rep. Paul Ryan has resisted recruitment appeals so far.

The New York Times: Republicans To Meet Amid Turmoil After Kevin McCarthy's Exit From Speaker Race

House Republicans will meet Friday morning at the Capitol to begin charting a path forward after Representative Kevin McCarthy of California's stunning withdrawal from the race for speaker dashed expectations of an orderly succession and threw Congress deeper into turmoil. The struggle to restore order to their leadership comes as they confront major fiscal issues with rapidly approaching deadlines, and Republican leaders are casting about for a candidate for speaker who can both bring along restive conservatives and maintain the backing of the far larger ranks of the rest of their conference. (Herszenhorn, 10/9)

Wall Street Journal: Paul Ryan Resists Calls To Run For House Speaker

Deprived of a clear pick for House speaker, many Republican lawmakers turned Thursday to Paul Ryan, the 2012 GOP vice presidential nominee, an architect and lead salesman of the party's conservative economic policies. While the Ways and Means committee chairman, said in a statement Thursday that he was "grateful for the encouragement," Mr. Ryan added that he wouldn't be a candidate. ... He has described the chairmanship of the Ways and Committee, a panel that oversees issues such as tax and government health-care policy, Social Security and trade, as an ideal post for him. (McKinnon and Hughes, 10/8)

MEDICAID

9. Ariz. Weighs Medicaid Work Requirement, But HHS Has Rejected That For Other States

Arizona has already expanded its Medicaid program, but lawmakers there want to set tougher standards for those who are eligible. News outlets also report on the wait in Montana for the federal government to consider the state's expansion plans and a

controversial statement by an aide to the Kansas governor.

Stateline: Should Medicaid Recipients Have To Work?
If Arizona gets its way, its able-bodied, low-income adults will face the toughest requirements in the country to receive health care coverage through Medicaid. Most of the those Medicaid recipients and new applicants would have to have a job, be looking for one or be in job training to qualify for the joint federal-state program for the poor. They would have to contribute their own money to health savings accounts .... Some of Arizona's proposals have been made in other states, and the federal government has signed off on them. It has rejected work requirements, however. (Ollove, 10/8)

The Great Falls Tribune: Waiting For Medicaid Costly To Some Montanans
Holly Blouch wants to be working, and she wants to be healthy. But right now, it's almost impossible to do both. Diagnosed with carcinoid disorder eight years ago, Blouch needed to work to have health insurance to pay for her medical care, which will some day involve needing a kidney transplant. But she can't work enough hours to keep medical insurance because of her health. "There are a lot of people out there like me," said the 37-year-old Kalispell woman. She's referring to herself and the 69,999 other Montanans who now qualify for Medicaid coverage after the Montana Legislature approved the expansion plan this year. But she's got to wait a little while longer to get that coverage while the federal government reviews Montana's waiver application. (Cates, 10/8)

Wichita Eagle: Governor's Press Office Calls Medicaid Expansion 'Morally Reprehensible'
Gov. Sam Brownback's press office blasted Medicaid expansion as an "Obamacare ruse" in an e-mail to supporters Tuesday, signaling that the governor won't back expansion anytime soon. Melika Willoughby, the governor's deputy director of communications, pushed back against the claim that the state's refusal to expand Medicaid helped cause the closure of Mercy Hospital in Independence. "Those who say Medicaid Expansion would save the Independence Hospital are lying. It wouldn't," Willoughby said in an e-mail to the governor's supporters. "Instead, this Obamacare ruse funnels money to big city hospitals, creates a new entitlement class, and fails to rightly prioritize service for disabled citizens." (Lowry, 10/7)

And in other Medicaid news -

Los Angeles Times: Blue Shield's Deal With Regulators On $1.2-Billion Acquisition Draws Fire
Beleaguered insurer Blue Shield of California won state approval for its $1.2-billion acquisition of a Medicaid health plan, but the nonprofit company's deal with regulators drew heavy criticism. The California Department of Managed Health Care said it extracted several key concessions from Blue Shield in an agreement unveiled Thursday. Ending a high-stakes and lengthy battle, the company agreed to permanently relinquish its longtime state tax exemption. (Terhune, 10/8)

The Associated Press: DHS Director Says He Will Leave Department By End Of Year
The director of Arkansas' Department of Human Services said Thursday that he will leave his job by the end of the year. John Selig said in a news release that he told Gov.

Asa Hutchinson about his plans to leave the department that has overseen the implementation of the state's "private option" Medicaid expansion plan. Hutchinson said in an emailed statement that he met with Selig on Wednesday and asked him to stay on through January to help with the transition. (Lauer, 10/8)

MARKETPLACE

10. Big Pharmaceutical Companies Withhold Support Of Trans-Pacific Trade Deal

Negotiators struck a compromise on the major issue of patent protections for biologics and vaccines that left no party completely happy.

The Wall Street Journal: Business Groups Withholding TPP Support On Lack Of Details
Major U.S. business groups, citing internal frictions and uncertainty over the details of President Barack Obama's 12-nation Pacific trade deal, are withholding their support for now, hobbling the administration's early efforts to win congressional backing. With big pharmaceutical companies and several other major industries disappointed by the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the broader business coalitions that have long backed the talks say they first must consult with their members. (Mauldin, 10/8)

NPR: TPP Negotiators Reached Agreement With Sticky Compromise On Biologics Drugs
A big sticking point in the negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership involved biologics medicines and vaccines created from living organisms. The dispute centered on patent protection: how many years drug companies should have before facing competition from generics. The negotiators ended up with a complicated compromise that gives drug makers five to eight years of protection. But nobody is really happy with the outcome. (Zarroli, 10/8)

11. Biotech Stock Poised For Big Gain Or Big Fall

One Wall Street analyst says there's no middle ground forward for investment in biotech firms, whose products are becoming the focus of scrutiny after big price hikes. Elsewhere, a new multiple sclerosis drug from Roche shows promise, and there's news on a takeover bid by Blackstone and an impending sale by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice of a drug-compounding firm.

The Wall Street Journal: Biotechs Are A 'Strong Buy' Or 'Strong Sell,' Wall Street Strategist Says
Biotechnology stocks can't catch a break. And one Wall Street strategist says the volatile price action recently has him expecting one of two things: A sharp turnaround or a deeper plunge. "The group isn't a 'Buy' or 'Sell' here – it is either 'Strong Buy' or 'Strong Sell,'" wrote Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at brokerage Convergex. Biotechs have long been a volatile sector, well outperforming the large-cap S&P index

during good times and significantly underperforming during bad times. (Scholer, 10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: Roche's MS Drug Reports Promising Results
Roche Holding AG's Genentech unit said its experimental drug ocrelizumab proved effective in three late-stage studies against multiple sclerosis, potentially heralding an important new treatment option for the debilitating disease. In two of the studies, which included 1,656 patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis, the most common form of the condition, ocrelizumab proved superior to the commonly used drug, Rebif, in reducing the annual rate of relapse of major symptoms and other measures of the status of the disease, Roche said. (Winslow, 10/8)

Bloomberg: Blackstone To Acquire BioMed Realty Trust For $4.8B
Blackstone Group agreed to buy landlord BioMed Realty Trust Inc. for $4.8 billion, betting on growth in real estate demand from the life sciences and biotechnology industries. Shares of REITs have been battered this year as investors gird for the first interest-rate hike since 2006, creating opportunities for buyers like New York-based Blackstone to acquire companies relatively cheaply. Health-care spending is rising quickly in the United States, boosting demand for laboratory space that can accommodate pharmaceutical developers and manufacturers. (Callanan and Mulholland, 10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: PharMEDium A Hit For CD&R As Firms Renew Interest In Sector
Clayton Dubilier & Rice's planned sale of drug-compounding company PharMEDium Healthcare Holdings Inc. for $2.58 billion stands to land the private equity firm a nice return on its investment. It also reflects revived interest in compounding pharmacies, which mix or dilute pharmaceutical agents to create hospital-grade dosage forms that aren't commercially available. (Or, 10/8)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

12. Oncologists Skipping Expensive Cancer Drugs That Offer Little Or No Benefit

Meanwhile, news outlets report on other cancer care developments like the impact of life-expectancy questions on patients and what elephant genes could teach researchers about fighting the disease.

Reuters: Cancer Doctors Drop Pricey Drugs With Little Effect
U.S. oncologists, aware that patients are paying more of the costs of expensive cancer drugs, are increasingly declining to prescribe medicines that have scant or no effect, even as a last resort. At least half a dozen drugs, including colon cancer treatments Cyramza, from Eli Lilly & Co, and Stivarga, sold by Bayer AG, aren't worth prices that can exceed $100,000 a year, top cancer specialists said in interviews with Reuters. (Beasley, 10/8)

Reuters: Discussing Life Expectancy Gives Advanced Cancer Patients Realistic View

When doctors discuss prognosis with advanced cancer patients, those patients have more realistic views of their life expectancy and don't seem to experience a decrease in emotional wellbeing, according to a new study. "That the vast majority of cancer patients who are dying say that they want to know their prognosis seems surprisingly courageous," said senior author Holly G. Prigerson of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. (Doyle, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: What Elephants Can Teach Scientists About Fighting Cancer In Humans

You've heard that elephants never forget, but did you know they almost never get cancer either? It turns out just 4.8% of known elephant deaths are related to cancer. For humans, cancer-related deaths are much higher — between 11% and 25%, scientists say. The low cancer rate among elephants is particularly intriguing because all things being equal, elephants should get more cancer than we do. (Netburn, 10/8)

13. Proposed Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Fails To Get Enough Signatures To Make Ballot

Also in California, Gov. Jerry Brown signs three bills aimed at limiting prescriptions of antipsychotics for foster children. Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration faces criticism for its continued approval of OxyContin for kids. And the growing heroin epidemic puts more minors into the state foster systems.

The Associated Press: Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Won't Be On Ballot

Proponents of an effort to repeal California's new stricter law requiring mandatory vaccines for schoolchildren failed to submit enough signatures to qualify a ballot initiative asking voters to repeal the law. County election clerks reported receiving fewer than 234,000 of the 366,000 signatures needed to ask California voters to repeal the law, according to figures provided to the secretary of state's office and posted online Thursday. The new state law struck down the state's personal belief exemption for immunizations, a move that requires nearly all public schoolchildren to be vaccinated. (Williams, 10/8)

NPR: California Approves Laws To Cut Use Of Antipsychotics In Foster Care

Efforts to protect children in foster care from being inappropriately medicated with powerful antipsychotic drugs got a big boost forward on Tuesday, when California Gov. Jerry Brown signed three bills into law designed to reform prescribing. Overprescribing of psychiatric meds for foster youth is a persistent problem nationwide, with children given the drugs at double or triple the rate of those not in foster care. (Korry, 10/8)

The New York Times: F.D.A. Approval Of OxyContin Use For Children Continues To Draw Scrutiny

Ever since the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the narcotic painkiller OxyContin for certain children in August, it has faced unabated criticism from lawmakers and public officials who are wrestling with devastating rates of prescription opioid abuse in their communities. ... The crux of the issue is whether the agency's approval will lead to more prescriptions for OxyContin in young patients. (Saint Louis, 10/8)

Stateline: How Heroin Is Hitting The Foster Care System
Timothy Dick's office receives all kinds of reports of child abuse and neglect. Perhaps a child has a broken bone, or is underfed, or has been left home alone for too long. But when caseworkers drive to the child's home to investigate, they often discover the same root cause. "What we're finding more and more is that the parents are addicted to opiates. And more often than not, it's heroin," said Dick, assistant director of child protective services in Clermont County, Ohio. (Quinton, 10/9)

In other children's health news -

CNN: Anti-Bullying Laws Appear To Be Working
Roughly 20% of high school students report being bullied at school in the past year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 15% of high school students said they were bullied online. That number has gone down significantly since the federal government started collecting data on the problem in 2005. A decade ago, 28% of students reported being bullied. Why? One reason is that anti-bullying laws seem to actually work. That's what a new study in JAMA Pediatrics suggests, although not all bullying laws are equally impactful. (Christensen, 10/8)

The New York Times: Eating Organic Lowers Pesticide Levels In Children
Researchers have found that when children eat organic fruits and vegetables, the amount of pesticides in their bodies declines significantly. Most organophosphorus pesticides have been phased out for residential use, but they are still widely used in agriculture. High doses in agricultural workers can be deadly. (Bakalar, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Researcher: Children's Cancer Linked To Fukushima Radiation
A new study says children living near the Fukushima nuclear meltdowns have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer at a rate 20 to 50 times that of children elsewhere, a difference the authors contend undermines the government's position that more cases have been discovered in the area only because of stringent monitoring. Most of the 370,000 children in Fukushima prefecture (state) have been given ultrasound checkups since the March 2011 meltdowns at the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The most recent statistics, released in August, show that thyroid cancer is suspected or confirmed in 137 of those children, a number that rose by 25 from a year earlier. Elsewhere, the disease occurs in only about one or two of every million children per year by some estimates. (Kageyama, 10/8)

14. FDA Recognizes Salt As Generally 'Safe'; Advocacy Group Wants That Status Removed

In other public health news, researchers find that intense early intervention can lead to recovery for people diagnosed with schizophrenia.

McClatchy: Consumer Group Sues FDA For Inaction On Salt
A prominent consumer advocacy group sued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday for failing to regulate the amount of salt in the nation's food supply. The Center for Science in the Public Interest wants the FDA to act on the group's 10-year-old petition to lift salt's status as "generally recognized as safe." Doing so would reclassify salt as a food additive, which subjects it to more stringent regulation, like

limits on the amounts allowed in processed foods. The legal action is the latest chapter in the group's decades-long efforts to combat excessive sodium consumption. Eating too much salt can lead to high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease, kidney failure and stroke. (Pugh, 10/8)

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Intense Early Intervention For Schizophrenia Leads To Recovery

When the Places for People outreach team found Chandra Thirdkill, she was about 40 years old and had been homeless for two years. Her struggles, however, began as a teen. Everyone looked at her like she was ugly, she thought. No one liked her. She constantly got into fights. Thirdkill dropped out of high school, turned to alcohol and drugs, and was in and out of jail as the fights grew to involve dishes, knives and bricks. Shooting and injuring her then-husband landed her in prison for three years. That's when she was finally diagnosed with schizophrenia. (Munz, 10/8)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Another Rural Hospital Closes; N.Y. Expands Low-Cost Health Care To Immigrants; Fla. Kids Losing Special-Needs Services

News outlets report on health issues in Missouri, New York, Florida, California, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Maine.

The New York Times: Closing A Hospital, And Fearing For The Future

By this weekend, the last patients will be discharged and Mercy Hospital Independence will close, joining dozens of rural hospitals around the country that have not been able to withstand the financial and demographic challenges buffeting them. The hospital and its outpatient clinics, owned by the Mercy health care system in St. Louis, was where people in this city of 9,000 turned for everything from sore throats to emergency treatment after a car crash. Now, many say they are worried about what losing Mercy will mean not just for their own health, but for their community's future. (Smith and Goodnough, 10/8)

Reuters: New York To Offer Low-Cost Healthcare To Immigrants

New York will become one of the first major U.S. cities to expand low-cost healthcare to uninsured immigrants regardless of their legal status under a pilot program to launch next spring, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Thursday. The pilot, called Direct Access, will initially apply to 1,000 immigrants. Some of them are in the country legally but still ineligible for support under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. The program is expected to expand in the following years. (10/8)

The News Service Of Florida: Senate Panel Wants Answers From DOH On Children's Health Programs

A Florida Senate panel on Wednesday demanded answers from a state Department of Health official about how many special-needs children have recently lost services as

the state transitions to a new Medicaid system --- and why. Several members of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee said they'd had calls from constituents --- "in tears," in the words of Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach --- over losing critical health-care services for their children. (Menzel, 10/8)

Georgia Health News: 'Balance Billing' Draws Legislative Scrutiny

A patient scheduled for surgery makes sure that both the hospital and surgeon are in the health plan's network prior to the operation. But after the surgery, a surprise bill arrives for hundreds of dollars. It turns out that the anesthesiologist used in the procedure was not in the patient's insurance network – and the patient had no idea. Such "balance billing" situations often confound and upset consumers receiving medical care – and can lead to tough collections practices. (Miller, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: Death With Dignity Act In Oregon: A Preview Of What California Might Expect

California's new law, which the 77-year-old former Jesuit seminarian struggled with before signing, was modeled after legislation enacted in Oregon nearly 18 years ago. Whether they call it "death with dignity" or the "corruption of the medical profession," "physician-assisted suicide" or "medical killing," those on both sides of the end-of-life debate do agree on one thing: That Oregon's example offers important lessons for California and its 38.8 million residents, who in the near future will be able to ask a doctor to prescribe them a lethal dose of medication so they can hasten their own deaths. (La Ganga, 10/8)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Camden County Program To Boost Post-Overdose Care

Camden County is launching a pilot program to support drug-overdose victims who are revived by police only to then wait weeks for a spot in an inpatient treatment center. Dubbed Operation SAL - an acronym for Save A Life and also a tribute to the son of a local addiction-issues advocate - the $150,000 program is designed to help up to 50 people receive intensive outpatient treatment during that waiting period after an overdose. (Lai, 10/8)

NJ Spotlight: Bid For Saint Michael's Could Let State Reshape Future Of Newark Hospitals

In the span of three years, the number of hospitals that the state owns could go from zero to two -- both in Newark, potentially allowing it determine exactly what healthcare in that city will look like for decades to come. The New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority has emerged as a potential bidder for Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, just two years after the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey handed over University Hospital to the state. (Kitchenman, 10/8)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Nemours Health Teaming With Lancaster County Clinic To Treat Children With Genetic Disorders

Nemours Children's Health System and the Clinic for Special Children in Lancaster County signed a five-year agreement to collaborate on the care of children with rare genetic disorders, the two tax-exempt organizations announced. The clinic, near Strasburg, Pa., was founded in 1989 to treat Old Order Amish and Mennonite children with genetic disorders. (Brukbaker, 10/9)

Minnesota Public Radio: CVS Offering Anti-Overdose Drug Without Prescription
Pharmacists at one of the largest drugstore chains in Minnesota can now distribute an antidote over the counter that can reverse opiate overdoses. CVS has announced that pharmacists at stores in Minnesota and 11 other states are now able to distribute the anti-overdose drug naloxone without a prescription. Another pharmacy based in southern Minnesota is exploring a similar program that's expected to launch before the end of the year. (Collins, 10/8)

Health News Florida: Lawmakers Prepare For Familiar Health Battles
Health care has been a hot-button policy issue for years in the Florida Legislature, and it's starting to look like the session scheduled to start on Jan. 12 will be no different. Battles over Medicaid expansion and payments to hospitals treating low-income patients were so bitter in the spring, it brought the Legislature to a halt. (Shedden, 10/8)

The Associated Press: 3 Working Groups Start Tackling Heroin Problem In Maine
A task force formed to address the state's heroin epidemic held its first meeting on Thursday, with 35 people on three teams focusing on law enforcement, education and treatment, officials said. The three working groups will hold additional meetings to come up with solutions and strategies to turn back the tide of overdose deaths, addiction and drug-related crimes, said U.S. Attorney Thomas Delahanty, who volunteered to establish the working groups after a pair of drug summits in August. (Sharp, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Snyder Supports Switching Flint Water System Back To Detroit
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday called for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency over lead and grapple with broader concerns about the effects of the aging pipes distributing the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, as well as adverse health reactions, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes. (Karoub and Eggert, 10/8)

Health News Florida: Arizona Homeopathic Doc Faces FL Board
A doctor who says she is "dedicated to the natural treatment of cancer" has been ordered to appear before the Florida Board of Medicine on Friday to explain the death of a toddler from an unapproved drug. Martha Grout MD, who left Florida 20 years ago after catching flak for her alternative methods, nevertheless holds a current Florida license. The incident occurred at her alternative medicine center in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she practices "homeopathy," a style of medicine that is not legal in Florida. (Gentry, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Petitions Filed To Allow Medical Marijuana Use In Missouri
The first step to put medical marijuana to a statewide vote next year came Thursday, with supporters filing initiative petitions with the Missouri secretary of state. The two petitions from pro-medical marijuana group New Approach Missouri, would ask voters whether to amend the state constitution to allow physicians to recommend the drug to patients with certain illnesses, such as cancer, epilepsy and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as "any other chronic, debilitating or otherwise equivalent condition."

(Ballentine, 10/8)

St. Louis Public Radio: Effort Underway To Legalize Medical Marijuana Use In Missouri
Backers of medical marijuana want Missourians to decide if doctors can be allowed to prescribe the drug to critically ill patients. Two ballot initiatives that would do just that were filed on Thursday. Sheila Dundon of Columbia is a registered nurse and a breast cancer survivor. She says past cancer patients advised her to try marijuana to help curb the effects of chemotherapy. (Griffin, 10/8)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Observation Care At VA; Meeting Charity Standards; Medicare Drug Plans

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Health Affairs: Observation Rates At Veterans' Hospitals More Than Doubled During 2005–13, Similar To Medicare Trends
When neither inpatient admission nor prompt discharge is clearly indicated for a patient in the emergency department, physicians place the patient under observation in a hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The increasing prevalence of observation stays at hospitals reimbursed by Medicare is receiving considerable attention, but the prevalence remains unexplored in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) hospitals, which are subject to different payment policies. Using VHA data for fiscal years 2005–13, we identified trends and variations in observation rates across twenty-one Veteran Integrated Service Networks and 128 VHA hospitals nationwide. We found that observation rates across VHA hospitals more than doubled, from 6.5 percent to 13.8 percent, and that there was substantial variation across both Veteran Integrated Service Networks and hospitals. (Wright et al., 10/5)

Health Affairs: Connecticut's 'Money Follows The Person' Yields Positive Results For Transitioning People Out Of Institutions
[T]he federal Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration helps qualified individuals living in institutions make the transition to life in the community. The Connecticut Money Follows the Person program is an unusually rich source of data, with information on the 2,262 people who transitioned to the community under that state's program during 2008–14. ... for the majority of respondents who remained in the community, quality of life and life satisfaction improved significantly after transition, and they stayed high. About half of the participants visited hospitals or emergency departments after transition; however, only 14 percent had returned to an institution one year after transition. Predictors of reinstitutionalization included some not previously observed: mental health disability, difficulties with family members before transition, and not exercising choice and control in daily life. (Robison et al., 10/5)

Brookings: A Floor-And-Trade Proposal To Improve The Delivery Of Charity-Care Services By U.S. Nonprofit Hospitals

Many uninsured Americans rely on charity care provided by nonprofit hospitals, which receive substantial tax benefits in exchange for providing community benefits. In this discussion paper we show that the hospitals that receive the largest tax benefits tend to be located in wealthier communities, whereas the demand for uncompensated care is highest in poorer communities. To ameliorate this geographic mismatch between the supply of charity care and the demand for charity care, we propose a floor-and-trade system whereby nonprofit hospitals would be required to meet charity-care standards, either by providing care to local patients or by purchasing credits from other hospitals. (Ody, Dranove and Garthwaite, 10/7)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Medicare Part D At Ten Years: The 2015 Marketplace And Key Trends, 2006-2015

This report presents findings from an analysis of the Medicare Part D marketplace in 2015 and changes in features of the drug benefit offered by Part D plans since 2006. ... In 2015, more than 39 million Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare drug plans. Since 2006, the share of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in a Part D plan has increased from 53 percent to 72 percent of all eligible Medicare beneficiaries. ... The average Part D enrollee had a choice of 30 PDPs and 15 MA-PD plans in 2015. ... In 2015, most plans use five cost-sharing tiers: preferred and non-preferred tiers for generic drugs, preferred and non-preferred tiers for brand drugs, and a tier for specialty drugs. ... Cost sharing for brand-name drugs has been relatively stable in recent years. (Hoadley, Cubanski and Neuman, 10/5)

The Commonwealth Fund: U.S. Health Care From A Global Perspective: Spending, Use Of Services, Prices, And Health In 13 Countries

This analysis draws upon data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other cross-national analyses to compare health care spending, supply, utilization, prices, and health outcomes across 13 high-income countries .... These data predate the major insurance provisions of the Affordable Care Act. In 2013, the U.S. spent far more on health care than these other countries. Higher spending appeared to be largely driven by greater use of medical technology and higher health care prices, rather than more frequent doctor visits or hospital admissions. In contrast, U.S. spending on social services made up a relatively small share of the economy relative to other countries. Despite spending more on health care, Americans had poor health outcomes, including shorter life expectancy and greater prevalence of chronic conditions. (Squires and Anderson, 10/8)

CDC's Preventing Chronic Disease Journal: Health Status of Older US Workers and Nonworkers, National Health Interview Survey, 1997–2011

Many US workers are increasingly delaying retirement from work .... We examined the association of older adults' health status with their employment/occupation and other characteristics. National Health Interview Survey data from 1997 through 2011 were pooled for adults aged 65 or older .... Employed older adults had better health outcomes than unemployed older adults. Physically demanding occupations had the lowest risk of poor health outcomes, suggesting a stronger healthy worker effect: service workers were at lowest risk of multiple functional limitations ... and blue-collar workers were at lowest risk of multimorbidity ... and multiple functional limitation .... A strong association exists between employment and health status in older adults beyond what can be explained by socioeconomic factors (eg, education, income) or health

behaviors (eg, smoking). (Kachan et al., 9/24)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

The Wall Street Journal: How Economic Downturns May Be Good For Your Health
Economic downturns, it turns out, appear to be good for health, according to a study released this week by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The research by Christopher Ruhm, a professor at the University of Virginia, builds upon earlier studies looking at the impact of economic downturns on health. "There is considerable evidence that harmful behaviors–like heavy drinking and smoking–decrease in bad economic times, whereas health-enhancing activities such as exercise and social interactions increase," Mr. Ruhm said. (Sparshott, 10/7)

Reuters: Women Are Missing From HIV Drug Trials
Although women make up roughly half of the world's HIV cases, they remain largely excluded from clinical trials testing drugs, vaccines and potential cures for the virus, a research review confirms. In an analysis spanning several decades that included work done as recently as 2012, researchers found that women typically comprised about 11 percent of participants in trials investigating cures for HIV. Similarly, drug studies were only about 19 percent female and just 38 percent of vaccine trial subjects were women. (Rapaport, 10/2)

Reuters: Caring For Loved One With Alzheimer's May Be Most Stressful For Spouse
Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease isn't easy under the best of circumstances, but it may be much more stressful for spouses and people who suffer from depression, a Finnish study suggests. Researchers followed 236 family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients for three years after the diagnosis. Caregiving appeared to be much more stressful for people who were married to the patients or who suffered from depression when the study began. (Rapaport, 10/2)

Reuters: Perceived Discrimination Linked To Smoking And Poor Diet
Feeling like the target of discrimination may increase a person's odds of harmful behaviors like smoking, eating fatty foods and getting less sleep, a study of African-Americans suggests. Researchers examined the connection between discrimination and these unhealthy habits among almost 5,000 African-American residents of the Jackson, Mississippi metropolitan area. (Rapaport, 10/8)

The Oregonian: Oregonians Billed By Out-Of-Network Health Providers At High Rates, Insurer Group Says
Patients who use health providers outside of their insurer's network can expect bills to be as much as 1,200 percent more than what those services would cost under Medicare, according to a new study from an insurer lobbying group. In Oregon, for instance, a session of computer-targeted radiation therapy to treat tumors costs, on average, $2,409. That's about six times the average Medicare reimbursement rate of $397 — a key benchmark for health care costs. (Budnick, 10/5)

The Wall Street Journal: Study: Attempted Suicide Rises After Weight-Loss Surgery
People who undergo surgery for weight loss are 50% more likely to attempt suicide after the operation than before it, according to a large Canadian study published

Wednesday in the journal JAMA Surgery. The popular procedures, which were performed nearly 200,000 times in the U.S. last year, result in significant weight loss for most patients and often bring about reductions in Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and sleep apnea as well. Many patients also report improved mood and self-esteem. But a small group experience a worsening of depression, substance abuse and eating disorders, past studies have found. (Beck, 10/7)

Reuters: Type Of Weight Loss Surgery Matters For Diabetes Remission
Diabetics considering weight-loss surgery to help send their disease into remission should opt for the most popular procedure, a gastric bypass, researchers suggest. In their study of different types of so-called bariatric surgeries, the biggest impact on diabetes remission was seen with gastric bypass, which can reduce the size of the stomach from about three pints to roughly the size of a shot glass. (Rapaport, 10/6)

The Associated Press: Gene Test Finds Which Breast Cancer Patients Can Skip Chemotherapy
Many women with early-stage breast cancer can skip chemotherapy without hurting their chances of beating the disease, a major new study has found. The 21-gene test accurately identified a group of women whose cancers are so likely to respond to hormone-blocking drugs that adding chemo would do little, if any, good while also exposing them to side effects and other risks, the researchers found. “You can’t do better than that,” says the study leader, Dr. Joseph Sparano of Montefiore Medical Center in New York. (Marchione, 10/3)

The New York Times: Heart Scan Can Fine-Tune Risk Estimate For Patients Considering Statins
Treatment guidelines suggest that nearly half of those over age 40 — nearly 50 million people in the United States — at least consider a cholesterol-lowering statin to reduce heart attack risk. But a new large study of people who had an inexpensive heart scan found that half of those who were statin candidates had no signs of plaque in their heart and very little chance of having a heart attack in the next decade. (Kolata, 10/5)

The Associated Press: Report: More US Hospitals Are Encouraging Breast-Feeding
Health officials say more hospitals are encouraging new mothers to breast-feed. A new report found more than two-thirds of hospitals in 2013 helped women start breast-feeding within an hour after birth. That's up from 44 percent six years earlier. Roughly 90 percent of hospitals teach moms breast-feeding techniques and how to recognize and respond to infant feeding cues. But only about a quarter refrain from giving infants breast milk alternatives — like formula or water — unless medically necessary. (Stobbe, 10/6)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: War Of Words On Kansas Medicaid; Sebelius' Legacy; Mental Health Care Reform

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Huffington Post: This GOP Governor's Comments About The Poor Are Incredibly Revealing

Some Republicans want their party to stop bashing poor people as lazy and undeserving of public assistance. Sam Brownback, the conservative governor of Kansas, doesn't appear to be one of them. Brownback and his allies are in the middle of a major fight over Medicaid, the government-run health insurance program for the poor and disabled. ... And while conservatives who oppose the expansion sometimes rely exclusively on arguments about Medicaid's efficacy -- or perceived lack thereof -- Brownback has been putting his rhetorical emphasis elsewhere. On Tuesday, the governor's deputy communications director, Melika Willoughby, distributed a letter laying out in detail the heart of Brownback's argument -- namely, that expanding Medicaid would be "morally reprehensible" because it would help "able-bodied adults ... who choose not to work" and would send money to "big city hospitals." (Jonathan Cohn, 10/7)

Kansas City Star: Gov. Sam Brownback's Missive On Medicaid Expansion Was Wrong, Cruel And Divisive

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's office sent out one of its trademark propaganda pieces on Tuesday, this one on the subject of Medicaid expansion. In its effort to score political points, it maligns low-income Kansans and pits citizens with disabilities against the working poor. As with other recent messages, the email signed by the governor's deputy communications director, Melika Willoughby, is rife with inaccurate information. (10/6)

Kansas City Star: Gov. Sam Brownback Takes The Low Road On Medicaid Expansion

In Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's world, expanding Medicaid eligibility to more low-income Kansans would create "new government entitlements" for "able-bodied adults" and benefit a small number of "big city hospitals." I'll say this for Melika Willoughby, the deputy communications director who penned that incendiary language in an email on behalf of the Brownback administration: She's got the code words down pat. ... By spewing this sort of vitriol, the governor's office is choosing to argue a complex issue with the lowest forms of talking points. (Barbara Shelly, 10/8)

Forbes: Three Major Problems Left By Sec. Sebelius' Legacy: Obamacare's Medicaid Expansion

While [former HHS Secretary Kathleen] Sebelius resigned in the shadow of a disastrous roll-out of healthcare.gov, her more damaging legacy is the temptation for state leaders to embrace a bigger welfare state and accept an injection of federal dollars funded by Medicare cuts and deficit spending. Medicaid expansion, like Obamacare, fails to deliver on its promises of quality health care that improves the health of enrollees. Even more troubling, ballooning Medicaid expansion costs threaten every other service and will trap millions in a cycle of dependency and poverty. (Tarren Bragdon, 10/7)

Deseret News: Let The People Decide On Medicaid Expansion

I listened with interest to Tuesday's Health Reform Task Force, where members of the Gang of Six presented their "Utah Access" plan for Medicaid expansion. This new

proposal, built on the premise that health care providers should pay the majority of the state's expansion costs, did not go over well. Providers are upset, and they have a right to be. Most providers will see no economic benefit from Medicaid expansion. They should not have to pay more than any other Utahn to cover its costs. (Dan Liljenquist, 10/8)

Des Moines Register: Medicaid Savings Are Increasingly Suspect
Perhaps Gov. Terry Branstad thought he could quietly privatize Iowa's Medicaid program. Instruct a state agency to hand over administration to managed care companies, issue a few press releases about "modernization," quickly secure federal approval and hope no one raises a fuss. Except when 4.2 billion public dollars and health care for 560,000 Iowans are on the line, people eventually pay attention to the details. It doesn't take long to realize privatization makes no sense. (10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: Mass Shootings And A Mental-Health Disgrace
We all know how this plays out in Congress: a moment of silence on the House floor and a fraternal feeling of melancholy when the flag over the Capitol is lowered to half-staff. But that moment of silence will not heal the hearts of those who lost a loved one, and it will not stop the next tragedy. Here and now we need action; we need real change. That's why I've authored the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. The bill focuses resources and reform where they are most needed: to foster evidence-based care, fix the shortage of psychiatric hospital beds, empower patients and caregivers under HIPAA privacy laws, and help patients get treatment well before their illness spirals into crisis. (Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Penn.)

The New York Times: Getting The Diagnosis Wrong
Diagnostic accuracy is fiendishly difficult to measure precisely, but it is estimated that doctors get it wrong in one out of 10 to one out of 20 cases. Up until now, the focus of the patient safety movement has been on errors of medical treatment — incorrect medications or dosages, postoperative complications, hospital-acquired infections. But diagnostic errors — incorrect or delayed diagnoses — may be more common and potentially more deadly. The Institute of Medicine has taken up the subject, and its new report offers the chilling observation that nearly everyone will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetimes. (Ofri, 10/8)

Politico: Planned Parenthood's Cecile Richards Blasts GOP 'Total Lack Of Civility'
Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood, says she was "stunned by the total lack of civility and use of raw power" by Republican members of Congress during last week's House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on her organization's federal funding, Richards fired back at Congress and Republicans in general in a Guardian article published Thursday, warning that the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade is "on the ballot" for next year's presidential election. (Nick Gass, 10/8)

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KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?

The Democratic president candidate's proposals to save consumers money are questioned by experts and health industry officials. (Julie Rovner, 9/25)

2. Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors

Many students avoid geriatrics because of the low pay and high complications, but six people over 90 offer a different perspective to help attract young doctors. (Susan Jaffe, 9/25)

3. D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives

The new law is only the second in the country that allows women to get a year's prescription at one time. (Michelle Andrews, 9/25)

4. Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'" by Lisa Benson.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

THERE'S NO ESCAPING ICD-10

Shutdown? No matter.
Medicare moving ahead

With new codes for docs.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

5. Boehner To Leave Congress At The End Of October

News outlets report Friday morning that House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, plans to resign, amidst growing pressure from the conservative wing of the Republican Party. Politico notes that now, free from intra-caucus concerns, he will be free to push a clean stop-gap funding bill through the House to prevent a government shutdown.

USA Today: Speaker John Boehner To Resign From Congress
In a shocking announcement, John Boehner told his GOP colleagues he will step down as House speaker and resign his Ohio congressional seat on Oct. 30. ... His resignation comes the day after Pope Francis became the first pontiff to address a joint meeting of Congress — a crowning achievement of Boehner's career — and amid a congressional fight over federal funding of Planned Parenthood that threatens another government shutdown. (Shesgreen and Allen, 9/25)

NBC News: House Speaker John Boehner To Resign
Boehner has been under prolonged pressure from conservatives in his party, who have accused him of failing to fight the Obama administration on issues important to the GOP. Foes within his party had been pushing to oust him if he presented any legislation that would continue to fund the government and avoid a government shutdown without stripping federal funding for Planned Parenthood. (9/25)

The New York Times: John Boehner Will Resign From Congress
Most recently, Mr. Boehner, 65, was trying to craft a solution to keep the government open through the rest of the year, but was under pressure from a growing base of conservatives who told him that they would not vote for a bill that did not defund Planned Parenthood. Several of those members were on a path to remove Mr. Boehner as speaker, though their ability to do so was far from certain. (Steinhauer, 9/25)

Politico: Speaker John Boehner Retiring From Congress At The End Of October
Speaker John Boehner, who rose from bartender's son to the most powerful man in Congress, will retire at the end of October, ending a tumultuous five-year tenure atop the House of Representatives. ... Now that he doesn't have internal political considerations to weigh, Boehner is certain to push through a government-funding bill next week that funds Planned Parenthood, and keeps the government open. Boehner's decision, relayed in a closed Republican meeting Friday morning, will set off one of the most intense leadership scrambles in modern Congressional GOP politics. (Sherman

9/25)

6. Senate GOP Fails To Pass Temporary Spending Bill That Defunded Planned Parenthood

With just days left before a possible federal government shutdown, Democrats blocked passage of a bill that would have funded the government through Dec. 11 but included a provision to strip federal funding from the women's health organization. Meanwhile, Republican leaders in both the House and Senate are moving ahead in efforts to pass a clean, bipartisan budget measure.

Los Angeles Times: Senate Fails To Advance Bill That Would Cut Planned Parenthood Funding

With a federal shutdown days away, Senate Republicans tried -- and failed -- on Thursday to advance legislation that would eliminate money for Planned Parenthood but keep government offices and services open. Democrats blocked the bill with a filibuster, refusing to cut funds for the large family planning organization after secretly recorded videos disclosed officials discussing the practice of providing fetal tissue from abortions for research. The debate has become a national conversation on abortion. (Mascaro, 9/24)

USA Today: Democrats Block Planned Parenthood Defunding; McConnell Offers 'Clean Bill'

Senate Democrats blocked a bill Thursday to keep the government funded through Dec. 11 because of a Republican provision to strip Planned Parenthood of federal money for a year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., moved immediately after the vote to try to avert an Oct. 1 government shutdown by filing a new bill that funds federal agencies but does not include the divisive Planned Parenthood provision. A vote on that bill could come as early as Monday. (Kelly, 9/24)

The Associated Press: McConnell Moves Ahead With Bipartisan Stopgap Spending Bill

In the House, GOP leaders called a meeting of their fractious rank and file for Friday morning to discuss whether to accept the Senate's move or reject it at the risk that continuing the fight over Planned Parenthood would lead to a government shutdown. The White House signaled President Barack Obama would sign the measure, called a continuing resolution, into law — if the House steps aside from the fight tea party Republicans want over "defunding" Planned Parenthood. (Taylor, 9/24)

Politico: Boehner Plots Shutdown Move As Critics Weigh Options

House Republican leaders will move next week to approve a "clean" government spending bill — and avert a shutdown — but only after they hold a vote on a measure to bar federal funding for Planned Parenthood, according to multiple sources familiar with the GOP's plan. The move, which comes as conservatives are weighing whether to try to remove John Boehner as House speaker, was discussed at a closed GOP leadership meeting Thursday. It involves a legislative tactic called an "enrollment correction," which essentially changes the text of a bill that has passed the House and the Senate. But it would ultimately be a meaningless exercise: The Senate would reject the measure, and President Barack Obama has said he will veto any spending bill that

tries to defund Planned Parenthood. (Sherman, Palmer and Bresnahan, 9/24)

The Associated Press: House GOP May Opt Against Shutdown Over Planned Parenthood
House GOP leaders have summoned their divided conference for a make-or-break discussion on how to fight taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood without having the battle lead to a government shutdown next week. ... Friday's meeting is likely to center on immediate action to use a special filibuster-proof budget bill to send legislation defunding Planned Parenthood to Obama's desk for the first time — rather than a futile bid to attach the anti-Planned Parenthood measure to a stopgap spending bill. The temporary measure is needed to avoid a shutdown at midnight on Wednesday. It would fund the government through Dec. 11. (Taylor, 9/25)

In other Capitol Hill action -

McClatchy: Senate Democrats Introduce Legislation To Repeal Obamacare 'Cadillac Tax'
The call to repeal one of the Affordable Care Act's most controversial provisions got louder on Thursday when a group of prominent Democratic senators introduced legislation to abolish the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-cost, employer-sponsored health plans. The action further solidified growing bipartisan opposition to the tax, which has already drawn the ire of employers, insurers, unions and benefits groups. They claim the tax would burden working families with higher costs and force employers to cut benefits. (Pugh, 9/24)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Healthcare.gov Account Information Stored On Vulnerable Database, Audit Finds

The flaws uncovered by auditors are now fixed but included critical issues of security policy, such as not encrypting user sessions. Millions of insurance customers' data is stored on the $110-million system known as MIDAS. In other health law news, a new study shows that Americans' top concern when shopping for health coverage is the monthly premium they will pay.

The Associated Press: Audit Finds Slipshod Cybersecurity At Healthcare.gov
The government stored sensitive personal information on millions of health insurance customers in a computer system with basic security flaws, according to an official audit that uncovered slipshod practices. The Obama administration said it acted quickly to fix all the problems identified by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office. But the episode raises questions about the government's ability to protect a vast new database at a time when cyberattacks are becoming bolder. (Alonso-Zaldivar, 9/24)

NBC News: Monthly Cost Is Top Concern For Health Insurance Shoppers: Survey
Americans, long used to seeking bargains, look mostly at price when they're shopping for health insurance, a new survey shows. More than half of those who looked but

didn't buy anything on the new Obamacare exchanges said they couldn't find a plan they could afford, the survey found. And two-thirds who switched coverage said price was the main factor. (Fox, 9/25)

8. Details Of Utah's Much-Anticipated Medicaid Expansion Plan To Be Rolled Out Tuesday

The plan, which faces skepticism from many Republican state legislators and is the product of hours of negotiations, will be the topic of briefings given next week during closed-door meetings.

Salt Lake Tribune: Utah Republican Lawmakers To Huddle Behind Closed Doors On Medicaid Expansion
House and Senate Republicans will meet next week in closed-door caucuses for briefings on a proposal to use Medicaid funds to help provide health insurance to tens of thousands low-income Utahns. The plan they will hear is the product of hours of negotiations between leaders in the House and Senate and Gov. Gary Herbert, launched after Herbert's Healthy Utah plan failed to win support earlier this year in the Republican-dominated House. Depending on the reception the plan receives — particularly from skeptical House members — the governor could call a special session in mid-October to vote on the plan. (Gehrke, 9/24)

KSL: Details Of Medicaid Expansion Plan Plan Due Next Week
Details of the much-anticipated new plan for Medicaid expansion from Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders will be rolled out Tuesday to lawmakers in closed-door meetings before being unveiled publicly. But the governor has yet to sign off on a final proposal, his spokesman, Jon Cox, said Wednesday. "There are still details that need to be negotiated by the group," Cox said. (Riley Roche, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Utah's Medicaid Expansion Hits Funding Roadblock
One red state's unprecedented effort to finance Medicaid expansion through a broad array of health care sectors — from hospitals and doctors to drug makers and pharmacies — is running into serious roadblocks. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders in July announced a deal to expand Medicaid, agreeing on a framework that would require "providers and benefactors of Medicaid dollars to pay their fair share." But months later, Utah leaders are still facing objections from industry groups who argue they're being asked to pay too much. (Pradhan, 9/24)

Also, Oregon is converting its Medicaid eligibility system to the one used by Kentucky -

Portland Business Journal: Oregon Medicaid On Track To Convert To Kentucky System, Will Cost $58M
The Oregon Health Authority plans to debut its new Medicaid eligibility system, imported from Kentucky, on Dec. 15. The transition project came in under budget at $58 million, said Sarah Miller, project director for OHA's MAGI Medicaid System Transfer Project. The original estimate of $62 million. Miller said the new system will afford several advantages over the current one. (Hayes, 9/24)

Meanwhile, on the topic of health exchanges -

The Associated Press: Arkansas Governor Asks Panel To Put Exchange Plans On Hold
Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Thursday he wants Arkansas to halt work on setting up its own insurance exchange for consumers while lawmakers look at the future of the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion. The Republican governor said he's asked the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace board to wait for a legislative task force's recommendations on the "private option" expansion later this year. (DeMillo, 9/24)

MARKETPLACE

9. APA Says Insurance Mergers Would Undermine Access To Mental Health Care

Other prominent doctors groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians, have expressed concern about the proposed mergers' impact on patients.

Reuters: U.S. Insurance Mega Mergers Could Hurt Care - Psychiatric Group
The American Psychiatric Association warned U.S. antitrust regulators this month that two proposed health insurance deals could worsen access to mental health care services, adding to public opposition from several prominent doctors groups. Anthem Inc would become the largest U.S. health insurer through a proposed $47 billion acquisition of Cigna Corp, announced in late July. Earlier that month, Aetna Inc said it would buy Humana Inc and become the largest provider of Medicare plans for older people. (Humer, 9/24)

In other industry news -

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Blue Cross Plans Helping Corporate Clients Cut Health Costs
The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association on Thursday unveiled an expanded database that will help individual Blues, like Philadelphia's Independence, drill down into the cost of care for their corporate customers who have operations nationwide. he Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members cover 105 million Americans, has maintained a claims database for a decade, and Independence has contributed for years. But now all 36 Blue Cross companies are required to share claims data, which are converted into 1,600 common treatments and elective procedures - up from 300 previously. (Brubaker, 9/25)

10. 'Doing The Right Thing': The Complicated Business Of Prescription Drug Pricing

With pharmaceutical companies receiving a lot of attention over the skyrocketing costs of drugs, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez talks to The Washington Post. And after

Turing's controversial price hike for an HIV drug made waves this week, NBC News reports on other similar cases in the industry.

The Washington Post: Novartis CEO Talks About Drug Costs, Paying Doctors And 'Doing The Right Thing'
As stories of jacked-up drug costs make news, and discussions of health-care reform pepper the campaign trail, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez sat down with The Washington Post to talk about how he views his responsibility as leader of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. (Cunningham, 9/24)

NBC News: Turing Isn't The Only Drug Company Hiking Prices By Leaps And Bounds
Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli was lambasted this week by medical groups, a presidential candidate and his own industry for raising the price of a 62-year-old drug by more than 5,000 percent. He reversed course under pressure Tuesday night, but not before the national attention struck fear into the hearts of biotech investors over increased scrutiny of drug prices, sending stocks plummeting. Turing may have been an egregious example, but it's not the only one raising eyebrows for skyrocketing price tags. Bernstein analyst Ronny Gal pointed out many companies ratchet up drug prices when the market presents an opportunity. (Tirrell, 9/24)

U.S. News & World Report: Budget Breakers
Prescription drugs are costly and most Americans agree that they pay too much for them. Recent headlines illustrate that point clearly – from presidential candidates' promising to tackle the issue, to a CEO initially announcing a jump in the cost of a parasitic-fighting medicine. And with America's total spending on prescription medicine reaching its highest rate in 13 years, policy groups are listening and are coming up with their own plans for reining in costs. But while citizens are feeling the burden of drug costs, so is the government through publicly funded insurance plans. (Leonard, 9/24)

Meanwhile, antitrust enforcers suffer a rare court defeat when challenging a merger -

The Wall Street Journal: Federal Judge Declines To Block Steris From Acquiring Synergy Health
A federal judge on Thursday handed a rare court loss to U.S. antitrust enforcers, declining to block Steris Corp., a U.S. infection-prevention company, from acquiring U.K.-based Synergy Health PLC. U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Cleveland rejected a request by the Federal Trade Commission to issue a preliminary injunction halting the merger, saying the FTC hadn't met its burden of showing the deal was likely to damp competition in the U.S. (Kendall, 9/24)

11. Possible Government Shutdown Won't Delay Oct. 1 Launch Of Revised Medical Coding System

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have contingency plans in place for managing the transition to ICD-10. In other medical practice news, physician groups oppose draft language aimed at curbing "surprise" billing. And telemedicine usage is on the rise.

CQ Healthbeat: ICD-10 Transition To Proceed Even If Government Shuts Down

A nationwide changeover to a new set of medical billing codes will proceed on Oct. 1 even if Congress triggers a partial government shutdown that day by missing an appropriations deadline, according to a top federal official. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services already is establishing contingency plans for managing the transition to ICD-10 codes against the potential disruption of a shutdown, said Patrick H. Conway, principal deputy administrator of the agency, on a Thursday call with reporters. Managing the switch from the older ICD-9 codes is among the top priorities for the agency, and CMS has some flexibility in its staffing that can be used to keep the work on track in case of a shutdown, he said. (Young, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Docs Battle Proposal To Curb 'Surprise' Medical Bills
A contentious fight over “surprise” medical bills is complicating an effort to revise a longstanding model state law on health care provider networks. The American Medical Association and other physician groups are pushing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to drop draft language addressing what happens when patients visit facilities that are in their insurance networks but receive treatment from out-of-network providers. (Demko, 9/24)

McClatchy: Telemedicine Holds Promise Of Cheaper, Wider Medical Care
Samantha Cunningham was halfway through a five-hour road trip to a music festival in Bradley, Calif., when she realized she'd left her asthma inhaler back home in Sacramento. Her options seemed limited: go back, pick it up and be late for the concert; pay a $100 minimum fee to get a new prescription at a walk-in clinic; "or go without the inhaler and hope that they had a rescue machine at the festival on the off chance I had an asthma attack, which, of course, wasn't a very inviting prospect," Cunningham said. (Pugh, 9/24)

CAMPAIGN 2016

12. Fiorina's Position On Mandated Health Insurance Evolves Over Past Two Years

CNN questions the Republican candidate's campaign on statements Carly Fiorina made in a 2013 interview, while NPR reports on her abortion stance. Meanwhile, KHN analyzes Hillary Clinton's proposals to save consumers money on health care.

CNN: Fiorina's Long-Held Support For Mandatory Health Insurance
Carly Fiorina, who has joined other leading Republican presidential candidates in denouncing Obamacare, once backed an individual mandate to buy health insurance that could put her at odds with others in the GOP. (Moody, 9/24)

NPR: Carly Fiorina Doubles Down On Opposition To Abortion In South Carolina
Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina campaigned at a Christian pregnancy care center in South Carolina Thursday. Opposition to abortion has become a prominent message in her campaign recently. (McCammon, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The

Rx For Rising Health Costs?
While the Republicans running for president are united in their desire to repeal the federal health law, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton is fashioning her own health care agenda to tackle out-of-pocket costs – but industry experts question whether her proposals would solve the problem. In addition to defending the Affordable Care Act, Clinton released two separate proposals this week. One would seek to protect people with insurance from having to pay thousands of dollars in addition to their premiums for prescription drugs; the other would set overall limits on out-of-pocket health spending for those with insurance. (Rovner, 9/25)

HEALTH IT

13. Premera Faces 38 Class-Action Lawsuits Over Cyberattack

A security breach of the insurance company's computer system may have compromised the personal information of 11 million customers. Some of them are suing, citing attempts at identify theft. In other Health IT news, a Walgreens database outage delayed prescriptions at thousands of pharmacies.

The Seattle Times: Premera Sued Over Security Breaches
With less than a week left to apply, about 830,000 of almost 11 million current and former insurance customers have registered for credit monitoring and identity-theft protection after their personal and medical information may have been compromised in a security breach that Premera announced in March. Mountlake Terrace-based Premera maintains that it does not “have any evidence that there was any criminal activity on anyone’s account as a result of the cyberattack,” company spokeswoman Melanie Coon said in an email statement. (Garnick, 9/24)

The Chicago Tribune: Outage Of Walgreens Pharmacy Computer Database Causes Prescription Delays
Getting a prescription filled at Walgreens may take a lot longer than usual over the next few days due to an ongoing outage of the drugstore chain’s pharmacy computer database. Pharmacists have been filling prescriptions manually since the system went down Tuesday morning, causing delays for customers at all 8,200 Walgreens drugstores across the U.S., a company spokesman said Thursday. (9/24)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

14. FDA Needs More Info To Gauge Safety Of Essure Sterilization Device

The agency also wrote in a letter Thursday that a health-care startup’s cancer detection kit, which would be sold directly to healthy individuals, is high-risk and could harm public health.

NPR: FDA Advisers Call For More Safety Data On Sterilization Device
The Food and Drug Administration should gather more information to try to get a better sense of the safety of the Essure sterilization device, a panel of experts assembled by the agency recommended Thursday. (Stein, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Startup's Cancer Test For The Healthy May Harm Public, FDA Says
The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday that a health-care startup's cancer detection kit sold to healthy individuals is high-risk, could harm public health, and hasn't been validated by science. The FDA wrote to Pathway Genomics Corp. on Sept. 21 about the test, which retails for as much as $699. Patients get the test ordered by their doctor or one working for Pathway, then the company analyzes a blood sample for circulating traces of cancer. The company, which is backed by IBM Corp. and the venture capital firm Founders Fund, has touted the test as a less-expensive, faster way of detecting tumors. (Edney and Chen, 9/24)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Conn. Hospital CEO Salaries Draw Scrutiny; Calif. Counties Provide Non-Emergency Care To Undocumented Adults

Health care stories are reported from Connecticut, California, Florida, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Alabama, District of Columbia, Kansas, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Michigan and Texas.

The Connecticut Mirror: Hospital CEO Pay: Red Herring Or Key In State Funding Debate?
As hospital leaders warn of potential job and service reductions in response to state funding cuts, the six- and seven-figure pay packages of Connecticut hospital executives have emerged as a point of contention. (Levin Becker, 9/25)

NPR: California Counties Add Health Care For Immigrant Adults
A California county voted Tuesday to restore primary health care services to undocumented adults living in the county. Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco, joins 46 other California counties that have agreed to provide non-emergency care to immigrants who entered the country illegally. (Romero, 9/24)

News Service Of Florida: Bondi, Hospital System Reach $3.5M Settlement
Two days after the U.S. Department of Justice announced a $115 million legal settlement with Adventist Health System, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said Wednesday her office has reached a $3.5 million settlement with the Altamonte Springs-based hospital system. Both settlements, which stem from whistleblower lawsuits filed by Adventist employees, involve allegations that the hospital firm had improper financial arrangements with physicians. (9/24)

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: Assembly Passes Measure Cutting Taxpayer Funding Of Planned Parenthood
The state Assembly voted Thursday to strip Planned Parenthood of about $3.5 million

in government funding a year. The measure passed, 60-35, with all Republicans backing it and all Democrats opposing it. It now goes to the Senate, which like the Assembly is controlled by Republicans. (Marley, 9/24)

The Wall Street Journal: Lawmakers Fail To Override Christie Veto
New Jersey Democrats unsuccessfully attempted on Thursday to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto of a gun-control bill when most GOP supporters of the legislation decided not to buck the presidential candidate. The legislation would have prevented people with a documented history of mental illness from expunging that record to buy a gun. (Haddon, 9/24)

The New York Times: Alabama Vote Is Rare Win In The South For The U.A.W.
The 2-to-1 margin of victory at the small factory, which makes seats for trucks, represents an unusual win in the uphill battle to organize autoworkers in the South. But it was unclear whether the vote signaled a broader breakthrough for labor and the U.A.W. in a region that has historically been allergic to most unions. Employees at C.V.G. cited low pay, which tops out at $15.80 an hour, the growing use of temporary workers at even lower wages and rising health insurance costs as reasons they voted to join the union. (Cohen, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives
Under a new law, District of Columbia women will be able to scratch one item off their list of things to worry about: running out of birth control pills. Under the law, which passed its congressional review period this month, women will be able to get a year's supply of pills at once. Prescriptions for birth control pills typically have to be renewed every 30 or 90 days, potentially resulting in women missing scheduled pills. The yearlong provision will begin in 2017. (Andrews, 9/25)

The Associated Press: Utah Unveils Tool Showing Impact Of Federal Budget Crisis
Lawwmakers worried about Utah's reliance on U.S. government funds unveiled an online calculator Thursday that shows how the state would be hit by various federal budget disasters like a shutdown. ... The calculator comes with several built-in scenarios that the commission says are "extreme but possible," such as broad federal spending cuts and or deep slashes to Medicaid money. On the website, the public can access a slimmed down version of a more sophisticated tool that legislative budget staff can use. (Price, 9/24)

The Kansas Health Institute News Service: Mental Health Advocates Question 72-Hour Involuntary Hold Proposal
Several advocates for people with mental illness on Wednesday panned a proposal that would allow treatment facilities to hold people in crisis situations for up to 72 hours as involuntary patients. "This is a deprivation of liberty," Mike Burgess, a spokesperson with the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, said during a meeting of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition. It would be better, he said, to expand access to voluntary treatment. (Ranney, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Orlando Health To 5,000 Patients: Redo Mammograms
Orlando Health mailed letters today to more than 5,300 patients who may have gotten

bad mammograms. Women who went to the Boston Diagnostic Imaging location on Orange Avenue from May of 2013 to July of 2015 are asked to call Orlando Health. It's unclear why the Boston Diagnostic center has lost its accreditation, but Orlando Health bought the center last December. (Aboraya, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Isolation Increases Florida's Rural Suicide Rates
Florida's rural counties are seeing suicide rates for youth almost double that of the state's large cities. And experts say isolation, poverty, access to firearms and a lack of mental health resources are to blame. ... the teen suicide rate in Florida's small towns has doubled in the past 20 years. From 2012 through 2014, almost 8,000 youth younger than 21 killed themselves in Florida. Of those, 520 come from rural communities -- a significant number given their populations. Also, experts say the number of teen suicides could be much higher, in part because medical examiners and law enforcement don't have an objective set of criteria to decide whether to label a death as suicide. (Miller and Klingener, 9/24)

The Associated Press: Chiropractor Says Iowa Officials Wrong About Payment Rules
A chiropractor accused of improper Medicaid billings says Iowa officials are wrong about coverage eligibility for some conditions. Prosecutors said Thursday that Elizabeth Kressin, of Spencer, had submitted improper claims for more than seven years for what the prosecutors said were medically unnecessary chiropractic procedures for which payments weren't allowed. They include bed wetting, colic and ear infections. (9/25)

The Associated Press: Survey Shows Big Drop In Uninsured Nevada Kindergartners
An annual health survey of Nevada kindergartners shows a big drop in the percentage of children without health insurance, a change that researchers attribute to more use of Medicaid benefits. The seventh annual report from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, showed 7.6 percent of kindergartners were uninsured last school year, down from 12.6 percent a year earlier. (Rindels, 9/24)

The Charlotte Observer: New Charlotte VA Center Will Expand Veterans Health Care In Region
Charlotte's new Veterans Affairs Health Care Center won't open officially for more than six months. ... The Charlotte site is one of seven new VA health centers approved by Congress in 2010. The Salisbury hospital region is one of the fastest growing in the country, said VA spokesman Barthalomew Major. An estimated 140,000 veterans live in the Charlotte metropolitan area, about 60,000 in Mecklenburg County alone. Although the number of veterans nationwide is declining, the number of veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system in increasing, Major said. Over the past 10 years, the number of VA patients nationwide has increased by 23 percent, but in the Salisbury region, the increase has been 66 percent, he said. (Garloch, 9/24)

The Detroit Free Press: Doctor: Lead Seen In More Flint Kids Since Water Switch
Flint's ongoing water woes are now associated with an immediate and irreversible danger — possible lead poisoning of some of the city's children, according to a review of blood test results by a Hurley Children's Hospital pediatrician. ... State officials say their own review of blood test results have not shown the same increase that [Dr. Mona] Hanna-Attisha found. Moreover, water tests have similarly shown lead within

federally accepted levels, they say. (Erb, 9/24)

The San Antonio Express-News: Judge To Halt Medicaid Cuts For Therapy Services
A judge has decided to temporarily block tens of millions of dollars in planned Medicaid funding cuts, likely ensuring that thousands of children with disabilities will continue to access therapy services after Oct. 1. (Rosenthal, 9/24)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Economics Of Chronic Care; State-Run Marketplaces

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Annals of Internal Medicine: Medicare Chronic Care Management Payments And Financial Returns To Primary Care Practices--A Modeling Study
Physicians have traditionally been reimbursed for face-to-face visits. A new non–visit-based payment for chronic care management (CCM) of Medicare patients took effect in January 2015. ... If nonphysician staff were to deliver CCM services, net revenue to practices would increase despite opportunity and staffing costs. Practices could expect approximately $332 per enrolled patient per year... if CCM services were delivered by registered nurses (RNs), approximately $372 ... if services were delivered by licensed practical nurses, and approximately $385 ... if services were delivered by medical assistants. ... At a minimum, 131 Medicare patients ... must enroll for practices to recoup the salary and overhead costs of hiring a full-time RN to provide CCM services. (Basu et al., 9/22)

The Commonwealth Fund: The Experiences of State-Run Marketplaces That Use HealthCare.gov
This brief explores the experiences of four states—Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon—that established their own exchanges but have operated them with support from the federal HealthCare.gov eligibility and enrollment platform. Drawing on discussions with policymakers, insurers, and brokers, we examine how these supported state-run marketplaces perform their key functions. We find that this model may offer states the ability to maximize their influence over their insurance markets, while limiting the financial risk of running an exchange. (Giovannelli and Lucia, 9/17)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Serving Low-Income Seniors Where They Live: Medicaid's Role In Providing Community-Based Long-Term Services And Supports
To better understand the low-income population with [long-term services and supports] LTSS needs, including those covered by Medicaid and those who are not, this issue brief examines the need for LTSS among seniors who live in the community and need LTSS. We use the 2011 National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) to examine rates of need for LTSS and detail the characteristics of seniors who need these services. Throughout the brief, we compare dual eligible beneficiaries to low-income seniors without Medicaid. We also examine a third group, higher income seniors

without Medicaid, to understand the role of income. Because LTSS needs increase with age, we also examine differences by age. (Garfield, 9/18)

National Governors Association: Using Data To Better Serve The Most Complex Patients: Highlights From NGA's Intensive Work With Seven States
[C]omplex care patients, sometimes referred to as super-utilizers, have comorbid and often serious conditions. ... such conditions often span both physical and behavioral health and are often further complicated by social factors, such as housing instability, poverty, or limited education. ... complex care patients represent only a small proportion (5 percent) of [Medicaid] beneficiaries but account for more than half of program costs. ... the National Governors Association has worked with several states to develop statewide [data] initiatives for improving the management of care for super-utilizers .... The following lessons learned can help state leaders ...: Understand the characteristics of complex populations. ... Identify and target specific patients. ... Ensure effective management and evaluation. (Isasi, 9/23)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

Reuters: Americans Overpaying Hugely For Cancer Drugs - Study
Americans are paying way over the odds for some modern cancer drugs, with pharmaceutical companies charging up to 600 times what the medicines cost to make, according to an independent academic study. The United States also pays more than double the price charged in Europe for these drugs - so-called tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), a potent class of cancer pills with fewer side effects than chemotherapy. The analysis by pharmacologist Andrew Hill of Britain's University of Liverpool, who will present his findings at the Sept. 25-29 European Cancer Congress in Vienna, is likely to fuel a growing storm over U.S. drug costs. (Hirschler, 9/22)

The Philadelphia Inquirer/Health Day: ERs Often 'Safety Net' Care For People With Schizophrenia: CDC
A new report finds that, too often, under-medicated Americans suffering from schizophrenia end up seeking care in the nation's hospital emergency rooms. The report, issued Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that between 2009 and 2011, over 382,000 visits to ERs were recorded for people aged 18 to 64 with schizophrenia. (9/23)

Reuters: Weight-Loss Surgery May Not Increase Health Costs For Diabetes
Weight loss surgery may be a cost-effective way of lowering blood sugar for many diabetics, not just those who are severely obese, a Swedish study suggests. Researchers found that for people with diabetes, total healthcare costs did not rise in the years following weight-loss surgery, largely because of overall savings from less use of healthcare and medications. (Rapaport, 9/23)

Reuters: A Text Message A Day May Keep The Doctor Away
Texting patients regular reminders to do things like eat right, exercise more and smoke less may help them make lifestyle changes linked to a lower risk of heart attacks and strokes, an Australian study suggests. Researchers sent four texts a week to about 350 people with heart disease to supplement their regular care with reminders designed to encourage healthier habits. Another group of about 350 patients stuck with their usual

care routines but didn't receive texts. (9/23)

The New York Times: Consumers Are Embracing Full-Fat Foods
Public health authorities have long urged Americans to cut back on foods high in saturated fat like butter, meat and whole milk. But a new report on dietary-fat consumption suggests that the public is increasingly eating more, not less, of these foods. The new report, which was published last week by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, found that sales of butter in the United States rose 14 percent last year and climbed another 6 percent in the first three months of 2015. Sales of whole milk rose 11 percent in the first half of this year, while skim milk purchases fell 14 percent. The report also predicted that consumption of red meat and eggs would climb in the coming years. (O'Connor, 9/23)

Reuters: Telehealth Visits May Be An Option After Surgery
People may happily, and safely, forgo in-person doctors' visits after surgery by opting instead for talking with their surgeons by phone or video, suggests a small study of U.S. veterans. Most patients preferred the virtual visits and the doctors didn't miss any infections that popped up after surgery, the researchers report in JAMA Surgery. (Seaman, 9/23)

Medscape: Many Poor Kids With Mental Illness Miss Out On Benefits
A "sizable" number of US children with mental disorders who are from low-income households do not receive federal benefits under the Social Security Administration's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, according to a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, in Washington, DC. However, the number of these children who are receiving SSI funds is growing at a pace consistent with the mental health trends in the general population, the report indicates. (Brooks, 9/21)

Medscape: DNR After In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest May Not Match Prognosis
Among patients who had an in-hospital cardiac arrest and successful restoration of spontaneous circulation, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders were generally issued quickly and reflected predicted prognosis, a new study reports. However, the study, which was published in the September 22/29, 2015 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, also identified room for improvement. (Busko, 9/23)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: Pinning Blame For A Possible Shutdown; Medicare Should Help On Drug Prices

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Los Angeles Times: Are Democrats Actually The Ones Trying To Shut Down The Government?
So, who's trying to shut down the government, Democrats or Republicans? The answer, naturally, depends on whom you ask. ... But another way, it was Republicans

who decided to tie the continued operation of government to the question of whether Planned Parenthood should receive Medicaid dollars. They took the hostage, they're responsible for the consequences. Feel free to debate the merits of Planned Parenthood all you like, but this fight isn't new. The recent videos didn't seem to persuade any of the organization's supporters in Congress to flip to the other side. So the outcome Thursday wasn't just predictable, it was a certainty. (Jon Healey, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Plum Line: Government Shutdown Fight May Again Shake Up GOP Presidential Race

With the big news out of Congress today the warm welcome received by Pope Francis, one might forget that our nation's august legislature is headed for yet another government shutdown, this time over Republican demands that the government cut off all funding for Planned Parenthood, most of which comes in the form of Medicaid reimbursements for women's health care. This comes at a particularly inopportune time for Republicans. Just when it was starting to look like their chaotic presidential primary might be heading to a more sane place, the shutdown controversy threatens to drag it backwards, boosting the candidates the party fears most. (Paul Waldman, 9/24)

The Washington Post's The Fix: Donald Trump Just Went After Martin Shkreli. Why In The World Isn't The Rest Of The GOP?

Jumping into the prescription drug debate could help elevate those candidates' plans, because prescription drug prices is one of the few health-care issues where Americans agree that the status quo needs to change. In fact, 76 percent of Americans said dealing with prescription drug prices should be Washington's No. 1 health-care priority, according to an April poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation. ... GOP front-runner Donald Trump is regularly praised by liberal leaders, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D), for his call to raise taxes on the wealthy. Want to out-Trump Trump? Why not start talking about an issue that matters deeply to so many Americans? (Amber Phillips, 9/24)

Huffington Post: Top LGBT Group Wants Congress To Investigate Drug Company That Proposed Massive Price Hike

One of the nation's highest-profile LGBT advocacy organizations has joined the calls for Congress to investigate Turing Pharmaceuticals, the company that recently sparked a national backlash when it proposed hiking the price of a critical anti-infection drug. On Wednesday, The Huffington Post has learned, the Human Rights Campaign sent letters to the chairmen of three key House committees with jurisdiction over health care and the drug industry. In the letters, the organization calls upon the committees to investigate Turing's recent announcement that it would raise the price of drug called Daraprim, a treatment for toxoplasmosis, from $13.50 to $750 a tablet. (Jonathan Cohn, 9/24)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: A 5,455 Percent Price Increase? Expect More Of It

After Pope Francis's visit to the U.S., possibly the biggest news item this week has been the depraved price increase that Turing Pharmaceuticals posted for its drug, Daraprim. Although the 5,455 percent that Turing hiked Daraprim's price is astounding, the absolute daily price is less than that of many other drugs and the practice of gouging prices on specialty drugs is consistent with practices across the industry. (Daniel R. Hoffman, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Let Medicare Tackle High Drug Costs

Yes, the U.S. pays 40 percent more for drugs than other countries do, and last year those costs rose 12.6 percent. But the increase is expected to slow, and drugs still account for just 10 cents of every dollar Americans spend on health care. What has rightly made drug costs a political issue, however, are the astronomical prices of a few specialty medicines. ... The best strategy to push down such prices -- the one endorsed by [Hillary] Clinton and one of her rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bernie Sanders -- is to give Medicare, which pays for 29 percent of all U.S. prescription drug purchases, the ability to negotiate prices with drugmakers. That Medicare doesn't already do this is Congress's fault. (9/24)

Tribune News Service: Patients Win As Larger Insurers Seek To Cut Costs With Better Service

The planned mergers of several of America's largest health insurers Aetna combining with Humana, and Anthem with Cigna is almost certain to be good for the insurers, reducing overhead and improving their bargaining position as they attempt to negotiate better rates with providers. But what's in it for you and me? The answer may surprise you: In all likelihood, the mergers will lead to better medical care at lower costs. (Jon Kaplan, 9/24)

The Washington Post: Want To Fight Poverty? Expand Access To Contraception.

Pope Francis's visit has brought renewed attention to some of our nation's toughest economic challenges: inequality, poverty and income (im)mobility. These are pressing issues that leaders of both political parties say they want to tackle, but they disagree on useful, or even acceptable, policy tools. I have a humble suggestion for an antipoverty policy that, if framed correctly, could appeal to both left and right (though probably not Francis). That policy: better access to contraception. (Catherine Rampell, 9/24)

Forbes: Utah Proposes Tax On The Sick To Pay For Obamacare Medicaid Expansion

After the legislature blocked his Obamacare Medicaid expansion plans in 2014 and 2015, Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) began working with legislative leaders to negotiate some kind of "compromise" to expand the program to more than 100,000 able-bodied adults. Although the deal is being negotiated in secret, some details have been leaked to the public. According to the few specifics made public, the biggest component of the negotiated framework is to levy a new "assessment" on medical providers in Utah to help pay for the state's share of expansion. But the so-called assessment is simply a new Obamacare tax on the sick that will not only raise health care costs for all Utahns, but add significantly to the national debt. (Nic Horton, Jonathan Ingram and Josh Archambault, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Wonkblog: We Must Act On Global Health Because Millions Of Lives Are At Stake

The report made a strong case that the benefits of the right health investments far exceed the costs. Indeed, I believe the moral and economic case for investments in health care--both prevention and treatment--is as or more compelling than in any other area in the developing world. The dramatic declines in child mortality and increases in life expectancy demonstrate that policy can make an immense difference. (Lawrence Summers, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Pope Moves The Needle In U.S. Politics

Pope Francis hasn't changed any church policies on economics, social justice, war, abortion or gay marriage. As if to underscore that point, on Wednesday he visited the Little Sisters of the Poor, which took the U.S. government to court to fight a requirement that religious organizations cover birth control in the health insurance they provide to employees. Yet in his emphasis on the plight of the poor, immigrants and the environment, this pope has changed the Catholic Church's tone and rebalanced its priorities. That bothers conservative activists in the U.S., where the Catholic hierarchy for three decades has largely been identified with Republicans and the culture wars because of its stress on abortion and gay marriage. (Albert R. Hunt, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Physician Payment After The SGR — The New Meritocracy

The “doc fix” — a permanent replacement for the unworkable sustainable growth rate formula (SGR) enacted in 1997 for calculating Medicare's physician fees — had been a long time coming .... At the heart of the legislation is the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which replaces the Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier to move physician payment under Medicare further into the territory of value-based purchasing. ... When it is implemented, the MIPS will become the largest physician pay-for-performance scheme in the world and the first to create a single value-based purchasing framework covering the full spectrum of physician specialties. This new meritocracy will need to be flexible enough to account for the heterogeneous practice styles of the professionals who care for Medicare beneficiaries and the settings in which they work. (Meredith B. Rosenthal, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Leap Of Faith — Medicare's New Physician Payment System

These changes mark a new era, in which Medicare offers powerful incentives for physicians to participate in ACOs and other innovative payment and delivery models. ... This revamping reflects a broader movement in U.S. health care toward paying for medical services on the basis of value rather than volume — a movement built on the prevailing view in the health policy community that cost-containment efforts can succeed only if we move away from fee-for-service payment. But there are several important problems with this belief and the reforms it inspires. (Jonathan Oberlander and Miriam J. Laugesen, 9/24)

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From: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 12:17 PM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Cc: Lyon, Nick (DHHS);Wyant, Dan (DEQ);Harkins, Chris (DTMB);Starr, Scott (DTMB);Zimmer, Mike (LARA)
Subject: Flint Water FY 2016 Supplemental Budget Request
Attachments: Flint Water FY 2016 Supplemental Budget Request.docx

John-
Attached is the draft request for Flint water. I understand that you have spoken with Dan and these numbers may change. We are trying to be inclusive to ensure this is total request and we don't have to go back for more. Call me if you need any clarification or if you want me to update anything.

Director Zimmer- Dan included 2 staff for LARA for the lead exposure testing. Please let us know if that is not accurate.

Thanks,
Maggie

Maggie Pallone
Deputy Director
Policy and Legislative Affairs
Department of Environmental Quality
517-599-6190 (cell)
PalloneM@michigan.gov

DRAFT Flint Water FY 2016 Supplemental Budget Request

1. $1 Million for Filters

The $1 million for filters will be used to purchase filters for households in Flint that do not qualify for assistance under any of the DHHS assistance programs. Filters for those residents will be paid for out of funding already in place in DHHS' budget. Each filter cost $20 and were ordered in bulk through Home Depot. Filters are being distributed through local public health, with documentation filed for each filter handed out.

2. $6 Million for switch from Flint River to DWSD

It will cost the City of Flint an additional $1.3 million per month to use DWSD instead of the Flint River. The State and the City agreed to split the cost until June 2016, when the new Karegnondi Water Authority will be completed and Flint will switch to that water source. ($1.3 million for 9 months)

3. $1.5 Million for 12 additional staff to do community Lead Exposure Testing

DEQ, DHHS and LARA are assembling a team to go into schools and high risk homes to test for lead exposure. The request is for 8 staff for DHHS, 2 staff for DEQ and 2 staff for LARA.

4. $1 Million for evaluating sample results at the State Lab

The new testing protocols for schools will require each faucet in the school to be tested and evaluated at the State lab. In addition, lead exposure testing in homes will result in tens of thousands more samples that will be need to processed. Each sample costs $26 to process.

Total Ask: $9.5 Million

From: Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:42 AM
To: Hanley, Farah (DCH);'Elizabeth Hertel'
Cc: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB);Fosdick, David (DTMB) (FosdickD@michigan.gov)
Subject: Flint Water follow up

Farah and Elizabeth,
I wanted to follow up quickly to both make sure I've got things square from our side but also present a couple questions.

Current status: Filters (my quick overview of where things stand for the Dept.) – total of $2.016M to be available
To begin purchasing the first round of water filters for local Flint residents, DHHS has begun spending out of an FY16 ARF from the Emergency Services Local Office Allocation (ESLOA) line. To support that spend, DEQ has transferred $1.0 M from their settlement line over to the ESLOA. Either a contingency transfer or supplemental will needed to support this move to ensure proper 'other restricted' authority is within the line. SBO will work on which process to pursue to resolve quickest.

As the filters are expected to need to be replaced at least once, DHHS has put forward an FY15 work project from the ESLOA line for $1.016 M. We're processing that yet today in case the additional funds are necessary later (which we would expect to the be the case).

Question: Is there a better line from which to spend? Perhaps we could utilize something like local public health? (Connects to the point below)

Other issues:

[redacted]

Thanks,
Harkins

From: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality <MIDEQ@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 9:45 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: [DEQ] DEQ Director Dan Wyant issues statement about Flint drinking water

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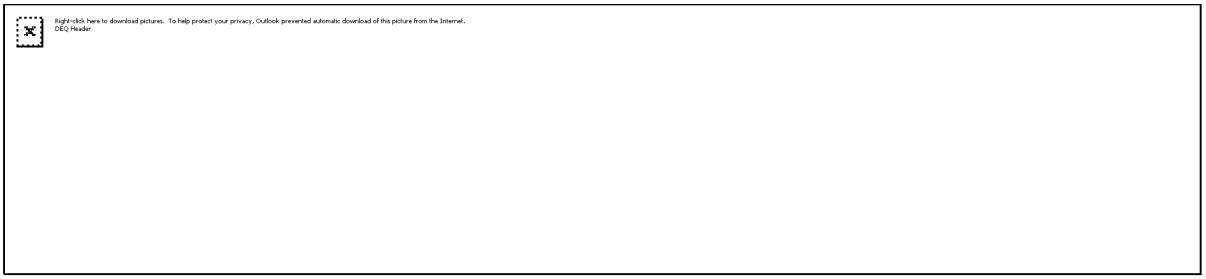

DEQ Director Dan Wyant today made the following statement as he announced DEQ Chief Deputy Jim Sygo will immediately assume the role of interim chief of the department's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance:

"It recently has become clear that our drinking water program staff made a mistake while working with the City of Flint. Simply stated, staff employed a federal protocol they believed was appropriate, and it was not. The water testing steps followed would have been correct for a city less than 50,000 people, but not for a city of nearly 100,000.

As details of the situation emerge, I am convinced our program staff believed they were doing their job right. As the state recognized there could be a health threat to Flint residents, we took appropriate steps. We are now embarked on an unprecedented effort to safeguard Flint residents and families with near-term, intermediate and long-term actions to protect and educate city residents.

The issue in DEQ is experience and protocol with respect to corrosion control. The Governor has called for an independent, third-party after-action review. I have taken the step of changing leadership in the division. We are working with our federal partners and committed to being part of the U.S. EPA's effort to strengthen its Lead and Copper Rule.

All who brought this issue to the department deserve credit for bringing it forward. Lead is a serious issue, particularly for young people, and we take it seriously. The Governor's plan incorporates the suggestions outlined by the EPA and researchers at Virginia Tech.

We will learn from this. We will make necessary changes to see to it that our program becomes a national leader in public health protection."

Questions?
Contact Us
Ph: 800-662-9278

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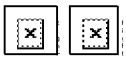

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This email was sent to harrisonj1@michigan.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality · Constitution Hall · 525 West Allegan Street · PO Box 30473 · Lansing, MI 48909 · 800-662-9278

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 4:55 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Hamilton Dam

From: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 4:53 PM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Cc: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Hamilton Dam

Understood. Thanks for tracking this down.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 4:25 PM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Cc: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Hamilton Dam
Importance: High

Just spoke with the agency again, this is more of the Flint water system issue. Specifically, the Hamilton Dam has historically, been the secondary water source for the City, however, with the cancellation of the Detroit Water contract, this is now the primary water source, along with the Flint River. Hence the urgency . . .

Unfortunately, no state DEQ/DNR restricted or federal programs are available for dam repair/removal. Therefore, general fund support has been the default for years. According to a CRC report from 2007, (see page 56 here) the City sought to utilize its sewer and water fund, however, learned it could not borrow from the State Revolving Fund to accommodate the $7.5 million price tag. Given Flint's overall budget situation, and it's water challenges, this is just more of the same . . .

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 4:13 PM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Cc: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Subject: Hamilton Dam

John,

DNR indicates this 100 year old structure, located outside of the U of M Flint campus, is rated as "unsatisfactory" by DEQ/DNR technical staff, with an estimated price tag to repair in the $7.5 million range (2007 report). The City of Flint owns the structure, and State resources to address are simply non-existent.

Specifically, DNR has some $350,000 GF/GP appropriated for dam management assistance statewide. One-time GF/GP support of $2 million was provided in Fy13 for statewide efforts, however, we have been unable to add more monies to date.

[Note: DNR got off of my call to field an heavily anticipated incoming from a scientist knowledgeable about this project. I will provide further update once the agency calls back.]

Jacques

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 1:02 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: RE: DRAFT City of Flint Solution
Attachments: City of Flint Water Funding Solution.pdf

Thank you Jenny! I have a few items to note.

1) For the $1 million to reconnect to DSW, it is coming from DEQ's settlements fund 0549. It was my understanding that we may be potentially transferring these funds again to DHHS and that these funds would be spent/appropriated from DHHS.
2) For the 2 FTEs under additional agency support, does the DEQ need to do anything to add these FTEs in the FY17 budget?

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 12:28 PM
To: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Subject: FW: DRAFT City of Flint Solution
Importance: High

See attached.

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 12:14 PM
To: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Khouri, Nick (TREASURY); Saxton, Thomas (Treasury); Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Lyon, Nick (DHHS); Zimmer, Mike (LARA); Muchmore, Dennis (GOV)
Cc: Pohl, Allan (LARA); Hanley, Farah (DHHS); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Roberts, John (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Peruchietti, Cindy (Treasury); Epkey, Amy (DEQ)
Subject: DRAFT City of Flint Solution
Importance: High

Colleagues,

Please find attached summary of where the State Budget Office believes we are based on this morning's meeting hosted by Director Wyant. This reflects the State commitment of resources towards provision of filters, reconnecting to Detroit Water & Sewage, and home/school/other inspections. Your quick review would be appreciated, since the Governor wants to share with legislative leaders yet today. I have included your budget officers to assist in the review.

Open issues are: (1) where to place the appropriation for the Flint re-connect and (2) whether (and what) boilerplate we may need/want.

Thanks.

Nancy Duncan
Deputy State Budget Director
517-373-0870

City of Flint Water - Funding Solution
State of Michigan Commitment

Agency	GF/GP	Gross	Comments
Filters:			
MSHDA		$225,000	Does not require board approval.
Health & Human Services	$1,016,000	$1,016,000	Towards 2nd round of filters. (AY15 work project)
Health & Human Services	$0	$1,000,000	Environmental Quality - State Restricted Settlement Funds provided to HHS Emergency Services local office for 1st round of filters.
Subtotal Filters:	**$1,016,000**	**$2,241,000**	
Reconnect to DSW:			
Environmental Quality	$0	$1,000,000	State Restricted Settlement Fund support.
Health & Human Services	$0	$0	
MI Strategic Fund	$0	TBD	
State Budget Office	$5,000,000	$5,000,000	FY15 general fund lapse resources.
Subtotal Reconnect:	**$5,000,000**	**$6,000,000**	
Additional Agency Support:			
LARA	TBD	TBD	Provision of 5-7 plumbing inspectors to do schools (public and parochial) and health facilities (hospitals, Long Term Care, etc.).
Health & Human Services	TBD	TBD	Provision for home and school inspections. Cost will be absorbed within existing resources.
Environmental Quality	TBD	TBD	Provision of 2 FTEs for home and school inspections. Cost will be absorbed within existing resources.
Subtotal Additional Support:	**$0**	**$0**	
ALL TOTAL	**$6,016,000**	**$8,241,000**	

From: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB);Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint supplemental
Attachments: LARA - Flint Water - 10-7-15.doc

Here is the supplemental for LARA.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:10 AM
To: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: Flint supplemental

Need to talk to you about the supplemental (line and fund source) as soon as possible. Thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified position..... 1.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers.....		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Total federal revenues		0
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		200,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

(2) OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION

Full-time equated classified position..... 1.0		
Bureau of construction codes	$	200,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Appropriated from:		
Construction code fund		200,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

EXPLANATION:

This supplemental provides $200,000 in construction code funds to support efforts in ensuring the safety of the City of Flint's water system. The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs will use use this budgetary authorization and existing resources for plumbing inspections of schools and health facilities within the City of Flint.

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:44 AM
To: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB);Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint supplemental

Jenny – does this answer your questions. We are both in if you need us.

From: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:41 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint supplemental

Here is the supplemental for LARA.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:10 AM
To: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: Flint supplemental

Need to talk to you about the supplemental (line and fund source) as soon as possible. Thanks.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 12:30 PM
To: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ);McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Cc: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: Revised boilerplate language

From the funds appropriated for the City of Flint emergency water services, the department is authorized to pay up to $6.0 million for re-connection services to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the parties and a successful re-connection has occurred to the Flint Water System. These funds are intended to pay re-connection costs through June 30, 2016.

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 12:37 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: Try this

The department is funding the purchase of water filters for Flint residents and is partnering for their distribution with the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. In addition, it will make arrangements for nursing, clinical investigators and other health care personnel to address child blood level concerns in that community. These efforts will include inspections of homes for lead safety.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 8:27 AM
To: SBOBudgetaryTransactions
Cc: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB);Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ);McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: FW: EBA for PA 143 of 2015
Attachments: 761004 - Flint Supplemental 10.16.15.xls

This EBA has been approved – could you put in the approved folder and process it ASAP. Thanks.

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 8:15 AM
To: SBOBudgetaryTransactions
Cc: Epkey, Amy (DEQ); McDonald, Paul (DEQ); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: EBA for PA 143 of 2015

Hello,

Attached is an EBA to process for PA 143 of 2015. It would be greatly appreciated if this could be processed this morning.

Thank you,
Sylvia

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**STATE BUDGET OFFICE**						
2	**BUDGETARY TRANSACTION PROCESSING IN MAIN-FACS**						
3							
4							
5	**TYPE OF TRANSACTION:**	Supplemental					
6							
7	**AGENCY CODE:**	761					
8	**DEPARTMENT:**	Environmental Quality					
9	**FILE #:**	761004					
10	**FISCAL YEAR:**	2015-2016					
11	**DATE:**	10/1/2015					
12							
13							
14							
15				**"20"**	**"D22"**	**"D23"**	**FINANCE**
16	**UNIT/LINE ITEM TITLES**		**AY**	**APPR #**	**FUND #**	**FUND #**	**TYPE**
17							
18	TO:	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION					
19		City of Flint Emergency Water Services	2016	04770			
20		General Purpose Financing - Expenditures			0110	0001	01
21		Settlement Funds			0110	0549	02
22							
23		Drinking Water and Environmental Health	2016	04732			
24		General Purpose Financing - Expenditures			0110	0001	01
25							
26		REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION					
27		Laboratory Services	2016	04526			
28		General Purpose Financing - Expenditures			0110	0001	01
29							
30	**GRAND TOTAL:**						
31							
32							
33	**EXPLANATION:**	To post the supplemental budget provided for in PA 143 of 2015 (house bill 4102.)					
34							
35							
36							
37							
38							

	H	I	J	K	L	M
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14	**1st QTR**	**2nd QTR**	**3rd QTR**	**4th QTR**	**TOTAL**	**TOTAL**
15	**Effective**	**Effective**	**Effective**	**Effective**	**"D23"**	**"20"**
16	**10/01**	**01/01**	**04/01**	**07/01**	**FUND**	**APPR**
17						
18						
19						$6,000,000
20	$5,000,000				$5,000,000	
21	$1,000,000				$1,000,000	
22						
23						$300,000
24	$300,000				$300,000	
25						
26						
27						$1,000,000
28	$1,000,000				$1,000,000	
29						
30	**$7,300,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$7,300,000**	**$7,300,000**
31						
32						
33						
34						
35						
36						
37						
38						

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
78							
79							
80							
81	Administrative Transfer						
82	Legislative Transfer						
83	Supplemental						
84	Boilerplate Supplemental						
85	Executive Order Reorganization						
86	Other Transaction Processing						

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 5:02 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: Settlements Projections
Attachments: Settlements Cash Projection for FY16 10.28.15.xlsx

Hi Jenny!

Attached is a very rough draft of the projections for the settlements fund. Please note the following in your review:

1) The revenue projections are conservative based on the downward trend in enforcement.
2) The projected ending fund balance at the end of FY16 is only $151,400 and $269,800 at the end of FY17.
3) By maintaining such a low fund balance the department loses flexibility to cover other potential emergencies or cover any year end closing issues. If funding/flexibility is not available, appropriation transfers may be needed during the year.

I hope that this information is helpful in your analysis! Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,
Sylvia

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

	A	B
1	**State of Michigan**	
2	**Department of Environmental Quality**	
3	**Administration Division**	
4	**Settlements Projections**	
5	**For Fiscal Year 2016**	
6		
7		
8	**FY16 Beginning Balance**	2,500,000
9		
10	Projected Revenue	1,000,000
11		
12	Total Projected Funding Available	3,500,000
13		
14		
15	**Projected Expenditures**	
16	Executive Appropriation	(11,400)
17	Office of the Great Lakes Appropriation	(111,900)
18	Office of Environmental Assistance Appropriation	(259,200)
19	Central Support Services Appropriation	(28,000)
20	Accounting Service Center Appropriation	(8,500)
21	IT Move to Con Hall Project	(450,000)
22	Lab Business Analysis	(75,000)
23	Audits	(100,000)
24	Contract for Public Relations	(100,000)
25	Contract for Michigan Strategic Water Fund	(150,000)
26	Transfer to DHHS for Flint	(1,000,000)
27	Flint Supplemental	(1,000,000)
28	Reserved for Open MOPs	(54,600)
29	Total Projected Expenditures	(3,348,600)
30		
31	**FY16 Projected Ending Fund Balance**	**151,400**
32		
33		
34	Projected FY17 Revenue	750,000
35		
36	**Projected FY17 Expenses**	
37	Executive Appropriation	(11,700)
38	Office of the Great Lakes Appropriation	(115,300)
39	Office of Environmental Assistance Appropriation	(267,000)
40	Central Support Services Appropriation	(28,800)
41	Accounting Service Center Appropriation	(8,800)
42	Michigan Strategic Water Fund	(100,000)

	A	B
43	Audits	(100,000)
44	Total Projected Expenditures	(631,600)
45		
46	**Projected FY17 Ending Fund Balance**	**269,800**

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Settlements Projections
Attachments: Settlements Cash Projection for FY16 10.28.15.xlsx

Oops! I forgot the attachment.

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Settlements Projections

Hi Jenny!

Attached is the updated projection for the settlements fund. I have added in a line for the Flint contingency as agreed upon between Paul and Nancy.

Please let me know if you need any additional information!

Happy Halloween!
Sylvia

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2015 5:02 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: Settlements Projections

Hi Jenny!

Attached is a very rough draft of the projections for the settlements fund. Please note the following in your review:

1) The revenue projections are conservative based on the downward trend in enforcement.
2) The projected ending fund balance at the end of FY16 is only $151,400 and $269,800 at the end of FY17.
3) By maintaining such a low fund balance the department loses flexibility to cover other potential emergencies or cover any year end closing issues. If funding/flexibility is not available, appropriation transfers may be needed during the year.

I hope that this information is helpful in your analysis! Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,
Sylvia

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

	A	B
1	**State of Michigan**	
2	**Department of Environmental Quality**	
3	**Administration Division**	
4	**Settlements Projections**	
5	**For Fiscal Year 2016**	
6		
7		
8	**FY16 Beginning Balance**	2,500,000
9		
10	Projected Revenue	1,000,000
11		
12	Total Projected Funding Available	3,500,000
13		
14		
15	**Projected Expenditures**	
16	Executive Appropriation	(11,400)
17	Office of the Great Lakes Appropriation	(111,900)
18	Office of Environmental Assistance Appropriation	(259,200)
19	Central Support Services Appropriation	(28,000)
20	Accounting Service Center Appropriation	(8,500)
21	IT Move to Con Hall Project	(450,000)
22	Lab Business Analysis	(75,000)
23	Audits	(100,000)
24	Contract for Public Relations	(100,000)
25	Contract for Michigan Strategic Water Fund	(150,000)
26	Transfer to DHHS for Flint	(1,000,000)
27	Flint Supplemental	(1,000,000)
28	Flint Contingency	(300,000)
29	Reserved for Open MOPs	(54,600)
30	Total Projected Expenditures	(3,648,600)
31		
32	**FY16 Projected Ending Fund Balance**	**(148,600)**
33		
34		
35	Projected FY17 Revenue	750,000
36		
37	**Projected FY17 Expenses**	
38	Executive Appropriation	(11,700)
39	Office of the Great Lakes Appropriation	(115,300)
40	Office of Environmental Assistance Appropriation	(267,000)
41	Central Support Services Appropriation	(28,800)
42	Accounting Service Center Appropriation	(8,800)

	A	B
43	Michigan Strategic Water Fund	(100,000)
44	Audits	(100,000)
45	Total Projected Expenditures	(631,600)
46		
47	**Projected FY17 Ending Fund Balance**	**(30,200)**

From: Epkey, Amy (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 11:41 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Drinking Water Program Funding Request
Attachments: Flint Supplemental.pdf

Please see below

From: Epkey, Amy (DEQ)
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 3:55 PM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB) <duncann1@michigan.gov>
Cc: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB) <mcneelyj@michigan.gov>
Subject: Drinking Water Program Funding Request

Nancy,

As a follow-up to my voicemail, I am attaching additional information related to the funding request that Director Wyant spoke to John about. The request includes $3.9 million of one-time funding to keep Flint on the Great Lakes Water Authority system until December 2016. The request also includes $3 million of ongoing funding for additional expertise, sampling, and testing.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Amy Epkey, Deputy Director of Administration
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Phone: (517) 284-5002

Department of Environmental Quality
Drinking Water Program Budget Request
December 22, 2015

Appropriation	FTEs		Amount
One-Time (2016 Supplemental)			
City of Flint Emergency Water Services		$	3,900,000
• Support half of the cost for Flint to stay on the Great Lakes Water Authority water system for six additional months (July 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016) until the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is completed.			
• This request assumes the other 50% of the costs to stay on the existing system will be supported by funding from local partners.			
• There may be additional costs for Flint to connect to the Karegnondi Water Authority water system. This request assumes those costs will be a local cost and not funded by the state.			
Total One-Time Funding		$	3,900,000
Ongoing			
Drinking Water and Environmental Health			
Staff			
Corrosion Control Specialists	3	$	450,000
Sampling Staff	2	$	300,000
Lab Staff	3	$	450,000
Service Line Verification Staff	2	$	300,000
Total Staff	10	$	1,500,000
Local Health Department Contracts and Testing Fees		$	1,000,000
Lab Equipment		$	300,000
Travel		$	100,000
Other Supplies and Services		$	100,000
Total Ongoing Funding		$	3,000,000
Total Funding Request		**$**	**6,900,000**

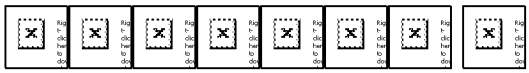
Supplemental Boilerplate

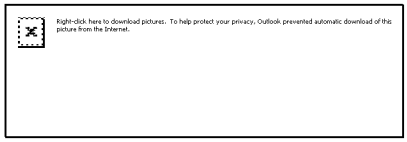
Sec. xxxx. From the funds appropriated for the City of Flint Emergency Water Services, the department is authorized to pay $3,900,000 of the water connection service costs to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department or its successor. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the parties. The funds are intended to support half of the connection costs for July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Epkey, Amy (DEQ)
Subject: FW: What is the state's role in Flint's water fiasco?

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 3:47 PM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: FW: What is the state's role in Flint's water fiasco?

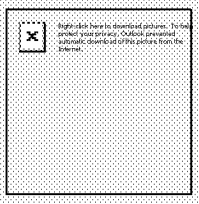
From: Bridge Magazine [mailto:ajones@thecenterformichigan.ccsend.com] **On Behalf Of** Bridge Magazine
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: What is the state's role in Flint's water fiasco?





News & Analysis from The Center for Michigan

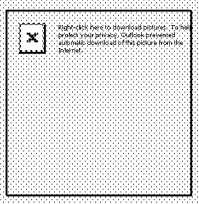
Cringe over troubled water - Flint's smelly dilemma



Flint calls on the state to clear up the city's low-quality drinking water. Who is responsible for the city's water problems?

READ FULL STORY

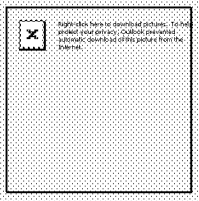
MSU Dean: Obama's free college plan is not best path to a degree



Where will the money come from? Why would Republicans embrace it? Wouldn't aid be better spent on only those students truly need help? Too many questions for now.

READ FULL STORY

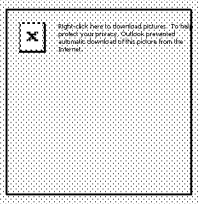
Commentary: Michigan criminal code encroaching on civil liberties



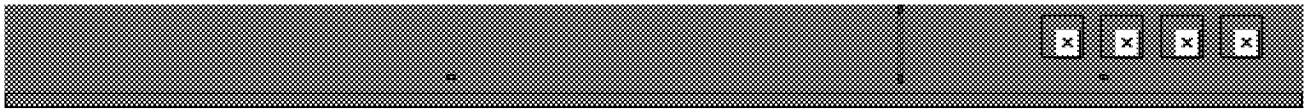
New, get-tough laws requiring DNA swabs or field sobriety tests from people who have not yet been convicted stretch the limits of government power.

READ FULL STORY

Coming Next Week: 2014 Academic State Champs



Bridge ranks every district, school and charter in the state by how much their students overachieve or underachieve academically, based on their socioeconomic status. The results may surprise you.



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Privacy Policy.

The Center for Michigan ⁞ 4100 N Dixboro Rd ⁞ Ann Arbor ⁞ MI ⁞ 48105

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:10 AM
To: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Subject: FW: Boilerplate

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:59 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Boilerplate

Suggested DEQ boilerplate for supplemental.

From: Wyant, Dan (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:54 AM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Subject: Fwd: Boilerplate

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
> **Date:** October 8, 2015 at 7:52:55 AM EDT
> **To:** "Wyant, Dan (DEQ)" <WyantD@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: Fwd: Boilerplate**

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "McDonald, Paul (DEQ)" <mcdonaldp@michigan.gov>
> **Date:** October 7, 2015 at 8:36:14 PM EDT
> **To:** "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
> **Cc:** "Epkey, Amy (DEQ)" <epkeya@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: Re: Boilerplate**

From the funds appropriated for the City of Flint Emergency Water Services, the department shall pay no more than $6 million to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the two parties and a successful re-connection has occurred to the Flint Water System. These funds shall only be

made available until June, 30, 2016.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Subject: Draft supplemental for you review
Attachments: DEQ Flint supplemental.docx

Let me know ASAP whether I need to make changes. Thanks.

	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	
	(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY	
	Full-time equated classified positions..... 0.0	
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	7,300,000
	Interdepartmental grant revenues:	
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers.....		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	7,300,000
	Federal revenues:	
Total federal revenues.....		0
	Special revenue funds:	
Total local revenues.....		0
Total private revenues.....		0
Total other state restricted revenues.....		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	6,300,000
	(2) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION	
City of Flint emergency water service.....	$	6,000,000
Drinking water and environmental health.....		300,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	6,300,000
	Appropriated from:	
	Special revenue funds:	
Settlement funds.....		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	5,300,000
	(3) REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION	
Laboratory services.....	$	1,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	1,000,000
	Appropriated from:	
	Special revenue funds:	
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	1,000,000

BOILERPLATE:

From the funds appropriated for the City of Flint Emergency Water Services, the department shall pay no more than $6 million to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the two parties and a successful re-connection has occurred to the Flint Water System. These funds shall only be made available until June 30, 2016.

EXPLANATION:

This supplemental provides $6.0 million to support the re-connection of City of Flint to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department, $1.0 million for testing water samples, and $300,000 for home and school inspections to ensure the safety of the City of Flint's water system.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Draft supplemental for you review
Attachments: DEQ Flint supplemental.docx

How about this one?

From: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:45 AM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Cc: McDonald, Paul (DEQ)
Subject: RE: Draft supplemental for you review

Jenny,

Looks good to me except for one thing. Can you please add 2 FTE for the $300,000 in RMG?

Thanks,
Sylvia

Sylvia Renteria
Financial Specialist
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
6th Floor Constitution Hall
T: 517-284-5006
F: 517-241-7428

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Renteria, Sylvia (DEQ)
Subject: Draft supplemental for you review

Let me know ASAP whether I need to make changes. Thanks.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions..... 2.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	7,300,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers.....		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	7,300,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues.....		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues.....		0
Total private revenues.....		0
Total other state restricted revenues.....		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	6,300,000

(2) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Full-time equated classified positions 2.0		
City of Flint emergency water service.....	$	6,000,000
Drinking water and environmental health - 2.0 FTE positions....		300,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	6,300,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Settlement funds.....		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	5,300,000

(3) REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Laboratory services.....	$	1,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION.....	$	1,000,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
State general fund/general purpose.....	$	1,000,000

BOILERPLATE:

From the funds appropriated for the City of Flint Emergency Water Services, the department shall pay no more than $6 million to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the two parties and a successful re-connection has occurred to the Flint Water System. These funds shall only be made available until June 30, 2016.

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This supplemental provides $6.0 million to support the re-connection of City of Flint to the Detroit Sewer and Water Department, $1.0 million for testing water samples, and $300,000 for home and school inspections to ensure the safety of the City of Flint's water system.

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:50 PM
To: Bullion, Beth (DTMB);Holmden, Alex (DTMB);Horn, Daniel (DTMB);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Floor Sub for HB 4102
Attachments: H01133'15 (H-2).pdf

FYI only.

From: Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:11 PM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Gossman, Colleen (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Jameson, Robbie (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Cc: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Subject: Floor Sub for HB 4102

Attached is the House floor substitute for the supplemental, which could be taken up in the House as early as today. If you could, please take a look at your relevant areas and let me know if you see any issues. Thanks.

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4102

A bill to make, supplement, and adjust appropriations for various state departments and agencies for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016; to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

PART 1

LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Sec. 101. There is appropriated for the various state departments and agencies to supplement appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, from the following funds:

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,775,000
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,775,000
Total federal revenues		0
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	6,775,000

Sec. 102. LEGISLATURE

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	50,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	50,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		0
State general fund/general purpose	$	50,000

(2) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Criminal justice policy commission	$	50,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	50,000

Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	50,000

Sec. 103. DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,725,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,725,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	6,725,000

(2) ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS

Legal settlement	$	7,725,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	7,725,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Risk management revolving fund		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	6,725,000

Sec. 104. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		0
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(2) ONE-TIME BASIS ONLY APPROPRIATIONS		
MSF, special grants	$	(500,000)
MSF, special grants		500,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

PART 1A

LINE-ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Sec. 151. There is appropriated for the various state departments and agencies to supplement appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, from the following funds:

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions	3.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	9,350,100
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers			0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	9,350,100
Federal revenues:			
Total federal revenues			0
Special revenue funds:			
Total local revenues			0
Total private revenues			0
Total other state restricted revenues			2,200,000
State general fund/general purpose		$	7,150,100

Sec. 152. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions	2.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	7,300,000
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers			0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	7,300,000
Federal revenues:			
Total federal revenues			0
Special revenue funds:			
Total local revenues			0
Total private revenues			0

Total other state restricted revenues			1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose		$	6,300,000
(2) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION			
Full-time equated classified positions 2.0			
City of Flint emergency water services		$	6,000,000
Drinking water and environmental health--2.0 FTE positions.....			300,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	6,300,000
Appropriated from:			
Special revenue funds:			
Settlement funds			1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose		$	5,300,000
(3) REMEDIATION AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION			
Laboratory services		$	1,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	1,000,000
Appropriated from:			
State general fund/general purpose		$	1,000,000

Sec. 153. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY			
Full-time equated classified positions 0.0			
GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	1,850,100
Interdepartmental grant revenues:			
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers.....			0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION		$	1,850,100
Federal revenues:			

Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	850,100
(2) DEPARTMENTWIDE ADMINISTRATION		
Rent and state office facilities	$	100
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	100
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	100
(3) CHILDREN'S SERVICES AGENCY - JUVENILE JUSTICE		
In-home community care	$	(400,000)
In-home community care		400,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(4) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE		
Emergency services local office allocations	$	1,000,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	1,000,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Total other state restricted revenues		1,000,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(5) FIELD OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES		
Full-time equated classified positions 0.0		
Michigan rehabilitation services--(526.0) FTE		

positions	$	(130,927,900)
Michigan rehabilitation services--526.0 FTE positions		130,927,900
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	0
Appropriated from:		
Federal revenues:		
Social security act, temporary assistance for needy families		0
Capped federal revenues		0
Total other federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Local vocational rehabilitation match		0
Private funds - gifts, bequests, and donations		0
Rehabilitation service fees		0
Second injury fund		0
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

(6) FAMILY, MATERNAL, AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES

Childhood lead program	$	850,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	850,000
Appropriated from:		
State general fund/general purpose	$	850,000

Sec. 154. DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

(1) APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Full-time equated classified positions 1.0		
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000

Interdepartmental grant revenues:		
Total interdepartmental grants and intradepartmental transfers		0
ADJUSTED GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Federal revenues:		
Total federal revenues		0
Special revenue funds:		
Total local revenues		0
Total private revenues		0
Total other state restricted revenues		200,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0
(2) OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION		
Full-time equated classified positions 1.0		
Bureau of construction codes--1.0 FTE position	$	200,000
GROSS APPROPRIATION	$	200,000
Appropriated from:		
Special revenue funds:		
Construction code fund		200,000
State general fund/general purpose	$	0

PART 2

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 201. In accordance with the provisions of section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending

from state resources in this appropriation act for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 is $7,775,000.00 and state appropriations paid to local units of government are $0.00.

Sec. 202. The appropriations made and expenditures authorized under this act and the departments, commissions, boards, offices, and programs for which appropriations are made under this act are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sec. 301. (1) From unexpended and unencumbered funds appropriated in 2010 PA 191 for branch and central operations, $6,000,000.00 is appropriated for a business application modernization project and shall be reappropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 in an appropriation line entitled information technology services and projects.

(2) The funds described in subsection (1) shall remain available for expenditure to implement provisions of business application modernization ongoing costs. The unexpended funds reappropriated into the information technology services and projects line item are considered work project appropriations, and any unencumbered or unallotted funds are carried forward into the succeeding fiscal year. The following is in compliance with section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the projects is to modernize the technical infrastructure to support the business needs of the department.

(b) The projects will be completed by contract staff and state employees.

(c) The total estimated cost of all projects is $6,000,000.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2019.

Sec. 302. (1) Unexpended and unencumbered amounts of funding remaining in accounts appropriated in section 301 of 2011 PA 83, for implementation of the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, for the secretary of state, shall be reappropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015 in an appropriation line item entitled help America vote act.

(2) The funds described in subsection (1) shall remain available for expenditure to implement provisions of the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, section 37 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.37, and other election reforms. Consistent with the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, the unexpended funds reappropriated into the help America vote act line item are considered work project appropriations and any unencumbered or unallotted funds are carried forward into succeeding fiscal years. The following is in compliance with section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the projects is to implement provisions of the help America vote act of 2002, 42 USC 15031 to 15545, section 37 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.37, and other election reforms.

(b) The projects will be completed by state employees, by contracts with private vendors, or by grants to local units of

government.

(c) The total estimated cost of these projects is identified in each line-item appropriation.

(d) The tentative completion date for these projects is September 30, 2019.

STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Sec. 401. Unexpended and unencumbered amounts of DOT, federal railroad administration (ARRA) funds appropriated in 2011 PA 157 for high-speed intercity passenger rail (ARRA) shall not lapse pursuant to section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a, but instead are reappropriated for expenditure as originally intended and are a work project meeting the following criteria:

(a) The purpose of the project to be carried forward is to preserve and invest in transportation infrastructure of the state of Michigan.

(b) The projects will be accomplished by state employees and by contract.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project is $26,711,800.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2017.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Sec. 501. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for special grants, the fund shall allocate $500,000.00 for the purpose of funding the cost of GED testing and certification as provided by this section. The workforce development agency shall administer a

Michigan GED-to-school program, which shall cover the cost of providing the GED test free of charge to individuals who meet all of the following requirements:

(a) The individual has not previously been administered a GED test free of charge under this section.

(b) The individual meets at least 1 of the following requirements:

(*i*) Prior to taking the GED test, the individual successfully completed a WDA-approved GED preparation program.

(*ii*) Prior to taking the GED test, the individual completed the official GED practice test and the individual's score indicated that he or she is likely to pass.

(2) A WDA-approved GED preparation program shall include all of the following:

(a) Instructional and tutorial assistance.

(b) GED test practice.

(c) Required attendance at program instructional sessions.

(d) A curriculum that prepares students for opportunities in postsecondary education and the job market.

(e) Information on potential postsecondary and career pathways.

(f) Counseling on preparing for and applying to college.

(g) Personal and job readiness skills development.

(h) Comprehensive information on college costs and financial aid.

(i) College and career assessments.

(j) Computer-based instruction, practice, or remediation.

(3) By January 1, 2016, the workforce development agency shall post online an announcement of the Michigan GED-to-school program, minimum standards for GED preparation program approval, and approval procedures.

(4) By April 1, 2016, the workforce development agency shall do all of the following:

(a) Develop procedures consistent with this section under which individuals can take the GED test without charge.

(b) Provide program information for educators and students on the workforce development agency website, including explanations of the procedures developed under this subsection, and contact information for questions about the program.

(c) Provide an estimate of the full-year cost of the program to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on general government, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director.

(5) By September 30, 2016, the workforce development agency shall report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on general government, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director on utilization of the GED incentive program, including numbers of GED certifications issued by location, year-to-date expenditures, and numbers of participants qualifying under subsection (1)(b)(*i*) or (*ii*), or both.

(6) The unexpended funds appropriated for the GED-to-school program are designated as a work project appropriation, and any unencumbered or unallotted funds shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and shall be available for expenditure for projects

under this section until the projects have been completed. The following is in compliance with section 451a(1) of the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1451a:

(a) The purpose of the project is to fund the cost of GED testing and certification for certain individuals as provided by this section.

(b) The projects will be accomplished by utilizing state employees or contracts with private vendors, or both.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project is $500,000.00.

(d) The tentative completion date is September 30, 2019.

PART 2A

PROVISIONS CONCERNING APPROPRIATIONS

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

GENERAL SECTIONS

Sec. 1201. In accordance with the provisions of section 30 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963, total state spending from state resources in this appropriation act for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016 is $9,350,100.00 and state appropriations paid to local units of government are $6,000,000.00.

Sec. 1202. The appropriations made and expenditures authorized under this act and the departments, commissions, boards, offices, and programs for which appropriations are made under this act are subject to the management and budget act, 1984 PA 431, MCL 18.1101 to 18.1594.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Sec. 1251. From the funds appropriated for the city of Flint emergency water services, the department is authorized to pay up to $6,000,000.00 for reconnection services to the Detroit water and sewerage department or its successor. The payments shall only be made once a legally executable agreement has been reached between the parties and a successful reconnection has occurred to the Flint water system. These funds are intended to pay reconnection costs through June 30, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Sec. 1301. From the funds appropriated in part 1A for Michigan rehabilitation services, the department shall allocate $6,100,300.00, including federal matching funds, to service authorizations with accredited, community-based rehabilitation organizations for job development and other community employment-related support services.

Sec. 1302. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1A for in-home community care programs, $400,000.00 shall be used to expand or create new in-home care and community-based juvenile justice services to rural counties through a grant making process. Counties that received funds for the purpose described in section 587 of article X of 2013 PA 59 are not eligible to receive the funds in this section. The department shall have contracts in place for the full amount of funds for the purpose described in this section by January 15 of the current fiscal year.

(2) By June 30 of the current fiscal year, the department

shall submit a report that describes the program expansion and expenditures in detail to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the senate and house policy offices.

REPEALERS

Enacting section 1. Sections 587 and 806 of article X of 2015 PA 84 are repealed.

Enacting section 2. Section 1069 of article VIII of 2014 PA 252 is repealed.

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Bullion, Beth (DTMB);Holmden, Alex (DTMB);Horn, Daniel (DTMB);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Amid Flint's water crisis, a quiet success story

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From: Bridge Magazine [mailto:info@thecenterformichigan.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: Amid Flint's water crisis, a quiet success story

Amid Flint's water crisis, a quiet success story

Flint has seen roughly 30 percent of its blighted homes demolished since 2014, exceeding the city's goals when it received federal funds to fight blight.

READ FULL STORY

Why Flint is planting clover, rather than grass, on vacant lots

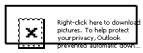
Cities are turning to this perennial plant as a low-mow solution for maintaining abandoned or vacant properties.

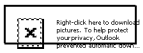
READ FULL STORY

Commentary: Legislature must close ‘dark stores’ tax loophole

Large, big-box retailers are taking advantage of the loophole , which is gutting resources for local schools and essential services across Michigan

READ FULL STORY





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From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 9:33 AM
To: Bullion, Beth (DTMB);Holmden, Alex (DTMB);Horn, Daniel (DTMB);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Week in Review: Cities struggle with tax policy

From: Bridge Magazine [mailto:info@thecenterformichigan.net]
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2015 12:01 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: Week in Review: Cities struggle with tax policy

Small victories in Flint

Amid Flint's water crisis, a quiet success story

Why Flint is planting clover, rather than grass, on vacant lots

Tax Policy

City blues: MSU study finds state tax policies cripple cities

Business Bridge

Pure Michigan sells its return on investment in new campaign

Commentary

Legislature must close 'dark stores' tax loophole

Phil Power: How technology can disrupt divide over government's role

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From: Bob Murphy <bmurphy@masu.org>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Holmden, Alex (DTMB)
Subject: This Week in Michigan Public Higher Education News - Dec. 18, 2015

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December 13, 2015

This Week in Michigan Public Higher Education News will not publish again until January 2016. Happy holidays from all of us here at MASU!

In the News

Accountability

MI Universities Show Compelling Growth [Press release]
Business Leaders for Michigan (Dec. 14, 2015)

Collaboration

WMU weighs Battle Creek expansion
Battle Creek Enquirer (Dec. 15, 2015)

College Access & Affordability

Poorest areas have low student debt, highest defaults
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 13, 2015)

He's a college senior with a 3.4 GPA. And he's homeless. [EMU]
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 17, 2015)

Update: Bridge readers open hearts, wallets for homeless college student [EMU]
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 18, 2015)

Diversity on Campus

Pollack discusses campus diversity at Senate Assembly [UM]
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 14, 2015)

Fixing faculty diversity: It's time we do more than just talk about it [MSU]
Michigan Radio (Dec. 15, 2015)

WSW: WMU President Says Campus Needs to Remain "Inclusive"

WMUK FM (Dec. 17, 2015)

Economic Development

Switch-ing off the brain drain [GVSU]
WOOD TV (Dec. 17, 2015)

Educational Attainment

More than 75 percent of seniors apply during Midland County College Application Week [SVSU]
Midland Daily News (Dec. 13, 2015)

Study: Higher education is key to Michigan's future but comes with $500M annual price tag
MLive (Dec. 14, 2015)

Third generation UM-Flint student tours campus with grandpa, part of first class
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

Congressman Dan Kildee, a CMU grad, to speak at daughter's CMU graduation
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Business, higher education partner to unveil "Keep Learning, Michigan" campaign
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Facilities Planning & Campus Improvement

Western Michigan University selects design firms for Business Technology & Research Park expansion
MIBiz (Dec. 11, 2015)

Medical school project at Western Michigan University receives honors
American School & University Magazine (Dec. 11, 2015)

Canceled field trip prompts MSU to offer FRIB tour option
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 11, 2015)

Wireless Internet lacking in most MSU dorm rooms
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

City allocates funds for Washington/Bellows roundabout [CMU]
Central Michigan Life (Dec. 14, 2015)

Repairs Of Eastern Michigan University's Athletic Dome Depends On The Weather
WEMU FM (Dec. 15, 2015)

FRIB up for full $100M in federal funding
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 16, 2015)

U-M to build $10M multicultural center
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 17, 2015)

Respect environment in developing WMU business park, public says at input session
MLive (Dec. 18, 2015)

Governance

EMU's education faculty submits 'no confidence' vote in regents over EAA issue
MLive (Dec. 15, 2015)

EMU education faculty votes to censure regents' chairman after comments on EAA
MLive (Dec. 18, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - Institutional Dynamics

NMU Board hears Students on Self-harm Policy, Approves Revised Budget, Property Sale
WJMN TV (Dec. 11, 2015)

Schlissel: U-M shouldn't divest fossil fuel holdings
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 14, 2015)

Appaloosa Protege to Manage Money for University of Michigan
Bloomberg (Dec. 17, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Capital Outlay

Lake Michigan College Gets State Help With Renovation Project
WSJM FM (Dec. 15, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Operating Support

State representatives face challenges in majority-GOP legislature
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 12, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Student Financial Aid

State's prepaid college plan opens 2016 enrollment
The Macomb Daily (Dec. 11, 2015)

Institutional Leadership

Wayne State president gets 2-year contract extension
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 15, 2015)

Leadership Transitions

EMU announces interim provost to replace departing Kim Schatzel
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Board secretary Betty Kocher exits WMU after serving 7 presidents and dozens of board trustees
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

University of Michigan names Jack Hu V.P. for Research
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Harvey Hollins tapped to lead Flint water effort
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 17, 2015)

Philanthropic Support

OU student knows challenges of single parenthood, offers scholarship
The Oakland Press (Dec. 11, 2015)

'World-class' $7.5-million jazz hub set for Wayne State
The Detroit News (Dec. 13, 2015)

Novi schools get Japan Business Society donation [UM, EMU, JCMU]
Hometown Life (Dec. 15, 2015)

House Family Foundation Gives $2.3 Million to Michigan Tech
WLUC TV (Dec. 15, 2015)

WMU receives second grant for Fostering Success program
WWMT TV (Dec. 15, 2015)

University of Michigan-Flint gets one of the largest donations in its history
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

WMU president donates salary increase to school
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 18, 2015)

Program Delivery

330-year-old violin granted to GVSU professor
Grand Valley Lanthorn (Dec. 13, 2015)

CMU photojournalism students profile immigrants
WNEM TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

Recognitions & Awards

Sensible Explainer: Susan Dynarski [UM]
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Dec. 13, 2015)

UF ranked second-best value for public universities [UM]
The Gainesville Sun (FL) (Dec. 17, 2015)

Safety & Health

Students address board members about wellness policies [NMU]
ABC 10 News (Dec. 11, 2015)

Six takeaways from ASMSU's last meeting of the year [MSU]
The State News (Dec. 11, 2015)

New law exempts young adults if they report drug abuse
The Detroit News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Student Success

NMU graduates class of 2015
WLUC TV (Dec. 12, 2015)

Nearly 1,000 Grand Valley State graduates walk across stage
MLive (Dec. 12, 2015)

Allegan man overcomes doctors' predictions, set to graduate from WMU
WWMT TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

Workforce Alignment

Grant to fund police academy for Port Huron cadets [FSU]
The Times Herald (Dec. 16, 2015)

Commentaries

Some college, no degree, lots of debt: A burden for students, schools and communities
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 11, 2015)

SVSU showing support to Muslims during critical time
The Valley Vanguard (Dec. 13, 2015)

WMU has failed as Colony Farm Orchard steward (Guest column)
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

Is Southeast Michigan set to go over retirement cliff?
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 17, 2015)

When it comes to talent, Michigan needs more of everything
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 17, 2015)

State & National Reports

Michigan in Context

REPORT: Current Term Enrollment Estimates - Fall 2015
National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (Dec. 15, 2015)
Higher education enrollment for Fall 2015 in Michigan is down by 3.9% across all sectors of higher education providers.

The Dean's List

The Lighter Side of the News

SVSU coach, bowler, alum set national record one pin shy of perfection
MLive (Dec. 15, 2015)

Watch this: U-M engineering dean's 'Star Wars' rap
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 16, 2015)

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Michigan Association of State Universities ¦ 101 S. Washington Square ¦ Suite 600 ¦ Lansing ¦ MI ¦ 48933

From: Bob Murphy <bmurphy@masu.org>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 12:32 PM
To: Holmden, Alex (DTMB)
Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities and the Public Good - Jan. 4, 2016

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January 4, 2016

Civic Engagement & Civic Education

U-M Library lands papers of indie film producer
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 2, 2015)

NMU Brings Holiday Cheer to Marquette
WLUC TV (Dec. 2, 2015)

'Star Wars': WMU wants to know what the films have taught you about ethics
MLive (Dec. 4, 2015)

EMU student from Livonia launches campus food pantry
Hometown Life (Dec. 4, 2015)

Muslim Student Association speaks out regarding San Bernardino attack [MTU]
WLUC TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

5 takeaways from Ben Carson's visit to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti [EMU, UM]
MLive (Dec. 9, 2015)

UM-D students urge City Council to vote on Syrian refugee resolution
Arab American News (Dec. 10, 2015)

LSSU Student Government seeks to create food pantry
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News (Dec. 11, 2015)

University group works to organize shuttle bus service to help those who live downstate [LSSU]
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News (Dec. 12, 2015)

NMU faculty, staff donate to Cheer Club
The Mining Journal (Dec. 13, 2015)

Michigan student raises funds, hope for Humans of New York refugee scientist
USA Today (Dec. 15, 2015)

University forum discusses tactics about ISIS [NMU]
ABC 10 News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Herrick Library to collect stories of Holland's Asian, Pacific Islander residents
Holland Sentinel (Dec. 22, 2015)

MSU creates center to help struggling Michigan local governments
Michigan Radio (Dec. 29, 2015)

Culture & Placemaking

Concert caps off Native American Heritage Month [UM]
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 1, 2015)

Ferris State University Students to Put On Free Holiday Concert
9 & 10 News (Dec. 8, 2015)

National Endowment for the Arts awards Grand Rapids $50K in grants [GVSU]
MLive (Dec. 8, 2015)

University of Michigan students help fight blight in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood
WXYZ TV (Dec. 11, 2015)

GVSU music students to perform in national parks
WZZM TV (Dec. 14, 2015)

Economic Development

Innovation & Entrepreneurialism

Midland-based Map-N-Tour receives business accelerator funding [OU]
Midland Daily News (Dec. 7, 2015)

La. Tech faculty team selected for NSF Pathways to Innovation Program [GVSU]
The News Star (LA) (Dec. 8, 2015)

UM-Flint student starts bow tie business in his apartment
WJRT TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

Grand Rapids firm to begin trials on Alzheimer's drug that improves memory [GVSU]
MLive (Dec. 9, 2015)

Q&A: How clean-energy policies drive economic development [OU]
Midwest Energy News (Dec. 10, 2015)

A conversation with a queen of start-up innovation
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

Grand Valley State University graduate students, alumni compete for $1M prize
Holland Sentinel (Dec. 16, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

Energy Department awards $12.4 million to 4 Michigan projects [UM]
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 1, 2015)

Simulation technology close imitation of fantasy films [CMU]
Central Michigan Life (Dec. 6, 2015)

MSU helps to fight crime with CSI-style technology
Michigan Radio (Dec. 7, 2015)

New software analyses words, gestures to detect lies [UM]
The Economic Times (India) (Dec. 10, 2015)

10 Most Efficient Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles for Winter Weather [MTU, UM]
The Street (Dec. 9, 2015)

WMU to hold first public input sessions on expansion of BTR Park
MLive (Dec. 10, 2015)

Federal grant to help gather historical info on migrants [GVSU]
9&10 News (Dec. 15, 2015)

MTU professor studies how to properly dispose of nano particles
The Mining Journal (Dec. 15, 2015)

UM researchers win grant for protective gear research
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 15, 2015)

Could Evolution Ever Yield a 'Perfect' Organism? [MSU]
Discover Magazine (Dec. 16, 2015)

Humans Are Slamming Into Driverless Cars and Exposing a Key Flaw [UM]
Bloomberg (Dec. 17, 2015)

The case of the sticky protein [MTU]
Phys.org (Dec. 18, 2015)

Rare isotope accelerator takes shape on MSU's campus
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 22, 2015)

Cronyism Causes the Worst Kind of Inequality [UM]
Bloomberg View (Dec. 24, 2015)

Environmental Sustainability

Tech analysis backs dust charge
Mining Gazette (Dec. 1, 2015)

Limestone dumped in Lake Michigan aims to rehab reef [CMU]

Detroit Free Press (Dec. 2, 2015)

Large solar dawns in Michigan, but residential incentives may sunset [MSU]
Great Lakes Echo (Dec. 4, 2015)

Pollution sampling not so simple [MTU]
Mining Gazette (Dec. 5, 2015)

EMU to hold State of the Strait conference
Eastern Echo (Dec. 5, 2015)

Oil spill, high waves: A Great Lakes disaster scenario [UM]
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 6, 2015)

Endangered or not? Scientists, lawmakers renew gray wolf debate [MTU]
MLive (Dec. 13, 2015)

New '2030 District' vows to slash downtown energy use by 50 percent [GVSU, FSU]
MLive (Dec. 14, 2015)

Faculty Perspective & Expertise

WMU Professor: Progress made this week at Paris Climate Summit
WNWN FM (Dec. 4, 2015)

Can you spot the crab? [NMU]
The Straits Times [Singapore] (Dec. 6, 2015)

Michigan could soon part ways with straight-ticket voting [NMU]
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Flu Shots for Hospital Workers Save Lives [UM]
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Genetically modified fish: coming to a store near you? [NMU]
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What does Federal interest rate hike mean for local consumers? [OU]
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West Michigan doctor calls 'Concussion' movie an 'a-ha' moment for football players, coaches

[GVSU, MSU]
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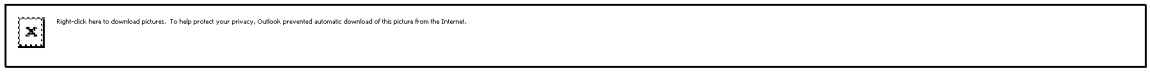

Welcome to the First Edition of *Stewardship*

Welcome to the first edition of ***Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good***, brought to you by the Michigan Association of State Universities. Published monthly, *Stewardship* will serve as a media showcase for the tremendous outreach the state universities display in serving their students and communities as well as the State of Michigan and beyond. Covering issues as diverse as K-12 education, economic development, health care, environmental sustainability, and public safety, these media accounts will affirm that **Michigan's state universities are *public* universities serving the *public* interest.**

Civic Engagement & Civic Education

Warming U.P. the Sault
The Sault Evening News (Oct. 12, 2015)

Bill Clinton to speak at MSU next month
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

NMU shows off expanded archive
WLUC TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Grand Valley State University announces speakers for 2016 MLK Commemoration Week
Holland Sentinel (Oct. 19, 2015)

Trayvon Martin lawyer talks to Central Michigan University on civil rights
USA Today (Oct. 20, 2015)

MSU debuts largest U.S. media collection in country
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

Links between leadership and mental illness explored in Saginaw Valley State University Lecture

Midland Daily News (Oct. 20, 2015)

Eight things to look out for at TEDx Oakland
The Oakland Post (Oct. 22, 2015)

NMU celebrates Make a Difference Day
WLUC TV (Oct. 24, 2015)

CMU students making Christmas brighter for vets
Midland Daily News (Oct. 25, 2015)

Presidential Candidate Martin O'Malley Comes to UM-Dearborn
The Michigan Journal (Oct. 27, 2015)

Talking on racism
Ferris State Torch (Oct. 28, 2015)

Native American Elder speaks at NMU
WLUC TV (Oct. 28, 2015)

Economic Development

Innovation and Entrepreneurialism

White House honoring University of Michigan scientist
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 9, 2015)

Automation Alley opens Innovation Lab at Oakland University
The Oakland Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

Erickson: NMU committed to innovation
The Mining Journal (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University Unveils MakerBot Innovation Center, First in Midwest
9 and 10 News (Oct. 22, 2015)

What can a city hall do for a business? [UMD]
Crain's Detroit Business (Oct. 29, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

MSU celebrates 50 years of cyclotron beams
Lansing State Journal (Oct. 9, 2015)

Michigan State to expand lab for diamond growing
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 14, 2015)

How Michigan helped map path to the Internet
The Detroit News (Oct. 15, 2015)

NMU professor contributes to first field description of whale species
WJMN TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Woolly mammoths WERE wiped out by hunters: Tusks suggest that calves were forced to wean earlier because of human predators [UM]
Daily Mail (Oct. 16, 2015)

U-M botanical garden displays clone of ancient redwood
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

UM's $150M biosciences initiative to add 30 faculty
The Detroit News (Oct. 23, 2015)

Michigan State gets $5.8M grant to improve potato production
WTOL TV (Oct. 27, 2015)

Environmental Sustainability

Oakland University to host symposium on climate change
The Oakland Press (Oct. 8, 2015)

Michigan State researchers studying algae on Torch Lake
The Detroit News (Oct. 12, 2015)

Grand Valley State University, Hastings Township complete sustainable rural recycling prototype
Holland Sentinel (Oct. 14, 2015)

Invasive species conference held at NMU
WJMN TV (Oct. 22, 2015)

Tech Green Enterprise recycles, hosts seminar
The Mining Gazette (Oct. 22, 2015)

University of Michigan boosts biosciences, sustainability
WTOL TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

WMU Prof.: Get ready for more-frequent, more-intense storms after Patricia
WTVB AM (Oct. 29, 2015)

Permaculture garden holds Halloween block party [NMU]
WLUC TV (Oct. 31, 2015)

Health Care

University of Michigan study explores social relationships, well-being in Detroit area
The Tribune (IN) (Oct. 12, 2015)

New $93M Wayne State center to study health disparities
The Detroit News (Oct. 13, 2015)

GVSU student: breast cancer can't stop me
WOOD TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

CMU faculty performs breast cancer research
The Morning Sun (Oct. 22, 2015)

Wayne State doctor: Women pass lead damage to grandkids
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 24, 2015)

Let's talk about health care: All have stake in deciding resource allocation, experts say [GVSU]
MLive (Oct. 27, 2015)

Blood lead clinic to be held for Flint children in Burton
MLive (Oct. 29, 2015)

K-12 Outreach

Students, teachers gain research experience from Saginaw Valley, Dow Foundation STEM program
Midland Daily News (Oct. 19, 2015)

Iron Range STEM Showcase Offers Hands-on Science for All Ages [MTU]
WDIO TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University receives $5 million STEM donation from Midland Foundation
Midland Daily News (Oct. 21, 2015)

Blueberry program triples with 1,000 Genesee students, new scholarships [UM-F]
MLIve (Oct. 22, 2015)

U-M college prep program to offer full scholarships
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 23, 2015)

Michigan Tech's residence halls to host Halloween Safe House
WLUC TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

Grand Valley State, other colleges to host science demonstrations at Grand Rapids mall
Daily Journal (Indiana) (Oct. 24, 2015)

Teaching Teachers To Teach: It's Not So Elementary [UM]
NPR, (Oct. 24, 2015)

Trick-or-treat at the U-M Museum of Natural History
MLive (Oct. 26, 2015)

Global Outreach

International University Officers to Visit Zimbabwe
Voice of America - Zimbabwe (Oct. 17, 2015)

Public Safety

WMU student non-profit looks to bring awareness to domestic violence
WWMT TV (Oct. 9, 2015)

Keenan: Wayne State police chief says campus is safe
The Detroit News (Oct. 20, 2015)

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Subject: This Week in Michigan Public Higher Education News - Dec. 18, 2015

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December 13, 2015

This Week in Michigan Public Higher Education News will not publish again until January 2016. Happy holidays from all of us here at MASU!

In the News

Accountability

MI Universities Show Compelling Growth [Press release]
Business Leaders for Michigan (Dec. 14, 2015)

Collaboration

WMU weighs Battle Creek expansion
Battle Creek Enquirer (Dec. 15, 2015)

College Access & Affordability

Poorest areas have low student debt, highest defaults
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 13, 2015)

He's a college senior with a 3.4 GPA. And he's homeless. [EMU]
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 17, 2015)

Update: Bridge readers open hearts, wallets for homeless college student [EMU]
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 18, 2015)

Diversity on Campus

Pollack discusses campus diversity at Senate Assembly [UM]
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 14, 2015)

Fixing faculty diversity: It's time we do more than just talk about it [MSU]
Michigan Radio (Dec. 15, 2015)

WSW: WMU President Says Campus Needs to Remain "Inclusive"

WMUK FM (Dec. 17, 2015)

Economic Development

Switch-ing off the brain drain [GVSU]
WOOD TV (Dec. 17, 2015)

Educational Attainment

More than 75 percent of seniors apply during Midland County College Application Week [SVSU]
Midland Daily News (Dec. 13, 2015)

Study: Higher education is key to Michigan's future but comes with $500M annual price tag
MLive (Dec. 14, 2015)

Third generation UM-Flint student tours campus with grandpa, part of first class
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

Congressman Dan Kildee, a CMU grad, to speak at daughter's CMU graduation
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Business, higher education partner to unveil "Keep Learning, Michigan" campaign
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Facilities Planning & Campus Improvement

Western Michigan University selects design firms for Business Technology & Research Park expansion
MIBiz (Dec. 11, 2015)

Medical school project at Western Michigan University receives honors
American School & University Magazine (Dec. 11, 2015)

Canceled field trip prompts MSU to offer FRIB tour option
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 11, 2015)

Wireless Internet lacking in most MSU dorm rooms
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

City allocates funds for Washington/Bellows roundabout [CMU]
Central Michigan Life (Dec. 14, 2015)

Repairs Of Eastern Michigan University's Athletic Dome Depends On The Weather
WEMU FM (Dec. 15, 2015)

FRIB up for full $100M in federal funding
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 16, 2015)

U-M to build $10M multicultural center
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 17, 2015)

Respect environment in developing WMU business park, public says at input session
MLive (Dec. 18, 2015)

Governance

EMU's education faculty submits 'no confidence' vote in regents over EAA issue

MLive (Dec. 15, 2015)

EMU education faculty votes to censure regents' chairman after comments on EAA
MLive (Dec. 18, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - Institutional Dynamics

NMU Board hears Students on Self-harm Policy, Approves Revised Budget, Property Sale
WJMN TV (Dec. 11, 2015)

Schlissel: U-M shouldn't divest fossil fuel holdings
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 14, 2015)

Appaloosa Protege to Manage Money for University of Michigan
Bloomberg (Dec. 17, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Capital Outlay

Lake Michigan College Gets State Help With Renovation Project
WSJM FM (Dec. 15, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Operating Support

State representatives face challenges in majority-GOP legislature
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 12, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Student Financial Aid

State's prepaid college plan opens 2016 enrollment
The Macomb Daily (Dec. 11, 2015)

Institutional Leadership

Wayne State president gets 2-year contract extension
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 15, 2015)

Leadership Transitions

EMU announces interim provost to replace departing Kim Schatzel
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Board secretary Betty Kocher exits WMU after serving 7 presidents and dozens of board trustees
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

University of Michigan names Jack Hu V.P. for Research
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Harvey Hollins tapped to lead Flint water effort
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 17, 2015)

Philanthropic Support

OU student knows challenges of single parenthood, offers scholarship
The Oakland Press (Dec. 11, 2015)

'World-class' $7.5-million jazz hub set for Wayne State
The Detroit News (Dec. 13, 2015)

Novi schools get Japan Business Society donation [UM, EMU, JCMU]
Hometown Life (Dec. 15, 2015)

House Family Foundation Gives $2.3 Million to Michigan Tech
WLUC TV (Dec. 15, 2015)

WMU receives second grant for Fostering Success program
WWMT TV (Dec. 15, 2015)

University of Michigan-Flint gets one of the largest donations in its history
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

WMU president donates salary increase to school
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 18, 2015)

Program Delivery

330-year-old violin granted to GVSU professor
Grand Valley Lanthorn (Dec. 13, 2015)

CMU photojournalism students profile immigrants
WNEM TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

Recognitions & Awards

Sensible Explainer: Susan Dynarski [UM]
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Dec. 13, 2015)

UF ranked second-best value for public universities [UM]
The Gainesville Sun (FL) (Dec. 17, 2015)

Safety & Health

Students address board members about wellness policies [NMU]
ABC 10 News (Dec. 11, 2015)

Six takeaways from ASMSU's last meeting of the year [MSU]
The State News (Dec. 11, 2015)

New law exempts young adults if they report drug abuse
The Detroit News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Student Success

NMU graduates class of 2015
WLUC TV (Dec. 12, 2015)

Nearly 1,000 Grand Valley State graduates walk across stage

MLive (Dec. 12, 2015)

Allegan man overcomes doctors' predictions, set to graduate from WMU
WWMT TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

Workforce Alignment

Grant to fund police academy for Port Huron cadets [FSU]
The Times Herald (Dec. 16, 2015)

Commentaries

Some college, no degree, lots of debt: A burden for students, schools and communities
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 11, 2015)

SVSU showing support to Muslims during critical time
The Valley Vanguard (Dec. 13, 2015)

WMU has failed as Colony Farm Orchard steward (Guest column)
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

Is Southeast Michigan set to go over retirement cliff?
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 17, 2015)

When it comes to talent, Michigan needs more of everything
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 17, 2015)

State & National Reports

Michigan in Context

REPORT: Current Term Enrollment Estimates - Fall 2015
National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (Dec. 15, 2015)
Higher education enrollment for Fall 2015 in Michigan is down by 3.9% across all sectors of higher education providers.

The Dean's List

The Lighter Side of the News

SVSU coach, bowler, alum set national record one pin shy of perfection
MLive (Dec. 15, 2015)

Watch this: U-M engineering dean's 'Star Wars' rap
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 16, 2015)

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Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities and the Public Good - Jan. 4, 2016

January 4, 2016

Civic Engagement & Civic Education

U-M Library lands papers of indie film producer
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 2, 2015)

NMU Brings Holiday Cheer to Marquette
WLUC TV (Dec. 2, 2015)

'Star Wars': WMU wants to know what the films have taught you about ethics
MLive (Dec. 4, 2015)

EMU student from Livonia launches campus food pantry
Hometown Life (Dec. 4, 2015)

Muslim Student Association speaks out regarding San Bernardino attack [MTU]
WLUC TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

5 takeaways from Ben Carson's visit to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti [EMU, UM]
MLive (Dec. 9, 2015)

UM-D students urge City Council to vote on Syrian refugee resolution
Arab American News (Dec. 10, 2015)

LSSU Student Government seeks to create food pantry
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News (Dec. 11, 2015)

University group works to organize shuttle bus service to help those who live downstate [LSSU]
Sault Ste. Marie Evening News (Dec. 12, 2015)

NMU faculty, staff donate to Cheer Club
The Mining Journal (Dec. 13, 2015)

Michigan student raises funds, hope for Humans of New York refugee scientist

USA Today (Dec. 15, 2015)

University forum discusses tactics about ISIS [NMU]
ABC 10 News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Herrick Library to collect stories of Holland's Asian, Pacific Islander residents
Holland Sentinel (Dec. 22, 2015)

MSU creates center to help struggling Michigan local governments
Michigan Radio (Dec. 29, 2015)

Culture & Placemaking

Concert caps off Native American Heritage Month [UM]
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 1, 2015)

Ferris State University Students to Put On Free Holiday Concert
9 & 10 News (Dec. 8, 2015)

National Endowment for the Arts awards Grand Rapids $50K in grants [GVSU]
MLive (Dec. 8, 2015)

University of Michigan students help fight blight in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood
WXYZ TV (Dec. 11, 2015)

GVSU music students to perform in national parks
WZZM TV (Dec. 14, 2015)

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Innovation & Entrepreneurialism

Midland-based Map-N-Tour receives business accelerator funding [OU]
Midland Daily News (Dec. 7, 2015)

La. Tech faculty team selected for NSF Pathways to Innovation Program [GVSU]
The News Star (LA) (Dec. 8, 2015)

UM-Flint student starts bow tie business in his apartment
WJRT TV (Dec. 8, 2015)

Grand Rapids firm to begin trials on Alzheimer's drug that improves memory [GVSU]
MLive (Dec. 9, 2015)

Q&A: How clean-energy policies drive economic development [OU]
Midwest Energy News (Dec. 10, 2015)

A conversation with a queen of start-up innovation
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

Grand Valley State University graduate students, alumni compete for $1M prize
Holland Sentinel (Dec. 16, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

Energy Department awards $12.4 million to 4 Michigan projects [UM]
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 1, 2015)

Simulation technology close imitation of fantasy films [CMU]
Central Michigan Life (Dec. 6, 2015)

MSU helps to fight crime with CSI-style technology
Michigan Radio (Dec. 7, 2015)

New software analyses words, gestures to detect lies [UM]
The Economic Times (India) (Dec. 10, 2015)

10 Most Efficient Four-Wheel Drive Vehicles for Winter Weather [MTU, UM]
The Street (Dec. 9, 2015)

WMU to hold first public input sessions on expansion of BTR Park
MLive (Dec. 10, 2015)

Federal grant to help gather historical info on migrants [GVSU]
9&10 News (Dec. 15, 2015)

MTU professor studies how to properly dispose of nano particles
The Mining Journal (Dec. 15, 2015)

UM researchers win grant for protective gear research
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 15, 2015)

Could Evolution Ever Yield a 'Perfect' Organism? [MSU]
Discover Magazine (Dec. 16, 2015)

Humans Are Slamming Into Driverless Cars and Exposing a Key Flaw [UM]
Bloomberg (Dec. 17, 2015)

The case of the sticky protein [MTU]
Phys.org (Dec. 18, 2015)

Rare isotope accelerator takes shape on MSU's campus
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 22, 2015)

Cronyism Causes the Worst Kind of Inequality [UM]
Bloomberg View (Dec. 24, 2015)

Environmental Sustainability

Tech analysis backs dust charge
Mining Gazette (Dec. 1, 2015)

Limestone dumped in Lake Michigan aims to rehab reef [CMU]
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 2, 2015)

Large solar dawns in Michigan, but residential incentives may sunset [MSU]
Great Lakes Echo (Dec. 4, 2015)

Pollution sampling not so simple [MTU]
Mining Gazette (Dec. 5, 2015)

EMU to hold State of the Strait conference
Eastern Echo (Dec. 5, 2015)

Oil spill, high waves: A Great Lakes disaster scenario [UM]
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 6, 2015)

Endangered or not? Scientists, lawmakers renew gray wolf debate [MTU]
MLive (Dec. 13, 2015)

New '2030 District' vows to slash downtown energy use by 50 percent [GVSU, FSU]
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From: Kaiser Health News <emails@kaiserhealthnews.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 10:40 AM
To: Hovenkamp, Robert (DTMB)
Subject: KHN First Edition: September 25, 2015

First Edition

Friday, September 25, 2015
Check Kaiser Health News online for the latest headlines

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?
2. Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors
3. D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives
4. Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

5. Boehner To Leave Congress At The End Of October
6. Senate GOP Fails To Pass Temporary Spending Bill That Defunded Planned Parenthood

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Healthcare.gov Account Information Stored On Vulnerable Database, Audit Finds
8. Details Of Utah's Much-Anticipated Medicaid Expansion Plan To Be Rolled Out Tuesday

MARKETPLACE

9. American Psychiatric Association Says Proposed Insurance Mergers Would Undermine Access To Mental Health Care
10. 'Doing The Right Thing': The Complicated Business Of Prescription Drug Pricing
11. Possible Government Shutdown Won't Delay Oct. 1 Launch Of Revised Medical Coding System

CAMPAIGN 2016

12. Fiorina's Position On Mandated Health Insurance Evolves Over Past Two Years

HEALTH IT

13. Premera Faces 38 Class-Action Lawsuits Over Cyberattack

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

14. FDA Needs More Info To Gauge Safety Of Essure Sterilization Device

STATE WATCH
15. State Highlights: Conn. Hospital CEO Salaries Draw Scrutiny; Calif. Counties Provide Non-Emergency Care To Undocumented Adults

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH
16. Research Roundup: Economics Of Chronic Care; State-Run Marketplaces

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS
17. Viewpoints: Pinning Blame For A Possible Shutdown; Medicare Should Help On Drug Prices

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?

The Democratic president candidate's proposals to save consumers money are questioned by experts and health industry officials. (Julie Rovner, 9/25)

2. Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors

Many students avoid geriatrics because of the low pay and high complications, but six people over 90 offer a different perspective to help attract young doctors. (Susan Jaffe, 9/25)

3. D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives

The new law is only the second in the country that allows women to get a year's prescription at one time. (Michelle Andrews, 9/25)

4. Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'" by Lisa Benson.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

THERE'S NO ESCAPING ICD-10

Shutdown? No matter.
Medicare moving ahead
With new codes for docs.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

5. Boehner To Leave Congress At The End Of October

News outlets report Friday morning that House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, plans to resign, amidst growing pressure from the conservative wing of the Republican Party. Politico notes that now, free from intra-caucus concerns, he will be free to push a clean stop-gap funding bill through the House to prevent a government shutdown.

USA Today: Speaker John Boehner To Resign From Congress

In a shocking announcement, John Boehner told his GOP colleagues he will step down as House speaker and resign his Ohio congressional seat on Oct. 30. ... His resignation comes the day after Pope Francis became the first pontiff to address a joint meeting of Congress — a crowning achievement of Boehner's career — and amid a congressional fight over federal funding of Planned Parenthood that threatens another government shutdown. (Shesgreen and Allen, 9/25)

NBC News: House Speaker John Boehner To Resign

Boehner has been under prolonged pressure from conservatives in his party, who have accused him of failing to fight the Obama administration on issues important to the GOP. Foes within his party had been pushing to oust him if he presented any legislation that would continue to fund the government and avoid a government shutdown without stripping federal funding for Planned Parenthood. (9/25)

The New York Times: John Boehner Will Resign From Congress

Most recently, Mr. Boehner, 65, was trying to craft a solution to keep the government open through the rest of the year, but was under pressure from a growing base of conservatives who told him that they would not vote for a bill that did not defund Planned Parenthood. Several of those members were on a path to remove Mr. Boehner as speaker, though their ability to do so was far from certain. (Steinhauer, 9/25)

Politico: Speaker John Boehner Retiring From Congress At The End Of October

Speaker John Boehner, who rose from bartender's son to the most powerful man in Congress, will retire at the end of October, ending a tumultuous five-year tenure atop the House of Representatives. ... Now that he doesn't have internal political considerations to weigh, Boehner is certain to push through a government-funding bill next week that funds Planned Parenthood, and keeps the government open. Boehner's decision, relayed in a closed Republican meeting Friday morning, will set off one of the most intense leadership scrambles in modern Congressional GOP politics. (Sherman, 9/25)

6. Senate GOP Fails To Pass Temporary Spending Bill That Defunded

Planned Parenthood

With just days left before a possible federal government shutdown, Democrats blocked passage of a bill that would have funded the government through Dec. 11 but included a provision to strip federal funding from the women's health organization. Meanwhile, Republican leaders in both the House and Senate are moving ahead in efforts to pass a clean, bipartisan budget measure.

Los Angeles Times: Senate Fails To Advance Bill That Would Cut Planned Parenthood Funding

With a federal shutdown days away, Senate Republicans tried -- and failed -- on Thursday to advance legislation that would eliminate money for Planned Parenthood but keep government offices and services open. Democrats blocked the bill with a filibuster, refusing to cut funds for the large family planning organization after secretly recorded videos disclosed officials discussing the practice of providing fetal tissue from abortions for research. The debate has become a national conversation on abortion. (Mascaro, 9/24)

USA Today: Democrats Block Planned Parenthood Defunding; McConnell Offers 'Clean Bill'

Senate Democrats blocked a bill Thursday to keep the government funded through Dec. 11 because of a Republican provision to strip Planned Parenthood of federal money for a year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., moved immediately after the vote to try to avert an Oct. 1 government shutdown by filing a new bill that funds federal agencies but does not include the divisive Planned Parenthood provision. A vote on that bill could come as early as Monday. (Kelly, 9/24)

The Associated Press: McConnell Moves Ahead With Bipartisan Stopgap Spending Bill

In the House, GOP leaders called a meeting of their fractious rank and file for Friday morning to discuss whether to accept the Senate's move or reject it at the risk that continuing the fight over Planned Parenthood would lead to a government shutdown. The White House signaled President Barack Obama would sign the measure, called a continuing resolution, into law — if the House steps aside from the fight tea party Republicans want over "defunding" Planned Parenthood. (Taylor, 9/24)

Politico: Boehner Plots Shutdown Move As Critics Weigh Options

House Republican leaders will move next week to approve a "clean" government spending bill — and avert a shutdown — but only after they hold a vote on a measure to bar federal funding for Planned Parenthood, according to multiple sources familiar with the GOP's plan. The move, which comes as conservatives are weighing whether to try to remove John Boehner as House speaker, was discussed at a closed GOP leadership meeting Thursday. It involves a legislative tactic called an "enrollment correction," which essentially changes the text of a bill that has passed the House and the Senate. But it would ultimately be a meaningless exercise: The Senate would reject the measure, and President Barack Obama has said he will veto any spending bill that tries to defund Planned Parenthood. (Sherman, Palmer and Bresnahan, 9/24)

The Associated Press: House GOP May Opt Against Shutdown Over Planned

Parenthood

House GOP leaders have summoned their divided conference for a make-or-break discussion on how to fight taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood without having the battle lead to a government shutdown next week. ... Friday's meeting is likely to center on immediate action to use a special filibuster-proof budget bill to send legislation defunding Planned Parenthood to Obama's desk for the first time — rather than a futile bid to attach the anti-Planned Parenthood measure to a stopgap spending bill. The temporary measure is needed to avoid a shutdown at midnight on Wednesday. It would fund the government through Dec. 11. (Taylor, 9/25)

In other Capitol Hill action -

McClatchy: Senate Democrats Introduce Legislation To Repeal Obamacare 'Cadillac Tax'

The call to repeal one of the Affordable Care Act's most controversial provisions got louder on Thursday when a group of prominent Democratic senators introduced legislation to abolish the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-cost, employer-sponsored health plans. The action further solidified growing bipartisan opposition to the tax, which has already drawn the ire of employers, insurers, unions and benefits groups. They claim the tax would burden working families with higher costs and force employers to cut benefits. (Pugh, 9/24)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Healthcare.gov Account Information Stored On Vulnerable Database, Audit Finds

The flaws uncovered by auditors are now fixed but included critical issues of security policy, such as not encrypting user sessions. Millions of insurance customers' data is stored on the $110-million system known as MIDAS. In other health law news, a new study shows that Americans' top concern when shopping for health coverage is the monthly premium they will pay.

The Associated Press: Audit Finds Slipshod Cybersecurity At Healthcare.gov

The government stored sensitive personal information on millions of health insurance customers in a computer system with basic security flaws, according to an official audit that uncovered slipshod practices. The Obama administration said it acted quickly to fix all the problems identified by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office. But the episode raises questions about the government's ability to protect a vast new database at a time when cyberattacks are becoming bolder. (Alonso-Zaldivar, 9/24)

NBC News: Monthly Cost Is Top Concern For Health Insurance Shoppers: Survey

Americans, long used to seeking bargains, look mostly at price when they're shopping for health insurance, a new survey shows. More than half of those who looked but didn't buy anything on the new Obamacare exchanges said they couldn't find a plan they could afford, the survey found. And two-thirds who switched coverage said price

was the main factor. (Fox, 9/25)

8. Details Of Utah's Much-Anticipated Medicaid Expansion Plan To Be Rolled Out Tuesday

The plan, which faces skepticism from many Republican state legislators and is the product of hours of negotiations, will be the topic of briefings given next week during closed-door meetings.

Salt Lake Tribune: Utah Republican Lawmakers To Huddle Behind Closed Doors On Medicaid Expansion

House and Senate Republicans will meet next week in closed-door caucuses for briefings on a proposal to use Medicaid funds to help provide health insurance to tens of thousands low-income Utahns. The plan they will hear is the product of hours of negotiations between leaders in the House and Senate and Gov. Gary Herbert, launched after Herbert's Healthy Utah plan failed to win support earlier this year in the Republican-dominated House. Depending on the reception the plan receives — particularly from skeptical House members — the governor could call a special session in mid-October to vote on the plan. (Gehrke, 9/24)

KSL: Details Of Medicaid Expansion Plan Plan Due Next Week

Details of the much-anticipated new plan for Medicaid expansion from Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders will be rolled out Tuesday to lawmakers in closed-door meetings before being unveiled publicly. But the governor has yet to sign off on a final proposal, his spokesman, Jon Cox, said Wednesday. "There are still details that need to be negotiated by the group," Cox said. (Riley Roche, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Utah's Medicaid Expansion Hits Funding Roadblock

One red state's unprecedented effort to finance Medicaid expansion through a broad array of health care sectors — from hospitals and doctors to drug makers and pharmacies — is running into serious roadblocks. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders in July announced a deal to expand Medicaid, agreeing on a framework that would require "providers and benefactors of Medicaid dollars to pay their fair share." But months later, Utah leaders are still facing objections from industry groups who argue they're being asked to pay too much. (Pradhan, 9/24)

Also, Oregon is converting its Medicaid eligibility system to the one used by Kentucky -

Portland Business Journal: Oregon Medicaid On Track To Convert To Kentucky System, Will Cost $58M

The Oregon Health Authority plans to debut its new Medicaid eligibility system, imported from Kentucky, on Dec. 15. The transition project came in under budget at $58 million, said Sarah Miller, project director for OHA's MAGI Medicaid System Transfer Project. The original estimate of $62 million. Miller said the new system will afford several advantages over the current one. (Hayes, 9/24)

Meanwhile, on the topic of health exchanges -

The Associated Press: Arkansas Governor Asks Panel To Put Exchange Plans

On Hold

Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Thursday he wants Arkansas to halt work on setting up its own insurance exchange for consumers while lawmakers look at the future of the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion. The Republican governor said he's asked the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace board to wait for a legislative task force's recommendations on the "private option" expansion later this year. (DeMillo, 9/24)

MARKETPLACE

9. American Psychiatric Association Says Proposed Insurance Mergers Would Undermine Access To Mental Health Care

Other prominent doctors groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians, have expressed concern about the proposed mergers' impact on patients.

Reuters: U.S. Insurance Mega Mergers Could Hurt Care - Psychiatric Group

The American Psychiatric Association warned U.S. antitrust regulators this month that two proposed health insurance deals could worsen access to mental health care services, adding to public opposition from several prominent doctors groups. Anthem Inc would become the largest U.S. health insurer through a proposed $47 billion acquisition of Cigna Corp, announced in late July. Earlier that month, Aetna Inc said it would buy Humana Inc and become the largest provider of Medicare plans for older people. (Humer, 9/24)

In other industry news -

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Blue Cross Plans Helping Corporate Clients Cut Health Costs

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association on Thursday unveiled an expanded database that will help individual Blues, like Philadelphia's Independence, drill down into the cost of care for their corporate customers who have operations nationwide. he Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members cover 105 million Americans, has maintained a claims database for a decade, and Independence has contributed for years. But now all 36 Blue Cross companies are required to share claims data, which are converted into 1,600 common treatments and elective procedures - up from 300 previously. (Brubaker, 9/25)

10. 'Doing The Right Thing': The Complicated Business Of Prescription Drug Pricing

With pharmaceutical companies receiving a lot of attention over the skyrocketing costs of drugs, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez talks to The Washington Post. And after Turing's controversial price hike for an HIV drug made waves this week, NBC News reports on other similar cases in the industry.

The Washington Post: Novartis CEO Talks About Drug Costs, Paying Doctors And 'Doing The Right Thing'

As stories of jacked-up drug costs make news, and discussions of health-care reform pepper the campaign trail, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez sat down with The Washington Post to talk about how he views his responsibility as leader of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. (Cunningham, 9/24)

NBC News: Turing Isn't The Only Drug Company Hiking Prices By Leaps And Bounds

Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli was lambasted this week by medical groups, a presidential candidate and his own industry for raising the price of a 62-year-old drug by more than 5,000 percent. He reversed course under pressure Tuesday night, but not before the national attention struck fear into the hearts of biotech investors over increased scrutiny of drug prices, sending stocks plummeting. Turing may have been an egregious example, but it's not the only one raising eyebrows for skyrocketing price tags. Bernstein analyst Ronny Gal pointed out many companies ratchet up drug prices when the market presents an opportunity. (Tirrell, 9/24)

U.S. News & World Report: Budget Breakers

Prescription drugs are costly and most Americans agree that they pay too much for them. Recent headlines illustrate that point clearly – from presidential candidates' promising to tackle the issue, to a CEO initially announcing a jump in the cost of a parasitic-fighting medicine. And with America's total spending on prescription medicine reaching its highest rate in 13 years, policy groups are listening and are coming up with their own plans for reining in costs. But while citizens are feeling the burden of drug costs, so is the government through publicly funded insurance plans. (Leonard, 9/24)

Meanwhile, antitrust enforcers suffer a rare court defeat when challenging a merger -

The Wall Street Journal: Federal Judge Declines To Block Steris From Acquiring Synergy Health

A federal judge on Thursday handed a rare court loss to U.S. antitrust enforcers, declining to block Steris Corp., a U.S. infection-prevention company, from acquiring U.K.-based Synergy Health PLC. U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Cleveland rejected a request by the Federal Trade Commission to issue a preliminary injunction halting the merger, saying the FTC hadn't met its burden of showing the deal was likely to damp competition in the U.S. (Kendall, 9/24)

11. Possible Government Shutdown Won't Delay Oct. 1 Launch Of Revised Medical Coding System

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have contingency plans in place for managing the transition to ICD-10. In other medical practice news, physician groups oppose draft language aimed at curbing "surprise" billing. And telemedicine usage is on the rise.

CQ Healthbeat: ICD-10 Transition To Proceed Even If Government Shuts Down

A nationwide changeover to a new set of medical billing codes will proceed on Oct. 1 even if Congress triggers a partial government shutdown that day by missing an

appropriations deadline, according to a top federal official. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services already is establishing contingency plans for managing the transition to ICD-10 codes against the potential disruption of a shutdown, said Patrick H. Conway, principal deputy administrator of the agency, on a Thursday call with reporters. Managing the switch from the older ICD-9 codes is among the top priorities for the agency, and CMS has some flexibility in its staffing that can be used to keep the work on track in case of a shutdown, he said. (Young, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Docs Battle Proposal To Curb 'Surprise' Medical Bills

A contentious fight over “surprise” medical bills is complicating an effort to revise a longstanding model state law on health care provider networks. The American Medical Association and other physician groups are pushing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to drop draft language addressing what happens when patients visit facilities that are in their insurance networks but receive treatment from out-of-network providers. (Demko, 9/24)

McClatchy: Telemedicine Holds Promise Of Cheaper, Wider Medical Care

Samantha Cunningham was halfway through a five-hour road trip to a music festival in Bradley, Calif., when she realized she'd left her asthma inhaler back home in Sacramento. Her options seemed limited: go back, pick it up and be late for the concert; pay a $100 minimum fee to get a new prescription at a walk-in clinic; "or go without the inhaler and hope that they had a rescue machine at the festival on the off chance I had an asthma attack, which, of course, wasn't a very inviting prospect," Cunningham said. (Pugh, 9/24)

CAMPAIGN 2016

12. Fiorina's Position On Mandated Health Insurance Evolves Over Past Two Years

CNN questions the Republican candidate's campaign on statements Carly Fiorina made in a 2013 interview, while NPR reports on her abortion stance. Meanwhile, KHN analyzes Hillary Clinton's proposals to save consumers money on health care.

CNN: Fiorina's Long-Held Support For Mandatory Health Insurance

Carly Fiorina, who has joined other leading Republican presidential candidates in denouncing Obamacare, once backed an individual mandate to buy health insurance that could put her at odds with others in the GOP. (Moody, 9/24)

NPR: Carly Fiorina Doubles Down On Opposition To Abortion In South Carolina

Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina campaigned at a Christian pregnancy care center in South Carolina Thursday. Opposition to abortion has become a prominent message in her campaign recently. (McCammon, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?

While the Republicans running for president are united in their desire to repeal the

federal health law, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton is fashioning her own health care agenda to tackle out-of-pocket costs – but industry experts question whether her proposals would solve the problem. In addition to defending the Affordable Care Act, Clinton released two separate proposals this week. One would seek to protect people with insurance from having to pay thousands of dollars in addition to their premiums for prescription drugs; the other would set overall limits on out-of-pocket health spending for those with insurance. (Rovner, 9/25)

HEALTH IT

13. Premera Faces 38 Class-Action Lawsuits Over Cyberattack

A security breach of the insurance company's computer system may have compromised the personal information of 11 million customers. Some of them are suing, citing attempts at identify theft. In other Health IT news, a Walgreens database outage delayed prescriptions at thousands of pharmacies.

The Seattle Times: Premera Sued Over Security Breaches

With less than a week left to apply, about 830,000 of almost 11 million current and former insurance customers have registered for credit monitoring and identity-theft protection after their personal and medical information may have been compromised in a security breach that Premera announced in March. Mountlake Terrace-based Premera maintains that it does not “have any evidence that there was any criminal activity on anyone’s account as a result of the cyberattack,” company spokeswoman Melanie Coon said in an email statement. (Garnick, 9/24)

The Chicago Tribune: Outage Of Walgreens Pharmacy Computer Database Causes Prescription Delays

Getting a prescription filled at Walgreens may take a lot longer than usual over the next few days due to an ongoing outage of the drugstore chain’s pharmacy computer database. Pharmacists have been filling prescriptions manually since the system went down Tuesday morning, causing delays for customers at all 8,200 Walgreens drugstores across the U.S., a company spokesman said Thursday. (9/24)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

14. FDA Needs More Info To Gauge Safety Of Essure Sterilization Device

The agency also wrote in a letter Thursday that a health-care startup’s cancer detection kit, which would be sold directly to healthy individuals, is high-risk and could harm public health.

NPR: FDA Advisers Call For More Safety Data On Sterilization Device

The Food and Drug Administration should gather more information to try to get a better

sense of the safety of the Essure sterilization device, a panel of experts assembled by the agency recommended Thursday. (Stein, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Startup's Cancer Test For The Healthy May Harm Public, FDA Says

The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday that a health-care startup's cancer detection kit sold to healthy individuals is high-risk, could harm public health, and hasn't been validated by science. The FDA wrote to Pathway Genomics Corp. on Sept. 21 about the test, which retails for as much as $699. Patients get the test ordered by their doctor or one working for Pathway, then the company analyzes a blood sample for circulating traces of cancer. The company, which is backed by IBM Corp. and the venture capital firm Founders Fund, has touted the test as a less-expensive, faster way of detecting tumors. (Edney and Chen, 9/24)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Conn. Hospital CEO Salaries Draw Scrutiny; Calif. Counties Provide Non-Emergency Care To Undocumented Adults

Health care stories are reported from Connecticut, California, Florida, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Alabama, District of Columbia, Kansas, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Michigan and Texas.

The Connecticut Mirror: Hospital CEO Pay: Red Herring Or Key In State Funding Debate?

As hospital leaders warn of potential job and service reductions in response to state funding cuts, the six- and seven-figure pay packages of Connecticut hospital executives have emerged as a point of contention. (Levin Becker, 9/25)

NPR: California Counties Add Health Care For Immigrant Adults

A California county voted Tuesday to restore primary health care services to undocumented adults living in the county. Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco, joins 46 other California counties that have agreed to provide non-emergency care to immigrants who entered the country illegally. (Romero, 9/24)

News Service Of Florida: Bondi, Hospital System Reach $3.5M Settlement

Two days after the U.S. Department of Justice announced a $115 million legal settlement with Adventist Health System, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said Wednesday her office has reached a $3.5 million settlement with the Altamonte Springs-based hospital system. Both settlements, which stem from whistleblower lawsuits filed by Adventist employees, involve allegations that the hospital firm had improper financial arrangements with physicians. (9/24)

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: Assembly Passes Measure Cutting Taxpayer Funding Of Planned Parenthood

The state Assembly voted Thursday to strip Planned Parenthood of about $3.5 million in government funding a year. The measure passed, 60-35, with all Republicans backing it and all Democrats opposing it. It now goes to the Senate, which like the

Assembly is controlled by Republicans. (Marley, 9/24)

The Wall Street Journal: Lawmakers Fail To Override Christie Veto

New Jersey Democrats unsuccessfully attempted on Thursday to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto of a gun-control bill when most GOP supporters of the legislation decided not to buck the presidential candidate. The legislation would have prevented people with a documented history of mental illness from expunging that record to buy a gun. (Haddon, 9/24)

The New York Times: Alabama Vote Is Rare Win In The South For The U.A.W.

The 2-to-1 margin of victory at the small factory, which makes seats for trucks, represents an unusual win in the uphill battle to organize autoworkers in the South. But it was unclear whether the vote signaled a broader breakthrough for labor and the U.A.W. in a region that has historically been allergic to most unions. Employees at C.V.G. cited low pay, which tops out at $15.80 an hour, the growing use of temporary workers at even lower wages and rising health insurance costs as reasons they voted to join the union. (Cohen, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives

Under a new law, District of Columbia women will be able to scratch one item off their list of things to worry about: running out of birth control pills. Under the law, which passed its congressional review period this month, women will be able to get a year's supply of pills at once. Prescriptions for birth control pills typically have to be renewed every 30 or 90 days, potentially resulting in women missing scheduled pills. The yearlong provision will begin in 2017. (Andrews, 9/25)

The Associated Press: Utah Unveils Tool Showing Impact Of Federal Budget Crisis

Lawwmakers worried about Utah's reliance on U.S. government funds unveiled an online calculator Thursday that shows how the state would be hit by various federal budget disasters like a shutdown. ... The calculator comes with several built-in scenarios that the commission says are "extreme but possible," such as broad federal spending cuts and or deep slashes to Medicaid money. On the website, the public can access a slimmed down version of a more sophisticated tool that legislative budget staff can use. (Price, 9/24)

The Kansas Health Institute News Service: Mental Health Advocates Question 72-Hour Involuntary Hold Proposal

Several advocates for people with mental illness on Wednesday panned a proposal that would allow treatment facilities to hold people in crisis situations for up to 72 hours as involuntary patients. "This is a deprivation of liberty," Mike Burgess, a spokesperson with the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, said during a meeting of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition. It would be better, he said, to expand access to voluntary treatment. (Ranney, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Orlando Health To 5,000 Patients: Redo Mammograms

Orlando Health mailed letters today to more than 5,300 patients who may have gotten bad mammograms. Women who went to the Boston Diagnostic Imaging location on

Orange Avenue from May of 2013 to July of 2015 are asked to call Orlando Health. It's unclear why the Boston Diagnostic center has lost its accreditation, but Orlando Health bought the center last December. (Aboraya, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Isolation Increases Florida's Rural Suicide Rates

Florida's rural counties are seeing suicide rates for youth almost double that of the state's large cities. And experts say isolation, poverty, access to firearms and a lack of mental health resources are to blame. ... the teen suicide rate in Florida's small towns has doubled in the past 20 years. From 2012 through 2014, almost 8,000 youth younger than 21 killed themselves in Florida. Of those, 520 come from rural communities -- a significant number given their populations. Also, experts say the number of teen suicides could be much higher, in part because medical examiners and law enforcement don't have an objective set of criteria to decide whether to label a death as suicide. (Miller and Klingener, 9/24)

The Associated Press: Chiropractor Says Iowa Officials Wrong About Payment Rules

A chiropractor accused of improper Medicaid billings says Iowa officials are wrong about coverage eligibility for some conditions. Prosecutors said Thursday that Elizabeth Kressin, of Spencer, had submitted improper claims for more than seven years for what the prosecutors said were medically unnecessary chiropractic procedures for which payments weren't allowed. They include bed wetting, colic and ear infections. (9/25)

The Associated Press: Survey Shows Big Drop In Uninsured Nevada Kindergartners

An annual health survey of Nevada kindergartners shows a big drop in the percentage of children without health insurance, a change that researchers attribute to more use of Medicaid benefits. The seventh annual report from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, showed 7.6 percent of kindergartners were uninsured last school year, down from 12.6 percent a year earlier. (Rindels, 9/24)

The Charlotte Observer: New Charlotte VA Center Will Expand Veterans Health Care In Region

Charlotte's new Veterans Affairs Health Care Center won't open officially for more than six months. ... The Charlotte site is one of seven new VA health centers approved by Congress in 2010. The Salisbury hospital region is one of the fastest growing in the country, said VA spokesman Barthalomew Major. An estimated 140,000 veterans live in the Charlotte metropolitan area, about 60,000 in Mecklenburg County alone. Although the number of veterans nationwide is declining, the number of veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system in increasing, Major said. Over the past 10 years, the number of VA patients nationwide has increased by 23 percent, but in the Salisbury region, the increase has been 66 percent, he said. (Garloch, 9/24)

The Detroit Free Press: Doctor: Lead Seen In More Flint Kids Since Water Switch

Flint's ongoing water woes are now associated with an immediate and irreversible danger — possible lead poisoning of some of the city's children, according to a review of blood test results by a Hurley Children's Hospital pediatrician. ... State officials say their own review of blood test results have not shown the same increase that [Dr.

Mona] Hanna-Attisha found. Moreover, water tests have similarly shown lead within federally accepted levels, they say. (Erb, 9/24)

The San Antonio Express-News: Judge To Halt Medicaid Cuts For Therapy Services

A judge has decided to temporarily block tens of millions of dollars in planned Medicaid funding cuts, likely ensuring that thousands of children with disabilities will continue to access therapy services after Oct. 1. (Rosenthal, 9/24)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Economics Of Chronic Care; State-Run Marketplaces

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Annals of Internal Medicine: Medicare Chronic Care Management Payments And Financial Returns To Primary Care Practices--A Modeling Study

Physicians have traditionally been reimbursed for face-to-face visits. A new non–visit-based payment for chronic care management (CCM) of Medicare patients took effect in January 2015. ... If nonphysician staff were to deliver CCM services, net revenue to practices would increase despite opportunity and staffing costs. Practices could expect approximately $332 per enrolled patient per year... if CCM services were delivered by registered nurses (RNs), approximately $372 ... if services were delivered by licensed practical nurses, and approximately $385 ... if services were delivered by medical assistants. ... At a minimum, 131 Medicare patients ... must enroll for practices to recoup the salary and overhead costs of hiring a full-time RN to provide CCM services. (Basu et al., 9/22)

The Commonwealth Fund: The Experiences of State-Run Marketplaces That Use HealthCare.gov

This brief explores the experiences of four states—Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon—that established their own exchanges but have operated them with support from the federal HealthCare.gov eligibility and enrollment platform. Drawing on discussions with policymakers, insurers, and brokers, we examine how these supported state-run marketplaces perform their key functions. We find that this model may offer states the ability to maximize their influence over their insurance markets, while limiting the financial risk of running an exchange. (Giovannelli and Lucia, 9/17)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Serving Low-Income Seniors Where They Live: Medicaid's Role In Providing Community-Based Long-Term Services And Supports

To better understand the low-income population with [long-term services and supports] LTSS needs, including those covered by Medicaid and those who are not, this issue brief examines the need for LTSS among seniors who live in the community and need LTSS. We use the 2011 National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) to examine

rates of need for LTSS and detail the characteristics of seniors who need these services. Throughout the brief, we compare dual eligible beneficiaries to low-income seniors without Medicaid. We also examine a third group, higher income seniors without Medicaid, to understand the role of income. Because LTSS needs increase with age, we also examine differences by age. (Garfield, 9/18)

National Governors Association: Using Data To Better Serve The Most Complex Patients: Highlights From NGA's Intensive Work With Seven States
[C]omplex care patients, sometimes referred to as super-utilizers, have comorbid and often serious conditions. ... such conditions often span both physical and behavioral health and are often further complicated by social factors, such as housing instability, poverty, or limited education. ... complex care patients represent only a small proportion (5 percent) of [Medicaid] beneficiaries but account for more than half of program costs. ... the National Governors Association has worked with several states to develop statewide [data] initiatives for improving the management of care for super-utilizers .... The following lessons learned can help state leaders ...: Understand the characteristics of complex populations. ... Identify and target specific patients. ... Ensure effective management and evaluation. (Isasi, 9/23)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

Reuters: Americans Overpaying Hugely For Cancer Drugs - Study
Americans are paying way over the odds for some modern cancer drugs, with pharmaceutical companies charging up to 600 times what the medicines cost to make, according to an independent academic study. The United States also pays more than double the price charged in Europe for these drugs - so-called tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), a potent class of cancer pills with fewer side effects than chemotherapy. The analysis by pharmacologist Andrew Hill of Britain's University of Liverpool, who will present his findings at the Sept. 25-29 European Cancer Congress in Vienna, is likely to fuel a growing storm over U.S. drug costs. (Hirschler, 9/22)

The Philadelphia Inquirer/Health Day: ERs Often 'Safety Net' Care For People With Schizophrenia: CDC
A new report finds that, too often, under-medicated Americans suffering from schizophrenia end up seeking care in the nation's hospital emergency rooms. The report, issued Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that between 2009 and 2011, over 382,000 visits to ERs were recorded for people aged 18 to 64 with schizophrenia. (9/23)

Reuters: Weight-Loss Surgery May Not Increase Health Costs For Diabetes
Weight loss surgery may be a cost-effective way of lowering blood sugar for many diabetics, not just those who are severely obese, a Swedish study suggests. Researchers found that for people with diabetes, total healthcare costs did not rise in the years following weight-loss surgery, largely because of overall savings from less use of healthcare and medications. (Rapaport, 9/23)

Reuters: A Text Message A Day May Keep The Doctor Away
Texting patients regular reminders to do things like eat right, exercise more and smoke less may help them make lifestyle changes linked to a lower risk of heart attacks and

strokes, an Australian study suggests. Researchers sent four texts a week to about 350 people with heart disease to supplement their regular care with reminders designed to encourage healthier habits. Another group of about 350 patients stuck with their usual care routines but didn't receive texts. (9/23)

The New York Times: Consumers Are Embracing Full-Fat Foods

Public health authorities have long urged Americans to cut back on foods high in saturated fat like butter, meat and whole milk. But a new report on dietary-fat consumption suggests that the public is increasingly eating more, not less, of these foods. The new report, which was published last week by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, found that sales of butter in the United States rose 14 percent last year and climbed another 6 percent in the first three months of 2015. Sales of whole milk rose 11 percent in the first half of this year, while skim milk purchases fell 14 percent. The report also predicted that consumption of red meat and eggs would climb in the coming years. (O'Connor, 9/23)

Reuters: Telehealth Visits May Be An Option After Surgery

People may happily, and safely, forgo in-person doctors' visits after surgery by opting instead for talking with their surgeons by phone or video, suggests a small study of U.S. veterans. Most patients preferred the virtual visits and the doctors didn't miss any infections that popped up after surgery, the researchers report in JAMA Surgery. (Seaman, 9/23)

Medscape: Many Poor Kids With Mental Illness Miss Out On Benefits

A "sizable" number of US children with mental disorders who are from low-income households do not receive federal benefits under the Social Security Administration's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, according to a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, in Washington, DC. However, the number of these children who are receiving SSI funds is growing at a pace consistent with the mental health trends in the general population, the report indicates. (Brooks, 9/21)

Medscape: DNR After In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest May Not Match Prognosis

Among patients who had an in-hospital cardiac arrest and successful restoration of spontaneous circulation, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders were generally issued quickly and reflected predicted prognosis, a new study reports. However, the study, which was published in the September 22/29, 2015 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, also identified room for improvement. (Busko, 9/23)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: Pinning Blame For A Possible Shutdown; Medicare Should Help On Drug Prices

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Los Angeles Times: Are Democrats Actually The Ones Trying To Shut Down The

Government?

So, who's trying to shut down the government, Democrats or Republicans? The answer, naturally, depends on whom you ask. ... Put another way, it was Republicans who decided to tie the continued operation of government to the question of whether Planned Parenthood should receive Medicaid dollars. They took the hostage, they're responsible for the consequences. Feel free to debate the merits of Planned Parenthood all you like, but this fight isn't new. The recent videos didn't seem to persuade any of the organization's supporters in Congress to flip to the other side. So the outcome Thursday wasn't just predictable, it was a certainty. (Jon Healey, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Plum Line: Government Shutdown Fight May Again Shake Up GOP Presidential Race

With the big news out of Congress today the warm welcome received by Pope Francis, one might forget that our nation's august legislature is headed for yet another government shutdown, this time over Republican demands that the government cut off all funding for Planned Parenthood, most of which comes in the form of Medicaid reimbursements for women's health care. This comes at a particularly inopportune time for Republicans. Just when it was starting to look like their chaotic presidential primary might be heading to a more sane place, the shutdown controversy threatens to drag it backwards, boosting the candidates the party fears most. (Paul Waldman, 9/24)

The Washington Post's The Fix: Donald Trump Just Went After Martin Shkreli. Why In The World Isn't The Rest Of The GOP?

Jumping into the prescription drug debate could help elevate those candidates' plans, because prescription drug prices is one of the few health-care issues where Americans agree that the status quo needs to change. In fact, 76 percent of Americans said dealing with prescription drug prices should be Washington's No. 1 health-care priority, according to an April poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation. ... GOP front-runner Donald Trump is regularly praised by liberal leaders, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D), for his call to raise taxes on the wealthy. Want to out-Trump Trump? Why not start talking about an issue that matters deeply to so many Americans? (Amber Phillips, 9/24)

Huffington Post: Top LGBT Group Wants Congress To Investigate Drug Company That Proposed Massive Price Hike

One of the nation's highest-profile LGBT advocacy organizations has joined the calls for Congress to investigate Turing Pharmaceuticals, the company that recently sparked a national backlash when it proposed hiking the price of a critical anti-infection drug. On Wednesday, The Huffington Post has learned, the Human Rights Campaign sent letters to the chairmen of three key House committees with jurisdiction over health care and the drug industry. In the letters, the organization calls upon the committees to investigate Turing's recent announcement that it would raise the price of drug called Daraprim, a treatment for toxoplasmosis, from $13.50 to $750 a tablet. (Jonathan Cohn, 9/24)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: A 5,455 Percent Price Increase? Expect More Of It

After Pope Francis's visit to the U.S., possibly the biggest news item this week has been the depraved price increase that Turing Pharmaceuticals posted for its drug, Daraprim. Although the 5,455 percent that Turing hiked Daraprim's price is astounding

the absolute daily price is less than that of many other drugs and the practice of gouging prices on specialty drugs is consistent with practices across the industry. (Daniel R. Hoffman, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Let Medicare Tackle High Drug Costs

Yes, the U.S. pays 40 percent more for drugs than other countries do, and last year those costs rose 12.6 percent. But the increase is expected to slow, and drugs still account for just 10 cents of every dollar Americans spend on health care. What has rightly made drug costs a political issue, however, are the astronomical prices of a few specialty medicines. ... The best strategy to push down such prices -- the one endorsed by [Hillary] Clinton and one of her rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bernie Sanders -- is to give Medicare, which pays for 29 percent of all U.S. prescription drug purchases, the ability to negotiate prices with drugmakers. That Medicare doesn't already do this is Congress's fault. (9/24)

Tribune News Service: Patients Win As Larger Insurers Seek To Cut Costs With Better Service

The planned mergers of several of America's largest health insurers Aetna combining with Humana, and Anthem with Cigna is almost certain to be good for the insurers, reducing overhead and improving their bargaining position as they attempt to negotiate better rates with providers. But what's in it for you and me? The answer may surprise you: In all likelihood, the mergers will lead to better medical care at lower costs. (Jon Kaplan, 9/24)

The Washington Post: Want To Fight Poverty? Expand Access To Contraception.

Pope Francis's visit has brought renewed attention to some of our nation's toughest economic challenges: inequality, poverty and income (im)mobility. These are pressing issues that leaders of both political parties say they want to tackle, but they disagree on useful, or even acceptable, policy tools. I have a humble suggestion for an antipoverty policy that, if framed correctly, could appeal to both left and right (though probably not Francis). That policy: better access to contraception. (Catherine Rampell, 9/24)

Forbes: Utah Proposes Tax On The Sick To Pay For Obamacare Medicaid Expansion

After the legislature blocked his Obamacare Medicaid expansion plans in 2014 and 2015, Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) began working with legislative leaders to negotiate some kind of "compromise" to expand the program to more than 100,000 able-bodied adults. Although the deal is being negotiated in secret, some details have been leaked to the public. According to the few specifics made public, the biggest component of the negotiated framework is to levy a new "assessment" on medical providers in Utah to help pay for the state's share of expansion. But the so-called assessment is simply a new Obamacare tax on the sick that will not only raise health care costs for all Utahns, but add significantly to the national debt. (Nic Horton, Jonathan Ingram and Josh Archambault, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Wonkblog: We Must Act On Global Health Because Millions Of Lives Are At Stake

The report made a strong case that the benefits of the right health investments far exceed the costs. Indeed, I believe the moral and economic case for investments in

health care--both prevention and treatment--is as or more compelling than in any other area in the developing world. The dramatic declines in child mortality and increases in life expectancy demonstrate that policy can make an immense difference. (Lawrence Summers, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Pope Moves The Needle In U.S. Politics

Pope Francis hasn't changed any church policies on economics, social justice, war, abortion or gay marriage. As if to underscore that point, on Wednesday he visited the Little Sisters of the Poor, which took the U.S. government to court to fight a requirement that religious organizations cover birth control in the health insurance they provide to employees. Yet in his emphasis on the plight of the poor, immigrants and the environment, this pope has changed the Catholic Church's tone and rebalanced its priorities. That bothers conservative activists in the U.S., where the Catholic hierarchy for three decades has largely been identified with Republicans and the culture wars because of its stress on abortion and gay marriage. (Albert R. Hunt, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Physician Payment After The SGR — The New Meritocracy

The “doc fix” — a permanent replacement for the unworkable sustainable growth rate formula (SGR) enacted in 1997 for calculating Medicare's physician fees — had been a long time coming .... At the heart of the legislation is the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which replaces the Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier to move physician payment under Medicare further into the territory of value-based purchasing. ... When it is implemented, the MIPS will become the largest physician pay-for-performance scheme in the world and the first to create a single value-based purchasing framework covering the full spectrum of physician specialties. This new meritocracy will need to be flexible enough to account for the heterogeneous practice styles of the professionals who care for Medicare beneficiaries and the settings in which they work. (Meredith B. Rosenthal, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Leap Of Faith — Medicare's New Physician Payment System

These changes mark a new era, in which Medicare offers powerful incentives for physicians to participate in ACOs and other innovative payment and delivery models. ... This revamping reflects a broader movement in U.S. health care toward paying for medical services on the basis of value rather than volume — a movement built on the prevailing view in the health policy community that cost-containment efforts can succeed only if we move away from fee-for-service payment. But there are several important problems with this belief and the reforms it inspires. (Jonathan Oberlander and Miriam J. Laugesen, 9/24)

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Morning Briefing

Friday, September 25, 2015
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KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?

The Democratic president candidate's proposals to save consumers money are questioned by experts and health industry officials. (Julie Rovner, 9/25)

2. Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors

Many students avoid geriatrics because of the low pay and high complications, but six people over 90 offer a different perspective to help attract young doctors. (Susan Jaffe, 9/25)

3. D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives

The new law is only the second in the country that allows women to get a year's prescription at one time. (Michelle Andrews, 9/25)

4. Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'" by Lisa Benson.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

THERE'S NO ESCAPING ICD-10

Shutdown? No matter.
Medicare moving ahead
With new codes for docs.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

5. Boehner To Leave Congress At The End Of October

News outlets report Friday morning that House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, plans to resign, amidst growing pressure from the conservative wing of the Republican Party. Politico notes that now, free from intra-caucus concerns, he will be free to push a clean stop-gap funding bill through the House to prevent a government shutdown.

USA Today: Speaker John Boehner To Resign From Congress
In a shocking announcement, John Boehner told his GOP colleagues he will step down as House speaker and resign his Ohio congressional seat on Oct. 30. ... His resignation comes the day after Pope Francis became the first pontiff to address a joint meeting of Congress — a crowning achievement of Boehner's career — and amid a congressional fight over federal funding of Planned Parenthood that threatens another government shutdown. (Shesgreen and Allen, 9/25)

NBC News: House Speaker John Boehner To Resign
Boehner has been under prolonged pressure from conservatives in his party, who have accused him of failing to fight the Obama administration on issues important to the GOP. Foes within his party had been pushing to oust him if he presented any legislation that would continue to fund the government and avoid a government shutdown without stripping federal funding for Planned Parenthood. (9/25)

The New York Times: John Boehner Will Resign From Congress
Most recently, Mr. Boehner, 65, was trying to craft a solution to keep the government open through the rest of the year, but was under pressure from a growing base of conservatives who told him that they would not vote for a bill that did not defund Planned Parenthood. Several of those members were on a path to remove Mr. Boehner as speaker, though their ability to do so was far from certain. (Steinhauer, 9/25)

Politico: Speaker John Boehner Retiring From Congress At The End Of October
Speaker John Boehner, who rose from bartender's son to the most powerful man in Congress, will retire at the end of October, ending a tumultuous five-year tenure atop the House of Representatives. ... Now that he doesn't have internal political considerations to weigh, Boehner is certain to push through a government-funding bill next week that funds Planned Parenthood, and keeps the government open. Boehner's decision, relayed in a closed Republican meeting Friday morning, will set off one of the most intense leadership scrambles in modern Congressional GOP politics. (Sherman, 9/25)

6. Senate GOP Fails To Pass Temporary Spending Bill That Defunded Planned Parenthood

With just days left before a possible federal government shutdown, Democrats blocked passage of a bill that would have funded the government through Dec. 11 but included a provision to strip federal funding from the women's health organization. Meanwhile, Republican leaders in both the House and Senate are moving ahead in efforts to pass a clean, bipartisan budget measure.

Los Angeles Times: Senate Fails To Advance Bill That Would Cut Planned Parenthood Funding
With a federal shutdown days away, Senate Republicans tried -- and failed -- on Thursday to advance legislation that would eliminate money for Planned Parenthood but keep government offices and services open. Democrats blocked the bill with a filibuster, refusing to cut funds for the large family planning organization after secretly recorded videos disclosed officials discussing the practice of providing fetal tissue from abortions for research. The debate has become a national conversation on abortion. (Mascaro, 9/24)

USA Today: Democrats Block Planned Parenthood Defunding; McConnell Offers 'Clean Bill'
Senate Democrats blocked a bill Thursday to keep the government funded through Dec. 11 because of a Republican provision to strip Planned Parenthood of federal money for a year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., moved immediately after the vote to try to avert an Oct. 1 government shutdown by filing a new bill that funds federal agencies but does not include the divisive Planned Parenthood provision. A vote on that bill could come as early as Monday. (Kelly, 9/24)

The Associated Press: McConnell Moves Ahead With Bipartisan Stopgap Spending Bill
In the House, GOP leaders called a meeting of their fractious rank and file for Friday morning to discuss whether to accept the Senate's move or reject it at the risk that continuing the fight over Planned Parenthood would lead to a government shutdown. The White House signaled President Barack Obama would sign the measure, called a continuing resolution, into law — if the House steps aside from the fight tea party Republicans want over "defunding" Planned Parenthood. (Taylor, 9/24)

Politico: Boehner Plots Shutdown Move As Critics Weigh Options
House Republican leaders will move next week to approve a "clean" government spending bill — and avert a shutdown — but only after they hold a vote on a measure to bar federal funding for Planned Parenthood, according to multiple sources familiar with the GOP's plan. The move, which comes as conservatives are weighing whether to try to remove John Boehner as House speaker, was discussed at a closed GOP leadership meeting Thursday. It involves a legislative tactic called an "enrollment correction," which essentially changes the text of a bill that has passed the House and the Senate. But it would ultimately be a meaningless exercise: The Senate would reject the measure, and President Barack Obama has said he will veto any spending bill that tries to defund Planned Parenthood. (Sherman, Palmer and Bresnahan, 9/24)

The Associated Press: House GOP May Opt Against Shutdown Over Planned

Parenthood
House GOP leaders have summoned their divided conference for a make-or-break discussion on how to fight taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood without having the battle lead to a government shutdown next week. ... Friday's meeting is likely to center on immediate action to use a special filibuster-proof budget bill to send legislation defunding Planned Parenthood to Obama's desk for the first time — rather than a futile bid to attach the anti-Planned Parenthood measure to a stopgap spending bill. The temporary measure is needed to avoid a shutdown at midnight on Wednesday. It would fund the government through Dec. 11. (Taylor, 9/25)

In other Capitol Hill action -

McClatchy: Senate Democrats Introduce Legislation To Repeal Obamacare 'Cadillac Tax'
The call to repeal one of the Affordable Care Act's most controversial provisions got louder on Thursday when a group of prominent Democratic senators introduced legislation to abolish the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-cost, employer-sponsored health plans. The action further solidified growing bipartisan opposition to the tax, which has already drawn the ire of employers, insurers, unions and benefits groups. They claim the tax would burden working families with higher costs and force employers to cut benefits. (Pugh, 9/24)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Healthcare.gov Account Information Stored On Vulnerable Database, Audit Finds

The flaws uncovered by auditors are now fixed but included critical issues of security policy, such as not encrypting user sessions. Millions of insurance customers' data is stored on the $110-million system known as MIDAS. In other health law news, a new study shows that Americans' top concern when shopping for health coverage is the monthly premium they will pay.

The Associated Press: Audit Finds Slipshod Cybersecurity At Healthcare.gov
The government stored sensitive personal information on millions of health insurance customers in a computer system with basic security flaws, according to an official audit that uncovered slipshod practices. The Obama administration said it acted quickly to fix all the problems identified by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office. But the episode raises questions about the government's ability to protect a vast new database at a time when cyberattacks are becoming bolder. (Alonso-Zaldivar, 9/24)

NBC News: Monthly Cost Is Top Concern For Health Insurance Shoppers: Survey
Americans, long used to seeking bargains, look mostly at price when they're shopping for health insurance, a new survey shows. More than half of those who looked but didn't buy anything on the new Obamacare exchanges said they couldn't find a plan they could afford, the survey found. And two-thirds who switched coverage said price

was the main factor. (Fox, 9/25)

8. Details Of Utah's Much-Anticipated Medicaid Expansion Plan To Be Rolled Out Tuesday

The plan, which faces skepticism from many Republican state legislators and is the product of hours of negotiations, will be the topic of briefings given next week during closed-door meetings.

Salt Lake Tribune: Utah Republican Lawmakers To Huddle Behind Closed Doors On Medicaid Expansion
House and Senate Republicans will meet next week in closed-door caucuses for briefings on a proposal to use Medicaid funds to help provide health insurance to tens of thousands low-income Utahns. The plan they will hear is the product of hours of negotiations between leaders in the House and Senate and Gov. Gary Herbert, launched after Herbert's Healthy Utah plan failed to win support earlier this year in the Republican-dominated House. Depending on the reception the plan receives — particularly from skeptical House members — the governor could call a special session in mid-October to vote on the plan. (Gehrke, 9/24)

KSL: Details Of Medicaid Expansion Plan Plan Due Next Week
Details of the much-anticipated new plan for Medicaid expansion from Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders will be rolled out Tuesday to lawmakers in closed-door meetings before being unveiled publicly. But the governor has yet to sign off on a final proposal, his spokesman, Jon Cox, said Wednesday. "There are still details that need to be negotiated by the group," Cox said. (Riley Roche, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Utah's Medicaid Expansion Hits Funding Roadblock
One red state's unprecedented effort to finance Medicaid expansion through a broad array of health care sectors — from hospitals and doctors to drug makers and pharmacies — is running into serious roadblocks. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders in July announced a deal to expand Medicaid, agreeing on a framework that would require "providers and benefactors of Medicaid dollars to pay their fair share." But months later, Utah leaders are still facing objections from industry groups who argue they're being asked to pay too much. (Pradhan, 9/24)

Also, Oregon is converting its Medicaid eligibility system to the one used by Kentucky -

Portland Business Journal: Oregon Medicaid On Track To Convert To Kentucky System, Will Cost $58M
The Oregon Health Authority plans to debut its new Medicaid eligibility system, imported from Kentucky, on Dec. 15. The transition project came in under budget at $58 million, said Sarah Miller, project director for OHA's MAGI Medicaid System Transfer Project. The original estimate of $62 million. Miller said the new system will afford several advantages over the current one. (Hayes, 9/24)

Meanwhile, on the topic of health exchanges -

The Associated Press: Arkansas Governor Asks Panel To Put Exchange Plans On

Hold
Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Thursday he wants Arkansas to halt work on setting up its own insurance exchange for consumers while lawmakers look at the future of the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion. The Republican governor said he's asked the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace board to wait for a legislative task force's recommendations on the "private option" expansion later this year. (DeMillo, 9/24)

MARKETPLACE

9. APA Says Insurance Mergers Would Undermine Access To Mental Health Care

Other prominent doctors groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians, have expressed concern about the proposed mergers' impact on patients.

Reuters: U.S. Insurance Mega Mergers Could Hurt Care - Psychiatric Group
The American Psychiatric Association warned U.S. antitrust regulators this month that two proposed health insurance deals could worsen access to mental health care services, adding to public opposition from several prominent doctors groups. Anthem Inc would become the largest U.S. health insurer through a proposed $47 billion acquisition of Cigna Corp, announced in late July. Earlier that month, Aetna Inc said it would buy Humana Inc and become the largest provider of Medicare plans for older people. (Humer, 9/24)

In other industry news -

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Blue Cross Plans Helping Corporate Clients Cut Health Costs
The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association on Thursday unveiled an expanded database that will help individual Blues, like Philadelphia's Independence, drill down into the cost of care for their corporate customers who have operations nationwide. he Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members cover 105 million Americans, has maintained a claims database for a decade, and Independence has contributed for years. But now all 36 Blue Cross companies are required to share claims data, which are converted into 1,600 common treatments and elective procedures - up from 300 previously. (Brubaker, 9/25)

10. 'Doing The Right Thing': The Complicated Business Of Prescription Drug Pricing

With pharmaceutical companies receiving a lot of attention over the skyrocketing costs of drugs, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez talks to The Washington Post. And after Turing's controversial price hike for an HIV drug made waves this week, NBC News reports on other similar cases in the industry.

The Washington Post: Novartis CEO Talks About Drug Costs, Paying Doctors And 'Doing The Right Thing'
As stories of jacked-up drug costs make news, and discussions of health-care reform pepper the campaign trail, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez sat down with The Washington Post to talk about how he views his responsibility as leader of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. (Cunningham, 9/24)

NBC News: Turing Isn't The Only Drug Company Hiking Prices By Leaps And Bounds
Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli was lambasted this week by medical groups, a presidential candidate and his own industry for raising the price of a 62-year-old drug by more than 5,000 percent. He reversed course under pressure Tuesday night, but not before the national attention struck fear into the hearts of biotech investors over increased scrutiny of drug prices, sending stocks plummeting. Turing may have been an egregious example, but it's not the only one raising eyebrows for skyrocketing price tags. Bernstein analyst Ronny Gal pointed out many companies ratchet up drug prices when the market presents an opportunity. (Tirrell, 9/24)

U.S. News & World Report: Budget Breakers
Prescription drugs are costly and most Americans agree that they pay too much for them. Recent headlines illustrate that point clearly – from presidential candidates' promising to tackle the issue, to a CEO initially announcing a jump in the cost of a parasitic-fighting medicine. And with America's total spending on prescription medicine reaching its highest rate in 13 years, policy groups are listening and are coming up with their own plans for reining in costs. But while citizens are feeling the burden of drug costs, so is the government through publicly funded insurance plans. (Leonard, 9/24)

Meanwhile, antitrust enforcers suffer a rare court defeat when challenging a merger -

The Wall Street Journal: Federal Judge Declines To Block Steris From Acquiring Synergy Health
A federal judge on Thursday handed a rare court loss to U.S. antitrust enforcers, declining to block Steris Corp., a U.S. infection-prevention company, from acquiring U.K.-based Synergy Health PLC. U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Cleveland rejected a request by the Federal Trade Commission to issue a preliminary injunction halting the merger, saying the FTC hadn't met its burden of showing the deal was likely to damp competition in the U.S. (Kendall, 9/24)

11. Possible Government Shutdown Won't Delay Oct. 1 Launch Of Revised Medical Coding System

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have contingency plans in place for managing the transition to ICD-10. In other medical practice news, physician groups oppose draft language aimed at curbing "surprise" billing. And telemedicine usage is on the rise.

CQ Healthbeat: ICD-10 Transition To Proceed Even If Government Shuts Down
A nationwide changeover to a new set of medical billing codes will proceed on Oct. 1 even if Congress triggers a partial government shutdown that day by missing an appropriations deadline, according to a top federal official. The Centers for Medicare

and Medicaid Services already is establishing contingency plans for managing the transition to ICD-10 codes against the potential disruption of a shutdown, said Patrick H. Conway, principal deputy administrator of the agency, on a Thursday call with reporters. Managing the switch from the older ICD-9 codes is among the top priorities for the agency, and CMS has some flexibility in its staffing that can be used to keep the work on track in case of a shutdown, he said. (Young, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Docs Battle Proposal To Curb 'Surprise' Medical Bills
A contentious fight over "surprise" medical bills is complicating an effort to revise a longstanding model state law on health care provider networks. The American Medical Association and other physician groups are pushing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to drop draft language addressing what happens when patients visit facilities that are in their insurance networks but receive treatment from out-of-network providers. (Demko, 9/24)

McClatchy: Telemedicine Holds Promise Of Cheaper, Wider Medical Care
Samantha Cunningham was halfway through a five-hour road trip to a music festival in Bradley, Calif., when she realized she'd left her asthma inhaler back home in Sacramento. Her options seemed limited: go back, pick it up and be late for the concert; pay a $100 minimum fee to get a new prescription at a walk-in clinic; "or go without the inhaler and hope that they had a rescue machine at the festival on the off chance I had an asthma attack, which, of course, wasn't a very inviting prospect," Cunningham said. (Pugh, 9/24)

CAMPAIGN 2016

12. Fiorina's Position On Mandated Health Insurance Evolves Over Past Two Years

CNN questions the Republican candidate's campaign on statements Carly Fiorina made in a 2013 interview, while NPR reports on her abortion stance. Meanwhile, KHN analyzes Hillary Clinton's proposals to save consumers money on health care.

CNN: Fiorina's Long-Held Support For Mandatory Health Insurance
Carly Fiorina, who has joined other leading Republican presidential candidates in denouncing Obamacare, once backed an individual mandate to buy health insurance that could put her at odds with others in the GOP. (Moody, 9/24)

NPR: Carly Fiorina Doubles Down On Opposition To Abortion In South Carolina
Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina campaigned at a Christian pregnancy care center in South Carolina Thursday. Opposition to abortion has become a prominent message in her campaign recently. (McCammon, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?
While the Republicans running for president are united in their desire to repeal the federal health law, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton is fashioning her own health care

agenda to tackle out-of-pocket costs – but industry experts question whether her proposals would solve the problem. In addition to defending the Affordable Care Act, Clinton released two separate proposals this week. One would seek to protect people with insurance from having to pay thousands of dollars in addition to their premiums for prescription drugs; the other would set overall limits on out-of-pocket health spending for those with insurance. (Rovner, 9/25)

HEALTH IT

13. Premera Faces 38 Class-Action Lawsuits Over Cyberattack

A security breach of the insurance company's computer system may have compromised the personal information of 11 million customers. Some of them are suing, citing attempts at identify theft. In other Health IT news, a Walgreens database outage delayed prescriptions at thousands of pharmacies.

The Seattle Times: Premera Sued Over Security Breaches
With less than a week left to apply, about 830,000 of almost 11 million current and former insurance customers have registered for credit monitoring and identity-theft protection after their personal and medical information may have been compromised in a security breach that Premera announced in March. Mountlake Terrace-based Premera maintains that it does not "have any evidence that there was any criminal activity on anyone's account as a result of the cyberattack," company spokeswoman Melanie Coon said in an email statement. (Garnick, 9/24)

The Chicago Tribune: Outage Of Walgreens Pharmacy Computer Database Causes Prescription Delays
Getting a prescription filled at Walgreens may take a lot longer than usual over the next few days due to an ongoing outage of the drugstore chain's pharmacy computer database. Pharmacists have been filling prescriptions manually since the system went down Tuesday morning, causing delays for customers at all 8,200 Walgreens drugstores across the U.S., a company spokesman said Thursday. (9/24)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

14. FDA Needs More Info To Gauge Safety Of Essure Sterilization Device

The agency also wrote in a letter Thursday that a health-care startup's cancer detection kit, which would be sold directly to healthy individuals, is high-risk and could harm public health.

NPR: FDA Advisers Call For More Safety Data On Sterilization Device
The Food and Drug Administration should gather more information to try to get a better sense of the safety of the Essure sterilization device, a panel of experts assembled by

the agency recommended Thursday. (Stein, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Startup's Cancer Test For The Healthy May Harm Public, FDA Says
The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday that a health-care startup's cancer detection kit sold to healthy individuals is high-risk, could harm public health, and hasn't been validated by science. The FDA wrote to Pathway Genomics Corp. on Sept. 21 about the test, which retails for as much as $699. Patients get the test ordered by their doctor or one working for Pathway, then the company analyzes a blood sample for circulating traces of cancer. The company, which is backed by IBM Corp. and the venture capital firm Founders Fund, has touted the test as a less-expensive, faster way of detecting tumors. (Edney and Chen, 9/24)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Conn. Hospital CEO Salaries Draw Scrutiny; Calif. Counties Provide Non-Emergency Care To Undocumented Adults

Health care stories are reported from Connecticut, California, Florida, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Alabama, District of Columbia, Kansas, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Michigan and Texas.

The Connecticut Mirror: Hospital CEO Pay: Red Herring Or Key In State Funding Debate?
As hospital leaders warn of potential job and service reductions in response to state funding cuts, the six- and seven-figure pay packages of Connecticut hospital executives have emerged as a point of contention. (Levin Becker, 9/25)

NPR: California Counties Add Health Care For Immigrant Adults
A California county voted Tuesday to restore primary health care services to undocumented adults living in the county. Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco, joins 46 other California counties that have agreed to provide non-emergency care to immigrants who entered the country illegally. (Romero, 9/24)

News Service Of Florida: Bondi, Hospital System Reach $3.5M Settlement
Two days after the U.S. Department of Justice announced a $115 million legal settlement with Adventist Health System, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said Wednesday her office has reached a $3.5 million settlement with the Altamonte Springs-based hospital system. Both settlements, which stem from whistleblower lawsuits filed by Adventist employees, involve allegations that the hospital firm had improper financial arrangements with physicians. (9/24)

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: Assembly Passes Measure Cutting Taxpayer Funding Of Planned Parenthood
The state Assembly voted Thursday to strip Planned Parenthood of about $3.5 million in government funding a year. The measure passed, 60-35, with all Republicans backing it and all Democrats opposing it. It now goes to the Senate, which like the

Assembly is controlled by Republicans. (Marley, 9/24)

The Wall Street Journal: Lawmakers Fail To Override Christie Veto
New Jersey Democrats unsuccessfully attempted on Thursday to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto of a gun-control bill when most GOP supporters of the legislation decided not to buck the presidential candidate. The legislation would have prevented people with a documented history of mental illness from expunging that record to buy a gun. (Haddon, 9/24)

The New York Times: Alabama Vote Is Rare Win In The South For The U.A.W.
The 2-to-1 margin of victory at the small factory, which makes seats for trucks, represents an unusual win in the uphill battle to organize autoworkers in the South. But it was unclear whether the vote signaled a broader breakthrough for labor and the U.A.W. in a region that has historically been allergic to most unions. Employees at C.V.G. cited low pay, which tops out at $15.80 an hour, the growing use of temporary workers at even lower wages and rising health insurance costs as reasons they voted to join the union. (Cohen, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives
Under a new law, District of Columbia women will be able to scratch one item off their list of things to worry about: running out of birth control pills. Under the law, which passed its congressional review period this month, women will be able to get a year's supply of pills at once. Prescriptions for birth control pills typically have to be renewed every 30 or 90 days, potentially resulting in women missing scheduled pills. The yearlong provision will begin in 2017. (Andrews, 9/25)

The Associated Press: Utah Unveils Tool Showing Impact Of Federal Budget Crisis
Lawwmakers worried about Utah's reliance on U.S. government funds unveiled an online calculator Thursday that shows how the state would be hit by various federal budget disasters like a shutdown. ... The calculator comes with several built-in scenarios that the commission says are "extreme but possible," such as broad federal spending cuts and or deep slashes to Medicaid money. On the website, the public can access a slimmed down version of a more sophisticated tool that legislative budget staff can use. (Price, 9/24)

The Kansas Health Institute News Service: Mental Health Advocates Question 72-Hour Involuntary Hold Proposal
Several advocates for people with mental illness on Wednesday panned a proposal that would allow treatment facilities to hold people in crisis situations for up to 72 hours as involuntary patients. "This is a deprivation of liberty," Mike Burgess, a spokesperson with the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, said during a meeting of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition. It would be better, he said, to expand access to voluntary treatment. (Ranney, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Orlando Health To 5,000 Patients: Redo Mammograms
Orlando Health mailed letters today to more than 5,300 patients who may have gotten bad mammograms. Women who went to the Boston Diagnostic Imaging location on Orange Avenue from May of 2013 to July of 2015 are asked to call Orlando Health. It's

unclear why the Boston Diagnostic center has lost its accreditation, but Orlando Health bought the center last December. (Aboraya, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Isolation Increases Florida's Rural Suicide Rates
Florida's rural counties are seeing suicide rates for youth almost double that of the state's large cities. And experts say isolation, poverty, access to firearms and a lack of mental health resources are to blame. ... the teen suicide rate in Florida's small towns has doubled in the past 20 years. From 2012 through 2014, almost 8,000 youth younger than 21 killed themselves in Florida. Of those, 520 come from rural communities -- a significant number given their populations. Also, experts say the number of teen suicides could be much higher, in part because medical examiners and law enforcement don't have an objective set of criteria to decide whether to label a death as suicide. (Miller and Klingener, 9/24)

The Associated Press: Chiropractor Says Iowa Officials Wrong About Payment Rules
A chiropractor accused of improper Medicaid billings says Iowa officials are wrong about coverage eligibility for some conditions. Prosecutors said Thursday that Elizabeth Kressin, of Spencer, had submitted improper claims for more than seven years for what the prosecutors said were medically unnecessary chiropractic procedures for which payments weren't allowed. They include bed wetting, colic and ear infections. (9/25)

The Associated Press: Survey Shows Big Drop In Uninsured Nevada Kindergartners
An annual health survey of Nevada kindergartners shows a big drop in the percentage of children without health insurance, a change that researchers attribute to more use of Medicaid benefits. The seventh annual report from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, showed 7.6 percent of kindergartners were uninsured last school year, down from 12.6 percent a year earlier. (Rindels, 9/24)

The Charlotte Observer: New Charlotte VA Center Will Expand Veterans Health Care In Region
Charlotte's new Veterans Affairs Health Care Center won't open officially for more than six months. ... The Charlotte site is one of seven new VA health centers approved by Congress in 2010. The Salisbury hospital region is one of the fastest growing in the country, said VA spokesman Barthalomew Major. An estimated 140,000 veterans live in the Charlotte metropolitan area, about 60,000 in Mecklenburg County alone. Although the number of veterans nationwide is declining, the number of veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system in increasing, Major said. Over the past 10 years, the number of VA patients nationwide has increased by 23 percent, but in the Salisbury region, the increase has been 66 percent, he said. (Garloch, 9/24)

The Detroit Free Press: Doctor: Lead Seen In More Flint Kids Since Water Switch
Flint's ongoing water woes are now associated with an immediate and irreversible danger — possible lead poisoning of some of the city's children, according to a review of blood test results by a Hurley Children's Hospital pediatrician. ... State officials say their own review of blood test results have not shown the same increase that [Dr. Mona] Hanna-Attisha found. Moreover, water tests have similarly shown lead within federally accepted levels, they say. (Erb, 9/24)

The San Antonio Express-News: Judge To Halt Medicaid Cuts For Therapy Services
A judge has decided to temporarily block tens of millions of dollars in planned Medicaid funding cuts, likely ensuring that thousands of children with disabilities will continue to access therapy services after Oct. 1. (Rosenthal, 9/24)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Economics Of Chronic Care; State-Run Marketplaces

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Annals of Internal Medicine: Medicare Chronic Care Management Payments And Financial Returns To Primary Care Practices--A Modeling Study
Physicians have traditionally been reimbursed for face-to-face visits. A new non–visit-based payment for chronic care management (CCM) of Medicare patients took effect in January 2015. ... If nonphysician staff were to deliver CCM services, net revenue to practices would increase despite opportunity and staffing costs. Practices could expect approximately $332 per enrolled patient per year... if CCM services were delivered by registered nurses (RNs), approximately $372 ... if services were delivered by licensed practical nurses, and approximately $385 ... if services were delivered by medical assistants. ... At a minimum, 131 Medicare patients ... must enroll for practices to recoup the salary and overhead costs of hiring a full-time RN to provide CCM services. (Basu et al., 9/22)

The Commonwealth Fund: The Experiences of State-Run Marketplaces That Use HealthCare.gov
This brief explores the experiences of four states—Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon—that established their own exchanges but have operated them with support from the federal HealthCare.gov eligibility and enrollment platform. Drawing on discussions with policymakers, insurers, and brokers, we examine how these supported state-run marketplaces perform their key functions. We find that this model may offer states the ability to maximize their influence over their insurance markets, while limiting the financial risk of running an exchange. (Giovannelli and Lucia, 9/17)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Serving Low-Income Seniors Where They Live: Medicaid's Role In Providing Community-Based Long-Term Services And Supports
To better understand the low-income population with [long-term services and supports] LTSS needs, including those covered by Medicaid and those who are not, this issue brief examines the need for LTSS among seniors who live in the community and need LTSS. We use the 2011 National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) to examine rates of need for LTSS and detail the characteristics of seniors who need these services. Throughout the brief, we compare dual eligible beneficiaries to low-income seniors without Medicaid. We also examine a third group, higher income seniors without Medicaid, to understand the role of income. Because LTSS needs increase with

age, we also examine differences by age. (Garfield, 9/18)

National Governors Association: Using Data To Better Serve The Most Complex Patients: Highlights From NGA's Intensive Work With Seven States
[C]omplex care patients, sometimes referred to as super-utilizers, have comorbid and often serious conditions. ... such conditions often span both physical and behavioral health and are often further complicated by social factors, such as housing instability, poverty, or limited education. ... complex care patients represent only a small proportion (5 percent) of [Medicaid] beneficiaries but account for more than half of program costs. ... the National Governors Association has worked with several states to develop statewide [data] initiatives for improving the management of care for super-utilizers .... The following lessons learned can help state leaders ...: Understand the characteristics of complex populations. ... Identify and target specific patients. ... Ensure effective management and evaluation. (Isasi, 9/23)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

Reuters: Americans Overpaying Hugely For Cancer Drugs - Study
Americans are paying way over the odds for some modern cancer drugs, with pharmaceutical companies charging up to 600 times what the medicines cost to make, according to an independent academic study. The United States also pays more than double the price charged in Europe for these drugs - so-called tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), a potent class of cancer pills with fewer side effects than chemotherapy. The analysis by pharmacologist Andrew Hill of Britain's University of Liverpool, who will present his findings at the Sept. 25-29 European Cancer Congress in Vienna, is likely to fuel a growing storm over U.S. drug costs. (Hirschler, 9/22)

The Philadelphia Inquirer/Health Day: ERs Often 'Safety Net' Care For People With Schizophrenia: CDC
A new report finds that, too often, under-medicated Americans suffering from schizophrenia end up seeking care in the nation's hospital emergency rooms. The report, issued Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that between 2009 and 2011, over 382,000 visits to ERs were recorded for people aged 18 to 64 with schizophrenia. (9/23)

Reuters: Weight-Loss Surgery May Not Increase Health Costs For Diabetes
Weight loss surgery may be a cost-effective way of lowering blood sugar for many diabetics, not just those who are severely obese, a Swedish study suggests. Researchers found that for people with diabetes, total healthcare costs did not rise in the years following weight-loss surgery, largely because of overall savings from less use of healthcare and medications. (Rapaport, 9/23)

Reuters: A Text Message A Day May Keep The Doctor Away
Texting patients regular reminders to do things like eat right, exercise more and smoke less may help them make lifestyle changes linked to a lower risk of heart attacks and strokes, an Australian study suggests. Researchers sent four texts a week to about 350 people with heart disease to supplement their regular care with reminders designed to encourage healthier habits. Another group of about 350 patients stuck with their usual

care routines but didn't receive texts. (9/23)

The New York Times: Consumers Are Embracing Full-Fat Foods
Public health authorities have long urged Americans to cut back on foods high in saturated fat like butter, meat and whole milk. But a new report on dietary-fat consumption suggests that the public is increasingly eating more, not less, of these foods. The new report, which was published last week by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, found that sales of butter in the United States rose 14 percent last year and climbed another 6 percent in the first three months of 2015. Sales of whole milk rose 11 percent in the first half of this year, while skim milk purchases fell 14 percent. The report also predicted that consumption of red meat and eggs would climb in the coming years. (O'Connor, 9/23)

Reuters: Telehealth Visits May Be An Option After Surgery
People may happily, and safely, forgo in-person doctors' visits after surgery by opting instead for talking with their surgeons by phone or video, suggests a small study of U.S. veterans. Most patients preferred the virtual visits and the doctors didn't miss any infections that popped up after surgery, the researchers report in JAMA Surgery. (Seaman, 9/23)

Medscape: Many Poor Kids With Mental Illness Miss Out On Benefits
A "sizable" number of US children with mental disorders who are from low-income households do not receive federal benefits under the Social Security Administration's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, according to a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, in Washington, DC. However, the number of these children who are receiving SSI funds is growing at a pace consistent with the mental health trends in the general population, the report indicates. (Brooks, 9/21)

Medscape: DNR After In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest May Not Match Prognosis
Among patients who had an in-hospital cardiac arrest and successful restoration of spontaneous circulation, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders were generally issued quickly and reflected predicted prognosis, a new study reports. However, the study, which was published in the September 22/29, 2015 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, also identified room for improvement. (Busko, 9/23)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: Pinning Blame For A Possible Shutdown; Medicare Should Help On Drug Prices

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Los Angeles Times: Are Democrats Actually The Ones Trying To Shut Down The Government?
So, who's trying to shut down the government, Democrats or Republicans? The answer, naturally, depends on whom you ask. ... But another way, it was Republicans

who decided to tie the continued operation of government to the question of whether Planned Parenthood should receive Medicaid dollars. They took the hostage, they're responsible for the consequences. Feel free to debate the merits of Planned Parenthood all you like, but this fight isn't new. The recent videos didn't seem to persuade any of the organization's supporters in Congress to flip to the other side. So the outcome Thursday wasn't just predictable, it was a certainty. (Jon Healey, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Plum Line: Government Shutdown Fight May Again Shake Up GOP Presidential Race

With the big news out of Congress today the warm welcome received by Pope Francis, one might forget that our nation's august legislature is headed for yet another government shutdown, this time over Republican demands that the government cut off all funding for Planned Parenthood, most of which comes in the form of Medicaid reimbursements for women's health care. This comes at a particularly inopportune time for Republicans. Just when it was starting to look like their chaotic presidential primary might be heading to a more sane place, the shutdown controversy threatens to drag it backwards, boosting the candidates the party fears most. (Paul Waldman, 9/24)

The Washington Post's The Fix: Donald Trump Just Went After Martin Shkreli. Why In The World Isn't The Rest Of The GOP?

Jumping into the prescription drug debate could help elevate those candidates' plans, because prescription drug prices is one of the few health-care issues where Americans agree that the status quo needs to change. In fact, 76 percent of Americans said dealing with prescription drug prices should be Washington's No. 1 health-care priority, according to an April poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation. ... GOP front-runner Donald Trump is regularly praised by liberal leaders, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D), for his call to raise taxes on the wealthy. Want to out-Trump Trump? Why not start talking about an issue that matters deeply to so many Americans? (Amber Phillips, 9/24)

Huffington Post: Top LGBT Group Wants Congress To Investigate Drug Company That Proposed Massive Price Hike

One of the nation's highest-profile LGBT advocacy organizations has joined the calls for Congress to investigate Turing Pharmaceuticals, the company that recently sparked a national backlash when it proposed hiking the price of a critical anti-infection drug. On Wednesday, The Huffington Post has learned, the Human Rights Campaign sent letters to the chairmen of three key House committees with jurisdiction over health care and the drug industry. In the letters, the organization calls upon the committees to investigate Turing's recent announcement that it would raise the price of drug called Daraprim, a treatment for toxoplasmosis, from $13.50 to $750 a tablet. (Jonathan Cohn, 9/24)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: A 5,455 Percent Price Increase? Expect More Of It

After Pope Francis's visit to the U.S., possibly the biggest news item this week has been the depraved price increase that Turing Pharmaceuticals posted for its drug, Daraprim. Although the 5,455 percent that Turing hiked Daraprim's price is astounding, the absolute daily price is less than that of many other drugs and the practice of gouging prices on specialty drugs is consistent with practices across the industry. (Daniel R. Hoffman, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Let Medicare Tackle High Drug Costs

Yes, the U.S. pays 40 percent more for drugs than other countries do, and last year those costs rose 12.6 percent. But the increase is expected to slow, and drugs still account for just 10 cents of every dollar Americans spend on health care. What has rightly made drug costs a political issue, however, are the astronomical prices of a few specialty medicines. ... The best strategy to push down such prices -- the one endorsed by [Hillary] Clinton and one of her rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bernie Sanders -- is to give Medicare, which pays for 29 percent of all U.S. prescription drug purchases, the ability to negotiate prices with drugmakers. That Medicare doesn't already do this is Congress's fault. (9/24)

Tribune News Service: Patients Win As Larger Insurers Seek To Cut Costs With Better Service

The planned mergers of several of America's largest health insurers Aetna combining with Humana, and Anthem with Cigna is almost certain to be good for the insurers, reducing overhead and improving their bargaining position as they attempt to negotiate better rates with providers. But what's in it for you and me? The answer may surprise you: In all likelihood, the mergers will lead to better medical care at lower costs. (Jon Kaplan, 9/24)

The Washington Post: Want To Fight Poverty? Expand Access To Contraception.

Pope Francis's visit has brought renewed attention to some of our nation's toughest economic challenges: inequality, poverty and income (im)mobility. These are pressing issues that leaders of both political parties say they want to tackle, but they disagree on useful, or even acceptable, policy tools. I have a humble suggestion for an antipoverty policy that, if framed correctly, could appeal to both left and right (though probably not Francis). That policy: better access to contraception. (Catherine Rampell, 9/24)

Forbes: Utah Proposes Tax On The Sick To Pay For Obamacare Medicaid Expansion

After the legislature blocked his Obamacare Medicaid expansion plans in 2014 and 2015, Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) began working with legislative leaders to negotiate some kind of "compromise" to expand the program to more than 100,000 able-bodied adults. Although the deal is being negotiated in secret, some details have been leaked to the public. According to the few specifics made public, the biggest component of the negotiated framework is to levy a new "assessment" on medical providers in Utah to help pay for the state's share of expansion. But the so-called assessment is simply a new Obamacare tax on the sick that will not only raise health care costs for all Utahns, but add significantly to the national debt. (Nic Horton, Jonathan Ingram and Josh Archambault, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Wonkblog: We Must Act On Global Health Because Millions Of Lives Are At Stake

The report made a strong case that the benefits of the right health investments far exceed the costs. Indeed, I believe the moral and economic case for investments in health care--both prevention and treatment--is as or more compelling than in any other area in the developing world. The dramatic declines in child mortality and increases in life expectancy demonstrate that policy can make an immense difference. (Lawrence Summers, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Pope Moves The Needle In U.S. Politics

Pope Francis hasn't changed any church policies on economics, social justice, war, abortion or gay marriage. As if to underscore that point, on Wednesday he visited the Little Sisters of the Poor, which took the U.S. government to court to fight a requirement that religious organizations cover birth control in the health insurance they provide to employees. Yet in his emphasis on the plight of the poor, immigrants and the environment, this pope has changed the Catholic Church's tone and rebalanced its priorities. That bothers conservative activists in the U.S., where the Catholic hierarchy for three decades has largely been identified with Republicans and the culture wars because of its stress on abortion and gay marriage. (Albert R. Hunt, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Physician Payment After The SGR — The New Meritocracy

The “doc fix” — a permanent replacement for the unworkable sustainable growth rate formula (SGR) enacted in 1997 for calculating Medicare's physician fees — had been a long time coming .... At the heart of the legislation is the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which replaces the Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier to move physician payment under Medicare further into the territory of value-based purchasing. ... When it is implemented, the MIPS will become the largest physician pay-for-performance scheme in the world and the first to create a single value-based purchasing framework covering the full spectrum of physician specialties. This new meritocracy will need to be flexible enough to account for the heterogeneous practice styles of the professionals who care for Medicare beneficiaries and the settings in which they work. (Meredith B. Rosenthal, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Leap Of Faith — Medicare's New Physician Payment System

These changes mark a new era, in which Medicare offers powerful incentives for physicians to participate in ACOs and other innovative payment and delivery models. ... This revamping reflects a broader movement in U.S. health care toward paying for medical services on the basis of value rather than volume — a movement built on the prevailing view in the health policy community that cost-containment efforts can succeed only if we move away from fee-for-service payment. But there are several important problems with this belief and the reforms it inspires. (Jonathan Oberlander and Miriam J. Laugesen, 9/24)

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KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds

Researchers report that prices for a dozen procedures and tests were 8 to 26 percent higher in counties with the highest level of physicians concentrated in large group practices. (Michelle Andrews, 10/9)

2. Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'" by Nate Beeler, The Columbus Dispatch.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE BALANCE

Who will be Speaker?
Choice may set tone for budget
And key health issues.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

MEDICARE

3. CMS Releases Star Ratings For 2016 Medicare Advantage Plans

Almost three out of four beneficiaries are enrolled in medical and drug coverage plans that received at least a four-star quality rating, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The rankings did show a drop for some companies, especially in regard to prescription drug benefits.

Modern Healthcare: Medicare Advantage Star Ratings Reveal Mix Of High, Low Performers
More Medicare Advantage plans nabbed top quality marks for their 2016 plans than last year, a potential sign that private insurers are trying to meet the federal government's standards for high-quality products and coordinated healthcare for seniors. But the CMS' star ratings, released Thursday, also showed that private Medicare plans are still failing on many levels, particularly when it comes to prescription drug benefits. (Herman, 10/8)

Meanwhile, 2016 Medicare Part D premiums will rise for many -

Reuters: Unwelcome News About Medicare's Rising Drug Costs
Seniors have received some unpleasant news in their mailboxes in recent weeks: premiums for many Medicare prescription drug insurance plans will rise at double-digit rates next year. Premiums for the ten most popular Medicare Part D prescription drug plans (PDPs) will rise an average of 8 percent next year - the fastest clip in five years, according to Avalere Health, a consulting and research firm. And five of the top plans will boost their average premiums anywhere from 16 percent to 26 percent. (Miller, 10/8)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

4. Insurers Seeking More Obamacare Aid Could Wait Years

Insurers who hoped to get billions in aid after opening-year losses from their participation in the health law's insurance marketplaces are only getting 12.6 percent of what they requested after the fund to pay them fell short. In the meantime, Obamacare dropouts get picked up by employer coverage in California, and Wyoming loses one of its two health law insurers.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Affordable Care Act Aid Could Take Years To Reach Insurers
Health insurers that lost millions of dollars last year under the Affordable Care Act may wait years for the government to deliver the aid it promised them. Companies, including Downtown-based insurer Highmark, want about $2.87 billion to help cover their first-year losses from online insurance marketplaces — a centerpiece of the landmark

health care law. But a federal relief program meant to limit their risk is more than $2 billion short, leaving the companies to collect only 12.6 percent of those requests late this year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said this month. (Smeltz, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: Many Obamacare Dropouts In California Picked Up Employer Coverage, State Says

Nearly half of the estimated 700,000 Californians who have dropped their Obamacare policies during the past two years have enrolled in an employer-based plan, a new report from the Covered California exchange shows. In a news conference Thursday, Peter Lee, the organization's executive director, said there were about 1.3 million Californians enrolled in the exchange's plans as of June 30. That was about two-thirds of the 2 million who have enrolled in the exchange since it opened Oct. 1, 2013. (Sisson, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Wyoming Loses 1 Of Its 2 Affordable Care Act Insurers

One of the two companies offering health insurance coverage in Wyoming under the federal health care law has decided to drop out of the program after receiving word that the federal government would be providing drastically less financial help than it expected. The news comes as state leaders debate whether the federal government can be trusted to help pay for expansion of a health insurance program for the working poor. (Moen, 10/8)

Also, lawmakers in New Jersey ask the attorney general there to delay proposed insurance plans from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield that are meant to save money --

The Associated Press: New Health Insurance Plan Sparks Debate In New Jersey

Two New Jersey senators have asked the state attorney general to delay the biggest health insurer in the state from offering a set of insurance plans that are being sold as money-saving ways to cover health care. Critics fear the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield plans could hurt some patients and hospitals. Democratic Sens. Nia Gill and Joseph Vitale say the state should first set up a way to oversee how health insurers rate health care providers when they set up tiered systems. Here's a look at the issue. (Mulvihill, 10/8)

Colorado's cooperative insurance plan faces an uncertain future over cost concerns, and a patient advocacy group rates California's best HMO and PPO plans --

The Associated Press: Low-Cost Health Insurer In Colorado Faces Uncertain Future

Colorado's biggest nonprofit health insurer faces an uncertain future, and its 80,000 or so customers don't know whether their insurer will be able to offer new polices when next year's enrollment period begins soon. Colorado HealthOP, which emerged from the Affordable Care Act, faces possible insolvency because the U.S. government said it won't be able to cover payments to help stabilize premiums in federal insurance markets. (Wyatt, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: California Agency Ranks Kaiser As Best HMO, Anthem And Cigna As Best PPOs

Kaiser Permanente was the highest-rated HMO and Anthem Blue Cross and Cigna the top-rated PPOs in a new state report. The California Office of the Patient Advocate

released ratings Wednesday of 10 HMOs, six PPOs and more than 200 medical groups, just as Californians prepare to choose their health plans for next year from their employers or Covered California, the state's Obamacare exchange. (Pfeifer, 10/8)

QUALITY

5. Bill Would Require Drug, Device Makers To Disclose Pay To Nurses, Physician Assistants

The legislation, introduced in the Senate, would close a loophole in the law that requires public disclosure of such payments to doctors and some other health providers.

ProPublica: Bill Would Add Nurses, Physician Assistants To Pharma Payments Database
A bill proposed Wednesday by two U.S. senators would require drugmakers and medical device manufacturers to publicly disclose their payments to nurse practitioners and physician assistants for promotional talks, consulting, meals and other interactions. The legislation would close a loophole in the Physician Payment Sunshine Act, which requires companies to report such payments to doctors, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists and podiatrists. Companies have so far released more than 15 million payment records, covering August 2013 to December 2014. (Ornstein, 10/8)

And on prices for medical services -

Kaiser Health News: Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds
Prices for many common medical procedures are higher in areas where physicians are concentrated into larger practice groups, according to a new study. The October Health Affairs study examined the average county prices paid by preferred provider insurance organizations in 2010. It focused on 15 high-volume, high-cost medical procedures across a variety of specialties, including vasectomy, laparoscopic appendectomy, colonoscopy with lesion removal, nasal septum repair, cataract removal and knee replacement. The prices studied reflected the negotiated prices between the PPOs and the physician groups, including payments made by both the plan and the patient. The average price ranged from $2,301 for a total knee replacement to $576 for a vasectomy. (Andrews, 10/9)

6. Med Schools Trying To Adapt To New Health Care Environment

With a revolution in U.S. health care -- in both how care is delivered and paid for -- schools that train doctors are scrambling to revamp. Also, a Michigan paper examines the burden on nurses at an understaffed state hospital, and a study analyzes patient attitudes about being discharged from the hospital.

The Washington Post: A Different Kind Of Care Package
U.S. health care is in a revolution that is starting to shake up one of the most

conservative parts of medicine: its antiquated model for training doctors. Once paid a la carte for the procedures and services they perform, physicians are beginning to be reimbursed for keeping their patients healthy. ... The AMA is worried enough about the problem that it has been giving out millions of dollars to prod new kinds of teaching, in the hope that doctors' training can adapt as quickly as the system they will soon join. (Johnson, 10/8)

The Lansing State Journal: Michigan Mental Health Nurses Say OT Hurts Patient Care
The well-being of some 700 patients in state psychiatric hospitals is in the hands of nurses who say they're overworked, overtired and overstressed because of excessively mandated double shifts. Sometimes several days a week, nurses in Michigan's five state-run hospitals end their regular eight-hour shifts only to be ordered to cover staffing shortages by working another eight hours. Against the recommendations of nursing groups and one of the state's own task forces, several current and former nurses at the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services told the State Journal they're worked to the point of exhaustion and ragged nerves, more prone to errors or poor judgment as they deal with unpredictable, sometimes violent patients. (Hinkley, 10/8)

Reuters: Patients Who Feel Ready To Leave The Hospital Are More Satisfied
In a small study of hospitilized patients, those who felt ready to go home when they were discharged were more satisfied with the hospital and their caregivers than those who didn't feel ready to go. It may be useful to use patient readiness for discharge as one measure of quality of care, the authors write in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. (Doyle, 10/8)

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

7. House Panel Finds No Financial Wrongdoing By Planned Parenthood, Rep. Chaffetz Says

Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) says his committee's hearings have not found that the reproductive health organization is improperly handling its finances. He says investigations may continue. At a hearing yesterday, a former employee said that Planned Parenthood did bill Medicaid for abortion services. The woman made similar claims in a lawsuit that in 2014 an Iowa appeals court said did not have enough evidence to go forward.

The Huffington Post: GOP Probe Into Planned Parenthood Funding Comes Up Empty
Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Thursday [during a Judiciary Committee hearing] that the GOP's investigation into Planned Parenthood's use of federal funds hasn't turned up anything. ... Chaffetz said Thursday that he still supports digging into Planned Parenthood's activities, even if they're using their money appropriately. "I think there will continue to be investigations," he said. (Bendry, 10/8)

The Hill: Planned Parenthood Billed Medicaid For Abortion Services, Ex-Employee

Claims

A former Planned Parenthood employee told lawmakers Thursday that she had firsthand knowledge that the organization has billed the federal government for abortion-related ultrasounds and medications, in violation of federal law. Susan Thayer, who spent 17 years working as a clinic manager for Planned Parenthood in Iowa, told lawmakers Thursday that the group had overbilled Medicaid by about $28 million, reasserting claims that have been the subject of a drawn-out court battle in Iowa. ... an appeals court in Iowa ruled in fall 2014 that Thayer did not have detailed enough evidence to accuse Planned Parenthood of submitting false claims. (Ferris, 10/8)

8. From Planned Parenthood To Obamacare: Speaker Race Will Impact Key Health Care Issues, Funding

House Republicans will meet Friday morning to discuss next steps in electing a leader following Rep. Kevin McCarthy's surprise withdrawal from the race Thursday. Rep. Paul Ryan has resisted recruitment appeals so far.

The New York Times: Republicans To Meet Amid Turmoil After Kevin McCarthy's Exit From Speaker Race

House Republicans will meet Friday morning at the Capitol to begin charting a path forward after Representative Kevin McCarthy of California's stunning withdrawal from the race for speaker dashed expectations of an orderly succession and threw Congress deeper into turmoil. The struggle to restore order to their leadership comes as they confront major fiscal issues with rapidly approaching deadlines, and Republican leaders are casting about for a candidate for speaker who can both bring along restive conservatives and maintain the backing of the far larger ranks of the rest of their conference. (Herszenhorn, 10/9)

Wall Street Journal: Paul Ryan Resists Calls To Run For House Speaker

Deprived of a clear pick for House speaker, many Republican lawmakers turned Thursday to Paul Ryan, the 2012 GOP vice presidential nominee, an architect and lead salesman of the party's conservative economic policies. While the Ways and Means committee chairman, said in a statement Thursday that he was "grateful for the encouragement," Mr. Ryan added that he wouldn't be a candidate. ... He has described the chairmanship of the Ways and Committee, a panel that oversees issues such as tax and government health-care policy, Social Security and trade, as an ideal post for him. (McKinnon and Hughes, 10/8)

MEDICAID

9. Ariz. Weighs Medicaid Work Requirement, But HHS Has Rejected That For Other States

Arizona has already expanded its Medicaid program, but lawmakers there want to set tougher standards for those who are eligible. News outlets also report on the wait in Montana for the federal government to consider the state's expansion plans and a

controversial statement by an aide to the Kansas governor.

Stateline: Should Medicaid Recipients Have To Work?
If Arizona gets its way, its able-bodied, low-income adults will face the toughest requirements in the country to receive health care coverage through Medicaid. Most of the those Medicaid recipients and new applicants would have to have a job, be looking for one or be in job training to qualify for the joint federal-state program for the poor. They would have to contribute their own money to health savings accounts .... Some of Arizona's proposals have been made in other states, and the federal government has signed off on them. It has rejected work requirements, however. (Ollove, 10/8)

The Great Falls Tribune: Waiting For Medicaid Costly To Some Montanans
Holly Blouch wants to be working, and she wants to be healthy. But right now, it's almost impossible to do both. Diagnosed with carcinoid disorder eight years ago, Blouch needed to work to have health insurance to pay for her medical care, which will some day involve needing a kidney transplant. But she can't work enough hours to keep medical insurance because of her health. "There are a lot of people out there like me," said the 37-year-old Kalispell woman. She's referring to herself and the 69,999 other Montanans who now qualify for Medicaid coverage after the Montana Legislature approved the expansion plan this year. But she's got to wait a little while longer to get that coverage while the federal government reviews Montana's waiver application. (Cates, 10/8)

Wichita Eagle: Governor's Press Office Calls Medicaid Expansion 'Morally Reprehensible'
Gov. Sam Brownback's press office blasted Medicaid expansion as an "Obamacare ruse" in an e-mail to supporters Tuesday, signaling that the governor won't back expansion anytime soon. Melika Willoughby, the governor's deputy director of communications, pushed back against the claim that the state's refusal to expand Medicaid helped cause the closure of Mercy Hospital in Independence. "Those who say Medicaid Expansion would save the Independence Hospital are lying. It wouldn't," Willoughby said in an e-mail to the governor's supporters. "Instead, this Obamacare ruse funnels money to big city hospitals, creates a new entitlement class, and fails to rightly prioritize service for disabled citizens." (Lowry, 10/7)

And in other Medicaid news -

Los Angeles Times: Blue Shield's Deal With Regulators On $1.2-Billion Acquisition Draws Fire
Beleaguered insurer Blue Shield of California won state approval for its $1.2-billion acquisition of a Medicaid health plan, but the nonprofit company's deal with regulators drew heavy criticism. The California Department of Managed Health Care said it extracted several key concessions from Blue Shield in an agreement unveiled Thursday. Ending a high-stakes and lengthy battle, the company agreed to permanently relinquish its longtime state tax exemption. (Terhune, 10/8)

The Associated Press: DHS Director Says He Will Leave Department By End Of Year
The director of Arkansas' Department of Human Services said Thursday that he will leave his job by the end of the year. John Selig said in a news release that he told Gov.

Asa Hutchinson about his plans to leave the department that has overseen the implementation of the state's "private option" Medicaid expansion plan. Hutchinson said in an emailed statement that he met with Selig on Wednesday and asked him to stay on through January to help with the transition. (Lauer, 10/8)

MARKETPLACE

10. Big Pharmaceutical Companies Withhold Support Of Trans-Pacific Trade Deal

Negotiators struck a compromise on the major issue of patent protections for biologics and vaccines that left no party completely happy.

The Wall Street Journal: Business Groups Withholding TPP Support On Lack Of Details
Major U.S. business groups, citing internal frictions and uncertainty over the details of President Barack Obama's 12-nation Pacific trade deal, are withholding their support for now, hobbling the administration's early efforts to win congressional backing. With big pharmaceutical companies and several other major industries disappointed by the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the broader business coalitions that have long backed the talks say they first must consult with their members. (Mauldin, 10/8)

NPR: TPP Negotiators Reached Agreement With Sticky Compromise On Biologics Drugs
A big sticking point in the negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership involved biologics medicines and vaccines created from living organisms. The dispute centered on patent protection: how many years drug companies should have before facing competition from generics. The negotiators ended up with a complicated compromise that gives drug makers five to eight years of protection. But nobody is really happy with the outcome. (Zarroli, 10/8)

11. Biotech Stock Poised For Big Gain Or Big Fall

One Wall Street analyst says there's no middle ground forward for investment in biotech firms, whose products are becoming the focus of scrutiny after big price hikes. Elsewhere, a new multiple sclerosis drug from Roche shows promise, and there's news on a takeover bid by Blackstone and an impending sale by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice of a drug-compounding firm.

The Wall Street Journal: Biotechs Are A 'Strong Buy' Or 'Strong Sell,' Wall Street Strategist Says
Biotechnology stocks can't catch a break. And one Wall Street strategist says the volatile price action recently has him expecting one of two things: A sharp turnaround or a deeper plunge. "The group isn't a 'Buy' or 'Sell' here – it is either 'Strong Buy' or 'Strong Sell,'" wrote Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at brokerage Convergex. Biotechs have long been a volatile sector, well outperforming the large-cap S&P index

during good times and significantly underperforming during bad times. (Scholer, 10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: Roche's MS Drug Reports Promising Results
Roche Holding AG's Genentech unit said its experimental drug ocrelizumab proved effective in three late-stage studies against multiple sclerosis, potentially heralding an important new treatment option for the debilitating disease. In two of the studies, which included 1,656 patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis, the most common form of the condition, ocrelizumab proved superior to the commonly used drug, Rebif, in reducing the annual rate of relapse of major symptoms and other measures of the status of the disease, Roche said. (Winslow, 10/8)

Bloomberg: Blackstone To Acquire BioMed Realty Trust For $4.8B
Blackstone Group agreed to buy landlord BioMed Realty Trust Inc. for $4.8 billion, betting on growth in real estate demand from the life sciences and biotechnology industries. Shares of REITs have been battered this year as investors gird for the first interest-rate hike since 2006, creating opportunities for buyers like New York-based Blackstone to acquire companies relatively cheaply. Health-care spending is rising quickly in the United States, boosting demand for laboratory space that can accommodate pharmaceutical developers and manufacturers. (Callanan and Mulholland, 10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: PharMEDium A Hit For CD&R As Firms Renew Interest In Sector
Clayton Dubilier & Rice's planned sale of drug-compounding company PharMEDium Healthcare Holdings Inc. for $2.58 billion stands to land the private equity firm a nice return on its investment. It also reflects revived interest in compounding pharmacies, which mix or dilute pharmaceutical agents to create hospital-grade dosage forms that aren't commercially available. (Or, 10/8)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

12. Oncologists Skipping Expensive Cancer Drugs That Offer Little Or No Benefit

Meanwhile, news outlets report on other cancer care developments like the impact of life-expectancy questions on patients and what elephant genes could teach researchers about fighting the disease.

Reuters: Cancer Doctors Drop Pricey Drugs With Little Effect
U.S. oncologists, aware that patients are paying more of the costs of expensive cancer drugs, are increasingly declining to prescribe medicines that have scant or no effect, even as a last resort. At least half a dozen drugs, including colon cancer treatments Cyramza, from Eli Lilly & Co, and Stivarga, sold by Bayer AG, aren't worth prices that can exceed $100,000 a year, top cancer specialists said in interviews with Reuters. (Beasley, 10/8)

Reuters: Discussing Life Expectancy Gives Advanced Cancer Patients Realistic View

When doctors discuss prognosis with advanced cancer patients, those patients have more realistic views of their life expectancy and don't seem to experience a decrease in emotional wellbeing, according to a new study. "That the vast majority of cancer patients who are dying say that they want to know their prognosis seems surprisingly courageous," said senior author Holly G. Prigerson of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. (Doyle, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: What Elephants Can Teach Scientists About Fighting Cancer In Humans

You've heard that elephants never forget, but did you know they almost never get cancer either? It turns out just 4.8% of known elephant deaths are related to cancer. For humans, cancer-related deaths are much higher — between 11% and 25%, scientists say. The low cancer rate among elephants is particularly intriguing because all things being equal, elephants should get more cancer than we do. (Netburn, 10/8)

13. Proposed Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Fails To Get Enough Signatures To Make Ballot

Also in California, Gov. Jerry Brown signs three bills aimed at limiting prescriptions of antipsychotics for foster children. Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration faces criticism for its continued approval of OxyContin for kids. And the growing heroin epidemic puts more minors into the state foster systems.

The Associated Press: Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Won't Be On Ballot

Proponents of an effort to repeal California's new stricter law requiring mandatory vaccines for schoolchildren failed to submit enough signatures to qualify a ballot initiative asking voters to repeal the law. County election clerks reported receiving fewer than 234,000 of the 366,000 signatures needed to ask California voters to repeal the law, according to figures provided to the secretary of state's office and posted online Thursday. The new state law struck down the state's personal belief exemption for immunizations, a move that requires nearly all public schoolchildren to be vaccinated. (Williams, 10/8)

NPR: California Approves Laws To Cut Use Of Antipsychotics In Foster Care

Efforts to protect children in foster care from being inappropriately medicated with powerful antipsychotic drugs got a big boost forward on Tuesday, when California Gov. Jerry Brown signed three bills into law designed to reform prescribing. Overprescribing of psychiatric meds for foster youth is a persistent problem nationwide, with children given the drugs at double or triple the rate of those not in foster care. (Korry, 10/8)

The New York Times: F.D.A. Approval Of OxyContin Use For Children Continues To Draw Scrutiny

Ever since the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the narcotic painkiller OxyContin for certain children in August, it has faced unabated criticism from lawmakers and public officials who are wrestling with devastating rates of prescription opioid abuse in their communities. ... The crux of the issue is whether the agency's approval will lead to more prescriptions for OxyContin in young patients. (Saint Louis, 10/8)

Stateline: How Heroin Is Hitting The Foster Care System
Timothy Dick's office receives all kinds of reports of child abuse and neglect. Perhaps a child has a broken bone, or is underfed, or has been left home alone for too long. But when caseworkers drive to the child's home to investigate, they often discover the same root cause. "What we're finding more and more is that the parents are addicted to opiates. And more often than not, it's heroin," said Dick, assistant director of child protective services in Clermont County, Ohio. (Quinton, 10/9)

In other children's health news -

CNN: Anti-Bullying Laws Appear To Be Working
Roughly 20% of high school students report being bullied at school in the past year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 15% of high school students said they were bullied online. That number has gone down significantly since the federal government started collecting data on the problem in 2005. A decade ago, 28% of students reported being bullied. Why? One reason is that anti-bullying laws seem to actually work. That's what a new study in JAMA Pediatrics suggests, although not all bullying laws are equally impactful. (Christensen, 10/8)

The New York Times: Eating Organic Lowers Pesticide Levels In Children
Researchers have found that when children eat organic fruits and vegetables, the amount of pesticides in their bodies declines significantly. Most organophosphorus pesticides have been phased out for residential use, but they are still widely used in agriculture. High doses in agricultural workers can be deadly. (Bakalar, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Researcher: Children's Cancer Linked To Fukushima Radiation
A new study says children living near the Fukushima nuclear meltdowns have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer at a rate 20 to 50 times that of children elsewhere, a difference the authors contend undermines the government's position that more cases have been discovered in the area only because of stringent monitoring. Most of the 370,000 children in Fukushima prefecture (state) have been given ultrasound checkups since the March 2011 meltdowns at the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The most recent statistics, released in August, show that thyroid cancer is suspected or confirmed in 137 of those children, a number that rose by 25 from a year earlier. Elsewhere, the disease occurs in only about one or two of every million children per year by some estimates. (Kageyama, 10/8)

14. FDA Recognizes Salt As Generally 'Safe'; Advocacy Group Wants That Status Removed

In other public health news, researchers find that intense early intervention can lead to recovery for people diagnosed with schizophrenia.

McClatchy: Consumer Group Sues FDA For Inaction On Salt
A prominent consumer advocacy group sued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday for failing to regulate the amount of salt in the nation's food supply. The Center for Science in the Public Interest wants the FDA to act on the group's 10-year-old petition to lift salt's status as "generally recognized as safe." Doing so would reclassify salt as a food additive, which subjects it to more stringent regulation, like

limits on the amounts allowed in processed foods. The legal action is the latest chapter in the group's decades-long efforts to combat excessive sodium consumption. Eating too much salt can lead to high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease, kidney failure and stroke. (Pugh, 10/8)

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Intense Early Intervention For Schizophrenia Leads To Recovery

When the Places for People outreach team found Chandra Thirdkill, she was about 40 years old and had been homeless for two years. Her struggles, however, began as a teen. Everyone looked at her like she was ugly, she thought. No one liked her. She constantly got into fights. Thirdkill dropped out of high school, turned to alcohol and drugs, and was in and out of jail as the fights grew to involve dishes, knives and bricks. Shooting and injuring her then-husband landed her in prison for three years. That's when she was finally diagnosed with schizophrenia. (Munz, 10/8)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Another Rural Hospital Closes; N.Y. Expands Low-Cost Health Care To Immigrants; Fla. Kids Losing Special-Needs Services

News outlets report on health issues in Missouri, New York, Florida, California, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Maine.

The New York Times: Closing A Hospital, And Fearing For The Future

By this weekend, the last patients will be discharged and Mercy Hospital Independence will close, joining dozens of rural hospitals around the country that have not been able to withstand the financial and demographic challenges buffeting them. The hospital and its outpatient clinics, owned by the Mercy health care system in St. Louis, was where people in this city of 9,000 turned for everything from sore throats to emergency treatment after a car crash. Now, many say they are worried about what losing Mercy will mean not just for their own health, but for their community's future. (Smith and Goodnough, 10/8)

Reuters: New York To Offer Low-Cost Healthcare To Immigrants

New York will become one of the first major U.S. cities to expand low-cost healthcare to uninsured immigrants regardless of their legal status under a pilot program to launch next spring, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Thursday. The pilot, called Direct Access, will initially apply to 1,000 immigrants. Some of them are in the country legally but still ineligible for support under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. The program is expected to expand in the following years. (10/8)

The News Service Of Florida: Senate Panel Wants Answers From DOH On Children's Health Programs

A Florida Senate panel on Wednesday demanded answers from a state Department of Health official about how many special-needs children have recently lost services as

the state transitions to a new Medicaid system --- and why. Several members of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee said they'd had calls from constituents --- "in tears," in the words of Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach --- over losing critical health-care services for their children. (Menzel, 10/8)

Georgia Health News: 'Balance Billing' Draws Legislative Scrutiny

A patient scheduled for surgery makes sure that both the hospital and surgeon are in the health plan's network prior to the operation. But after the surgery, a surprise bill arrives for hundreds of dollars. It turns out that the anesthesiologist used in the procedure was not in the patient's insurance network – and the patient had no idea. Such "balance billing" situations often confound and upset consumers receiving medical care – and can lead to tough collections practices. (Miller, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: Death With Dignity Act In Oregon: A Preview Of What California Might Expect

California's new law, which the 77-year-old former Jesuit seminarian struggled with before signing, was modeled after legislation enacted in Oregon nearly 18 years ago. Whether they call it "death with dignity" or the "corruption of the medical profession," "physician-assisted suicide" or "medical killing," those on both sides of the end-of-life debate do agree on one thing: That Oregon's example offers important lessons for California and its 38.8 million residents, who in the near future will be able to ask a doctor to prescribe them a lethal dose of medication so they can hasten their own deaths. (La Ganga, 10/8)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Camden County Program To Boost Post-Overdose Care

Camden County is launching a pilot program to support drug-overdose victims who are revived by police only to then wait weeks for a spot in an inpatient treatment center. Dubbed Operation SAL - an acronym for Save A Life and also a tribute to the son of a local addiction-issues advocate - the $150,000 program is designed to help up to 50 people receive intensive outpatient treatment during that waiting period after an overdose. (Lai, 10/8)

NJ Spotlight: Bid For Saint Michael's Could Let State Reshape Future Of Newark Hospitals

In the span of three years, the number of hospitals that the state owns could go from zero to two -- both in Newark, potentially allowing it determine exactly what healthcare in that city will look like for decades to come. The New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority has emerged as a potential bidder for Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, just two years after the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey handed over University Hospital to the state. (Kitchenman, 10/8)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Nemours Health Teaming With Lancaster County Clinic To Treat Children With Genetic Disorders

Nemours Children's Health System and the Clinic for Special Children in Lancaster County signed a five-year agreement to collaborate on the care of children with rare genetic disorders, the two tax-exempt organizations announced. The clinic, near Strasburg, Pa., was founded in 1989 to treat Old Order Amish and Mennonite children with genetic disorders. (Brukbaker, 10/9)

Minnesota Public Radio: CVS Offering Anti-Overdose Drug Without Prescription
Pharmacists at one of the largest drugstore chains in Minnesota can now distribute an antidote over the counter that can reverse opiate overdoses. CVS has announced that pharmacists at stores in Minnesota and 11 other states are now able to distribute the anti-overdose drug naloxone without a prescription. Another pharmacy based in southern Minnesota is exploring a similar program that's expected to launch before the end of the year. (Collins, 10/8)

Health News Florida: Lawmakers Prepare For Familiar Health Battles
Health care has been a hot-button policy issue for years in the Florida Legislature, and it's starting to look like the session scheduled to start on Jan. 12 will be no different. Battles over Medicaid expansion and payments to hospitals treating low-income patients were so bitter in the spring, it brought the Legislature to a halt. (Shedden, 10/8)

The Associated Press: 3 Working Groups Start Tackling Heroin Problem In Maine
A task force formed to address the state's heroin epidemic held its first meeting on Thursday, with 35 people on three teams focusing on law enforcement, education and treatment, officials said. The three working groups will hold additional meetings to come up with solutions and strategies to turn back the tide of overdose deaths, addiction and drug-related crimes, said U.S. Attorney Thomas Delahanty, who volunteered to establish the working groups after a pair of drug summits in August. (Sharp, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Snyder Supports Switching Flint Water System Back To Detroit
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday called for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency over lead and grapple with broader concerns about the effects of the aging pipes distributing the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, as well as adverse health reactions, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes. (Karoub and Eggert, 10/8)

Health News Florida: Arizona Homeopathic Doc Faces FL Board
A doctor who says she is "dedicated to the natural treatment of cancer" has been ordered to appear before the Florida Board of Medicine on Friday to explain the death of a toddler from an unapproved drug. Martha Grout MD, who left Florida 20 years ago after catching flak for her alternative methods, nevertheless holds a current Florida license. The incident occurred at her alternative medicine center in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she practices "homeopathy," a style of medicine that is not legal in Florida. (Gentry, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Petitions Filed To Allow Medical Marijuana Use In Missouri
The first step to put medical marijuana to a statewide vote next year came Thursday, with supporters filing initiative petitions with the Missouri secretary of state. The two petitions from pro-medical marijuana group New Approach Missouri, would ask voters whether to amend the state constitution to allow physicians to recommend the drug to patients with certain illnesses, such as cancer, epilepsy and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as "any other chronic, debilitating or otherwise equivalent condition."

(Ballentine, 10/8)

St. Louis Public Radio: Effort Underway To Legalize Medical Marijuana Use In Missouri
Backers of medical marijuana want Missourians to decide if doctors can be allowed to prescribe the drug to critically ill patients. Two ballot initiatives that would do just that were filed on Thursday. Sheila Dundon of Columbia is a registered nurse and a breast cancer survivor. She says past cancer patients advised her to try marijuana to help curb the effects of chemotherapy. (Griffin, 10/8)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Observation Care At VA; Meeting Charity Standards; Medicare Drug Plans

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Health Affairs: Observation Rates At Veterans' Hospitals More Than Doubled During 2005–13, Similar To Medicare Trends
When neither inpatient admission nor prompt discharge is clearly indicated for a patient in the emergency department, physicians place the patient under observation in a hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The increasing prevalence of observation stays at hospitals reimbursed by Medicare is receiving considerable attention, but the prevalence remains unexplored in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) hospitals, which are subject to different payment policies. Using VHA data for fiscal years 2005–13, we identified trends and variations in observation rates across twenty-one Veteran Integrated Service Networks and 128 VHA hospitals nationwide. We found that observation rates across VHA hospitals more than doubled, from 6.5 percent to 13.8 percent, and that there was substantial variation across both Veteran Integrated Service Networks and hospitals. (Wright et al., 10/5)

Health Affairs: Connecticut's 'Money Follows The Person' Yields Positive Results For Transitioning People Out Of Institutions
[T]he federal Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration helps qualified individuals living in institutions make the transition to life in the community. The Connecticut Money Follows the Person program is an unusually rich source of data, with information on the 2,262 people who transitioned to the community under that state's program during 2008–14. ... for the majority of respondents who remained in the community, quality of life and life satisfaction improved significantly after transition, and they stayed high. About half of the participants visited hospitals or emergency departments after transition; however, only 14 percent had returned to an institution one year after transition. Predictors of reinstitutionalization included some not previously observed: mental health disability, difficulties with family members before transition, and not exercising choice and control in daily life. (Robison et al., 10/5)

Brookings: A Floor-And-Trade Proposal To Improve The Delivery Of Charity-Care Services By U.S. Nonprofit Hospitals

Many uninsured Americans rely on charity care provided by nonprofit hospitals, which receive substantial tax benefits in exchange for providing community benefits. In this discussion paper we show that the hospitals that receive the largest tax benefits tend to be located in wealthier communities, whereas the demand for uncompensated care is highest in poorer communities. To ameliorate this geographic mismatch between the supply of charity care and the demand for charity care, we propose a floor-and-trade system whereby nonprofit hospitals would be required to meet charity-care standards, either by providing care to local patients or by purchasing credits from other hospitals. (Ody, Dranove and Garthwaite, 10/7)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Medicare Part D At Ten Years: The 2015 Marketplace And Key Trends, 2006-2015

This report presents findings from an analysis of the Medicare Part D marketplace in 2015 and changes in features of the drug benefit offered by Part D plans since 2006. ... In 2015, more than 39 million Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare drug plans. Since 2006, the share of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in a Part D plan has increased from 53 percent to 72 percent of all eligible Medicare beneficiaries. ... The average Part D enrollee had a choice of 30 PDPs and 15 MA-PD plans in 2015. ... In 2015, most plans use five cost-sharing tiers: preferred and non-preferred tiers for generic drugs, preferred and non-preferred tiers for brand drugs, and a tier for specialty drugs. ... Cost sharing for brand-name drugs has been relatively stable in recent years. (Hoadley, Cubanski and Neuman, 10/5)

The Commonwealth Fund: U.S. Health Care From A Global Perspective: Spending, Use Of Services, Prices, And Health In 13 Countries

This analysis draws upon data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other cross-national analyses to compare health care spending, supply, utilization, prices, and health outcomes across 13 high-income countries .... These data predate the major insurance provisions of the Affordable Care Act. In 2013, the U.S. spent far more on health care than these other countries. Higher spending appeared to be largely driven by greater use of medical technology and higher health care prices, rather than more frequent doctor visits or hospital admissions. In contrast, U.S. spending on social services made up a relatively small share of the economy relative to other countries. Despite spending more on health care, Americans had poor health outcomes, including shorter life expectancy and greater prevalence of chronic conditions. (Squires and Anderson, 10/8)

CDC's Preventing Chronic Disease Journal: Health Status of Older US Workers and Nonworkers, National Health Interview Survey, 1997–2011

Many US workers are increasingly delaying retirement from work .... We examined the association of older adults' health status with their employment/occupation and other characteristics. National Health Interview Survey data from 1997 through 2011 were pooled for adults aged 65 or older .... Employed older adults had better health outcomes than unemployed older adults. Physically demanding occupations had the lowest risk of poor health outcomes, suggesting a stronger healthy worker effect: service workers were at lowest risk of multiple functional limitations ... and blue-collar workers were at lowest risk of multimorbidity ... and multiple functional limitation .... A strong association exists between employment and health status in older adults beyond what can be explained by socioeconomic factors (eg, education, income) or health

behaviors (eg, smoking). (Kachan et al., 9/24)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

The Wall Street Journal: How Economic Downturns May Be Good For Your Health
Economic downturns, it turns out, appear to be good for health, according to a study released this week by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The research by Christopher Ruhm, a professor at the University of Virginia, builds upon earlier studies looking at the impact of economic downturns on health. "There is considerable evidence that harmful behaviors–like heavy drinking and smoking–decrease in bad economic times, whereas health-enhancing activities such as exercise and social interactions increase," Mr. Ruhm said. (Sparshott, 10/7)

Reuters: Women Are Missing From HIV Drug Trials
Although women make up roughly half of the world's HIV cases, they remain largely excluded from clinical trials testing drugs, vaccines and potential cures for the virus, a research review confirms. In an analysis spanning several decades that included work done as recently as 2012, researchers found that women typically comprised about 11 percent of participants in trials investigating cures for HIV. Similarly, drug studies were only about 19 percent female and just 38 percent of vaccine trial subjects were women. (Rapaport, 10/2)

Reuters: Caring For Loved One With Alzheimer's May Be Most Stressful For Spouse
Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease isn't easy under the best of circumstances, but it may be much more stressful for spouses and people who suffer from depression, a Finnish study suggests. Researchers followed 236 family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients for three years after the diagnosis. Caregiving appeared to be much more stressful for people who were married to the patients or who suffered from depression when the study began. (Rapaport, 10/2)

Reuters: Perceived Discrimination Linked To Smoking And Poor Diet
Feeling like the target of discrimination may increase a person's odds of harmful behaviors like smoking, eating fatty foods and getting less sleep, a study of African-Americans suggests. Researchers examined the connection between discrimination and these unhealthy habits among almost 5,000 African-American residents of the Jackson, Mississippi metropolitan area. (Rapaport, 10/8)

The Oregonian: Oregonians Billed By Out-Of-Network Health Providers At High Rates, Insurer Group Says
Patients who use health providers outside of their insurer's network can expect bills to be as much as 1,200 percent more than what those services would cost under Medicare, according to a new study from an insurer lobbying group. In Oregon, for instance, a session of computer-targeted radiation therapy to treat tumors costs, on average, $2,409. That's about six times the average Medicare reimbursement rate of $397 — a key benchmark for health care costs. (Budnick, 10/5)

The Wall Street Journal: Study: Attempted Suicide Rises After Weight-Loss Surgery
People who undergo surgery for weight loss are 50% more likely to attempt suicide after the operation than before it, according to a large Canadian study published

Wednesday in the journal JAMA Surgery. The popular procedures, which were performed nearly 200,000 times in the U.S. last year, result in significant weight loss for most patients and often bring about reductions in Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and sleep apnea as well. Many patients also report improved mood and self-esteem. But a small group experience a worsening of depression, substance abuse and eating disorders, past studies have found. (Beck, 10/7)

Reuters: Type Of Weight Loss Surgery Matters For Diabetes Remission
Diabetics considering weight-loss surgery to help send their disease into remission should opt for the most popular procedure, a gastric bypass, researchers suggest. In their study of different types of so-called bariatric surgeries, the biggest impact on diabetes remission was seen with gastric bypass, which can reduce the size of the stomach from about three pints to roughly the size of a shot glass. (Rapaport, 10/6)

The Associated Press: Gene Test Finds Which Breast Cancer Patients Can Skip Chemotherapy
Many women with early-stage breast cancer can skip chemotherapy without hurting their chances of beating the disease, a major new study has found. The 21-gene test accurately identified a group of women whose cancers are so likely to respond to hormone-blocking drugs that adding chemo would do little, if any, good while also exposing them to side effects and other risks, the researchers found. “You can’t do better than that,” says the study leader, Dr. Joseph Sparano of Montefiore Medical Center in New York. (Marchione, 10/3)

The New York Times: Heart Scan Can Fine-Tune Risk Estimate For Patients Considering Statins
Treatment guidelines suggest that nearly half of those over age 40 — nearly 50 million people in the United States — at least consider a cholesterol-lowering statin to reduce heart attack risk. But a new large study of people who had an inexpensive heart scan found that half of those who were statin candidates had no signs of plaque in their heart and very little chance of having a heart attack in the next decade. (Kolata, 10/5)

The Associated Press: Report: More US Hospitals Are Encouraging Breast-Feeding
Health officials say more hospitals are encouraging new mothers to breast-feed. A new report found more than two-thirds of hospitals in 2013 helped women start breast-feeding within an hour after birth. That's up from 44 percent six years earlier. Roughly 90 percent of hospitals teach moms breast-feeding techniques and how to recognize and respond to infant feeding cues. But only about a quarter refrain from giving infants breast milk alternatives — like formula or water — unless medically necessary. (Stobbe, 10/6)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: War Of Words On Kansas Medicaid; Sebelius' Legacy; Mental Health Care Reform

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Huffington Post: This GOP Governor's Comments About The Poor Are Incredibly Revealing

Some Republicans want their party to stop bashing poor people as lazy and undeserving of public assistance. Sam Brownback, the conservative governor of Kansas, doesn't appear to be one of them. Brownback and his allies are in the middle of a major fight over Medicaid, the government-run health insurance program for the poor and disabled. ... And while conservatives who oppose the expansion sometimes rely exclusively on arguments about Medicaid's efficacy -- or perceived lack thereof -- Brownback has been putting his rhetorical emphasis elsewhere. On Tuesday, the governor's deputy communications director, Melika Willoughby, distributed a letter laying out in detail the heart of Brownback's argument -- namely, that expanding Medicaid would be "morally reprehensible" because it would help "able-bodied adults ... who choose not to work" and would send money to "big city hospitals." (Jonathan Cohn, 10/7)

Kansas City Star: Gov. Sam Brownback's Missive On Medicaid Expansion Was Wrong, Cruel And Divisive

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's office sent out one of its trademark propaganda pieces on Tuesday, this one on the subject of Medicaid expansion. In its effort to score political points, it maligns low-income Kansans and pits citizens with disabilities against the working poor. As with other recent messages, the email signed by the governor's deputy communications director, Melika Willoughby, is rife with inaccurate information. (10/6)

Kansas City Star: Gov. Sam Brownback Takes The Low Road On Medicaid Expansion

In Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's world, expanding Medicaid eligibility to more low-income Kansans would create "new government entitlements" for "able-bodied adults" and benefit a small number of "big city hospitals." I'll say this for Melika Willoughby, the deputy communications director who penned that incendiary language in an email on behalf of the Brownback administration: She's got the code words down pat. ... By spewing this sort of vitriol, the governor's office is choosing to argue a complex issue with the lowest forms of talking points. (Barbara Shelly, 10/8)

Forbes: Three Major Problems Left By Sec. Sebelius' Legacy: Obamacare's Medicaid Expansion

While [former HHS Secretary Kathleen] Sebelius resigned in the shadow of a disastrous roll-out of healthcare.gov, her more damaging legacy is the temptation for state leaders to embrace a bigger welfare state and accept an injection of federal dollars funded by Medicare cuts and deficit spending. Medicaid expansion, like Obamacare, fails to deliver on its promises of quality health care that improves the health of enrollees. Even more troubling, ballooning Medicaid expansion costs threaten every other service and will trap millions in a cycle of dependency and poverty. (Tarren Bragdon, 10/7)

Deseret News: Let The People Decide On Medicaid Expansion

I listened with interest to Tuesday's Health Reform Task Force, where members of the Gang of Six presented their "Utah Access" plan for Medicaid expansion. This new

proposal, built on the premise that health care providers should pay the majority of the state's expansion costs, did not go over well. Providers are upset, and they have a right to be. Most providers will see no economic benefit from Medicaid expansion. They should not have to pay more than any other Utahn to cover its costs. (Dan Liljenquist, 10/8)

Des Moines Register: Medicaid Savings Are Increasingly Suspect
Perhaps Gov. Terry Branstad thought he could quietly privatize Iowa's Medicaid program. Instruct a state agency to hand over administration to managed care companies, issue a few press releases about "modernization," quickly secure federal approval and hope no one raises a fuss. Except when 4.2 billion public dollars and health care for 560,000 Iowans are on the line, people eventually pay attention to the details. It doesn't take long to realize privatization makes no sense. (10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: Mass Shootings And A Mental-Health Disgrace
We all know how this plays out in Congress: a moment of silence on the House floor and a fraternal feeling of melancholy when the flag over the Capitol is lowered to half-staff. But that moment of silence will not heal the hearts of those who lost a loved one, and it will not stop the next tragedy. Here and now we need action; we need real change. That's why I've authored the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. The bill focuses resources and reform where they are most needed: to foster evidence-based care, fix the shortage of psychiatric hospital beds, empower patients and caregivers under HIPAA privacy laws, and help patients get treatment well before their illness spirals into crisis. (Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Penn.)

The New York Times: Getting The Diagnosis Wrong
Diagnostic accuracy is fiendishly difficult to measure precisely, but it is estimated that doctors get it wrong in one out of 10 to one out of 20 cases. Up until now, the focus of the patient safety movement has been on errors of medical treatment — incorrect medications or dosages, postoperative complications, hospital-acquired infections. But diagnostic errors — incorrect or delayed diagnoses — may be more common and potentially more deadly. The Institute of Medicine has taken up the subject, and its new report offers the chilling observation that nearly everyone will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetimes. (Ofri, 10/8)

Politico: Planned Parenthood's Cecile Richards Blasts GOP 'Total Lack Of Civility'
Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood, says she was "stunned by the total lack of civility and use of raw power" by Republican members of Congress during last week's House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on her organization's federal funding, Richards fired back at Congress and Republicans in general in a Guardian article published Thursday, warning that the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade is "on the ballot" for next year's presidential election. (Nick Gass, 10/8)

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33	2	Validated by CGI	0129041	56160	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
34									8:59:42 AM
35	2	Validated by CGI	0105012	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
36									8:59:42 AM
37	2	Validated by CGI	0105012	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
38									8:59:42 AM
39	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
40									8:59:42 AM
41	2	Validated by CGI	0120082	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
42									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
43	LEA School	1701	Kearsley High School	01993	51646	1701	2
44	LEA School	1699	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	01230	51389	1699	1
45	LEA School	1699	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	01230	51390	1699	2
46	LEA School	11161	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	02745	75700	11161	1
47	LEA School	11161	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	02745	75699	11161	2
48	LEA School	1611	Mott Middle College High School	07576	51155	1611	1
49	LEA School	1611	Mott Middle College High School	07576	51156	1611	2
50	LEA School	1632	Neithercut Elementary School	02670	51250	1632	1
51	LEA School	1632	Neithercut Elementary School	02670	51251	1632	2
52	LEA School	1628	Northwestern High School	02777	51173	1628	1
53	LEA School	1628	Northwestern High School	02777	51174	1628	2
54	LEA School	1629	Pierce School	03033	51175	1629	1
55	LEA School	1629	Pierce School	03033	51176	1629	2
56	LEA School	1631	Potter School	03108	51248	1631	1
57	LEA School	1631	Potter School	03108	51249	1631	2
58	LEA School	1686	Randels Elementary School	03147	51307	1686	1
59	LEA School	1686	Randels Elementary School	03147	51308	1686	2
60	LEA School	1624	Southwestern Classical Academy	03554	51242	1624	1
61	LEA School	1624	Southwestern Classical Academy	03554	51243	1624	2
62	Other Non-School Recipient	10501	Alpha Montessori School	990002480	74218	10501	1
63	Other Non-School Recipient	10501	Alpha Montessori School	990002480	74219	10501	2
64	Other Non-School Recipient	9639	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	990000250	72194	9639	1
65	Other Non-School Recipient	9639	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	990000250	72195	9639	2
66	Other Non-School Recipient	8175	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	250000041	66053	8175	1
67	Other Non-School Recipient	8175	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	250000041	69911	8175	2
68	Other Non-School Recipient	9420	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	25SPX0025	71682	9420	1
69	Other Non-School Recipient	9420	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	25SPX0025	71616	9420	2
70	Other Non-School Recipient	8233	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	250000072	66111	8233	1
71	Other Non-School Recipient	8233	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	250000072	69964	8233	2
72	Other Non-School Recipient	9469	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	990000160	71808	9469	1
73	Other Non-School Recipient	9469	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	990000160	71809	9469	2
74	Other Non-School Recipient	9083	Connexion, Incorporated	990000070	70790	9083	1
75	Other Non-School Recipient	9083	Connexion, Incorporated	990000070	70791	9083	2
76	Other Non-School Recipient	10861	Eagles Nest Academy	990004408	75056	10861	1
77	Other Non-School Recipient	10861	Eagles Nest Academy	990004408	75057	10861	2
78	Other Non-School Recipient	9010	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	25SPX0022	66888	9010	1
79	Other Non-School Recipient	9010	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	25SPX0022	70692	9010	2
80	Other Non-School Recipient	10356	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	990001945	73852	10356	1
81	Other Non-School Recipient	10356	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	990001945	73853	10356	2
82	Other Non-School Recipient	9511	Flint Institute of Music	250005113	71893	9511	1
83	Other Non-School Recipient	9511	Flint Institute of Music	250005113	71894	9511	2
84	Other Non-School Recipient	8357	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	250000066	66235	8357	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
43	Physical	4302 UNDERHILL DR # G		FLINT	MI	485061534	5/19/2011 11:51:35 AM	No Map Found
44	Mailing	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
45	Physical	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	485061714	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
46	Mailing	1020 W COLDWATER RD		FLINT	MI	485054831	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
47	Physical	G5159 Summit Street		Flint	MI	485051429	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
48	Mailing	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
49	Physical	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	5/19/2011 11:54:31 AM	No Map Found
50	Mailing	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
51	Physical	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
52	Mailing	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
53	Physical	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
54	Mailing	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
55	Physical	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840	5/19/2011 11:54:28 AM	No Map Found
56	Mailing	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
57	Physical	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010	5/19/2011 11:54:05 AM	No Map Found
58	Mailing	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
59	Physical	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006	5/19/2011 11:53:44 AM	No Map Found
60	Mailing	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
61	Physical	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
62	Mailing	310 E 3RD ST		FLINT	MI	485021711	1/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
63	Physical	310 E 3rd St		Flint	MI	485021711	1/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
64	Mailing	2400 N SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485054442	9/21/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
65	Physical	2400 N. Saginaw St.		Flint	MI	48505	5/19/2011 10:22:08 AM	No Map Found
66	Mailing	KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
67	Physical	KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:20:32 AM	No Map Found
68	Mailing	817 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485032076	5/27/2009 8:25:38 AM	No Map Found
69	Physical	817 EAST KEARSLEY ST	SUITE 3C	FLINT	MI	485032076	5/19/2011 10:26:05 AM	No Map Found
70	Mailing	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
71	Physical	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504	5/19/2011 10:20:24 AM	No Map Found
72	Mailing	1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630	6/1/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
73	Physical	1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630	5/19/2011 10:24:29 AM	No Map Found
74	Mailing	1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923	5/4/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
75	Physical	1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923	5/19/2011 10:28:10 AM	No Map Found
76	Mailing	5005 CLOVERLAWN DR		FLINT	MI	485042084	3/5/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
77	Physical	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084	3/5/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
78	Mailing	6103 EAGLE RIDGE LN		FLINT	MI	485056740	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
79	Physical	6103 Eagle Ridge Ln		Flint	MI	485056740	6/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
80	Mailing	1185 E FOSS AVE		FLINT	MI	485052324	8/15/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
81	Physical	1185 E Foss Ave		Flint	MI	485052324	8/15/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
82	Mailing	1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
83	Physical	1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922	5/19/2011 10:23:33 AM	No Map Found
84	Mailing	2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
43	Physical	694434.2697	282794.6681	43.07072504	-83.60986815	5	27	48	5/19/2011 11:51:35 AM
44	Mailing								
45	Physical	696471.2827	282691.0537	43.06926211	-83.58489777	5	27	48	7/26/2011 10:35:53 AM
46	Mailing								
47	Physical	687140.024	283641.0423	43.08019817	-83.69912691	5	27	49	5/28/2015 11:48:54 AM
48	Mailing								
49	Physical	689490.4744	277010.6758	43.01992912	-83.67255326	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:54:31 AM
50	Mailing								
51	Physical	687060.552	273155.262	42.98235234	-83.70771607	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
52	Mailing								
53	Physical	685592.729	283061.47	43.07524397	-83.72973579	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
54	Mailing								
55	Physical	690402.6894	276614.9196	43.01613634	-83.66149993	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:28 AM
56	Mailing								
57	Physical	691687.2203	279250.26	43.03952969	-83.64482724	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:05 AM
58	Mailing								
59	Physical	679573.7	274200.8	42.99703451	-83.79488844	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:44 AM
60	Mailing								
61	Physical	687519.771	274505.155	42.99665372	-83.69971783	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
62	Mailing								
63	Physical	688389.0765	276453.4879	43.015191	-83.686255	5	27	49	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
64	Mailing								
65	Physical	687718.9	279023.5	43.0380872	-83.6936355	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:22:08 AM
66	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
67	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.9819543	-83.6628483	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:20:32 AM
68	Mailing								
69	Physical	688709.8	277146.1	43.02100791	-83.6826803	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:26:05 AM
70	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
71	Physical	683045.9	280981.8	43.05727	-83.75028	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:20:24 AM
72	Mailing								
73	Physical	684105.6	276145.8	43.01338639	-83.73902163	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:24:29 AM
74	Mailing								
75	Physical	690918.9	274058.5	42.99302258	-83.6569739	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:28:10 AM
76	Mailing								
77	Physical	684714.2577	281267.5119	43.05943503	-83.72971581	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
78	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
79	Physical	688306.6	282323.3	43.0678255	-83.6854165	5	27	34	6/14/2010 7:57:25 AM
80	Mailing								
81	Physical	688626.2342	282762.6813	43.0719195	-83.68118426	5	27	34	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
82	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
83	Physical	689032.4	277364.2	43.02208689	-83.68036121	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:23:33 AM
84	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
43	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
44									8:59:42 AM
45	2	Validated by CGI	0120091	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
46									8:59:42 AM
47	2	Validated by CGI	0103044	55980	049	Genesee	04500		8:59:42 AM
48									8:59:42 AM
49	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
50									8:59:42 AM
51	2	Validated by CGI	0135005		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
52									8:59:42 AM
53	2	Validated by CGI	0103043		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
54									8:59:42 AM
55	2	Validated by CGI	0030003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
56									8:59:42 AM
57	2	Validated by CGI	0027002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
58									8:59:42 AM
59	2	Validated by CGI	0108134	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
60									8:59:42 AM
61	2	Validated by CGI	0135002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
62									8:59:42 AM
63	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
64									8:59:42 AM
65	2	Validated by CGI	0136001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
66	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
67	2	Validated by CGI	0035002		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
68									8:59:42 AM
69	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
70	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
71	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
72									8:59:42 AM
73	2	Validated by CGI	0109112	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
74									8:59:42 AM
75	2	Validated by CGI	0033002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
76									8:59:42 AM
77	2	Validated by CGI	0005001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
78	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
79	2	Validated by CGI	0017002		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
80									8:59:42 AM
81	2	Validated by CGI	0017002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
82	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
83	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
84	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
85	Other Non-School Recipient	8357	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	250000066	70086	8357	2
86	Other Non-School Recipient	10918	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	990004592	75169	10918	1
87	Other Non-School Recipient	10918	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	990004592	75170	10918	2
88	Other Non-School Recipient	8418	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	250000018	66296	8418	1
89	Other Non-School Recipient	8418	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	250000018	70146	8418	2
90	Other Non-School Recipient	8603	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	250000016	66481	8603	1
91	Other Non-School Recipient	8603	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	250000016	70326	8603	2
92	Other Non-School Recipient	11125	Genesee ISD Head Start	990005280	75627	11125	1
93	Other Non-School Recipient	11125	Genesee ISD Head Start	990005280	75628	11125	2
94	Other Non-School Recipient	9120	Genesee Valley Regional Center	250008005	70972	9120	1
95	Other Non-School Recipient	9120	Genesee Valley Regional Center	250008005	70898	9120	2
96	Other Non-School Recipient	8386	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	25SPX0011	66264	8386	1
97	Other Non-School Recipient	8386	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	25SPX0011	70114	8386	2
98	Other Non-School Recipient	8317	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	82SC07500	66195	8317	1
99	Other Non-School Recipient	8317	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	82SC07500	70046	8317	2
100	Other Non-School Recipient	9903	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	990001001	72846	9903	1
101	Other Non-School Recipient	9903	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	990001001	72847	9903	2
102	Other Non-School Recipient	9750	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	990000662	72484	9750	1
103	Other Non-School Recipient	9750	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	990000662	72485	9750	2
104	Other Non-School Recipient	9190	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	990000089	70997	9190	1
105	Other Non-School Recipient	9190	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	990000089	70998	9190	2
106	Other Non-School Recipient	8462	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	25SPX0006	66340	8462	1
107	Other Non-School Recipient	8462	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	25SPX0006	70190	8462	2
108	Other Non-School Recipient	11039	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	990004905	75431	11039	1
109	Other Non-School Recipient	11039	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	990004905	75432	11039	2
110	Other Non-School Recipient	8503	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	250000001	66381	8503	1
111	Other Non-School Recipient	8503	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	250000001	70229	8503	2
112	Other Non-School Recipient	10559	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	990002690	74337	10559	1
113	Other Non-School Recipient	10559	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	990002690	74338	10559	2
114	Other Non-School Recipient	9739	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	990000653	72458	9739	1
115	Other Non-School Recipient	9739	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	990000653	72459	9739	2
116	Other Non-School Recipient	8542	MARY MCGEE	250000038	66420	8542	1
117	Other Non-School Recipient	8542	MARY MCGEE	250000038	70267	8542	2
118	Other Non-School Recipient	11150	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	990005379	75677	11150	1
119	Other Non-School Recipient	11150	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	990005379	75678	11150	2
120	Other Non-School Recipient	9547	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	990000208	71960	9547	1
121	Other Non-School Recipient	9547	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	990000208	75347	9547	2
122	Other Non-School Recipient	8596	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	253300000	66474	8596	1
123	Other Non-School Recipient	8596	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	253300000	70319	8596	2
124	Other Non-School Recipient	8562	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	250000060	66440	8562	1
125	Other Non-School Recipient	8562	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	250000060	70286	8562	2
126	Other Non-School Recipient	9857	Motherly Intercession	990000918	72754	9857	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
85	Physical	2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221	5/19/2011 10:34:23 AM	No Map Found
86	Mailing	519 S SAGINAW ST STE 200	Ste 200	FLINT	MI	485021815	5/16/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
87	Physical	519 S Saginaw St		Flint	MI	485021815	5/16/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
88	Mailing	MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
89	Physical	MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532	5/19/2011 10:19:40 AM	No Map Found
90	Mailing	719 Harrison Street		Flint	MI	485021613	9/26/2008 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
91	Physical	719 HARRISON ST		FLINT	MI	485021613	5/19/2011 10:32:24 AM	No Map Found
92	Mailing	5075 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	3/3/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
93	Physical	5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	3/3/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
94	Mailing	4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342	5/13/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
95	Physical	4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342	5/19/2011 10:27:02 AM	No Map Found
96	Mailing	ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
97	Physical	ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:19:46 AM	No Map Found
98	Mailing	1776 WEST WARREN AVE		DETROIT	MI	482082215	5/13/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
99	Physical	507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	485072404	4/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
100	Mailing	G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	48504	11/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
101	Physical	G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	485041894	11/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
102	Mailing	642 E PIERSON RD		FLINT	MI	485053395	5/7/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
103	Physical	642 E Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	51900	5/19/2011 9:30:47 AM	No Map Found
104	Mailing	925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701	5/16/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
105	Physical	925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701	5/19/2011 10:26:50 AM	No Map Found
106	Mailing	5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
107	Physical	5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521	5/19/2011 10:33:32 AM	No Map Found
108	Mailing	915 S DORT HWY STE H		FLINT	MI	485032800	9/22/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
109	Physical	915 S Dort Hwy		Flint	MI	485032800	9/22/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
110	Mailing	930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
111	Physical	930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519	5/19/2011 10:33:09 AM	No Map Found
112	Mailing	1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	48507	3/4/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
113	Physical	1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	485072211	3/4/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
114	Mailing	2001 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	48505	4/30/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
115	Physical	2001 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	50479	5/19/2011 9:30:41 AM	No Map Found
116	Mailing	MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
117	Physical	MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505	5/19/2011 10:19:12 AM	No Map Found
118	Mailing	507 West Atherton Road		Flint	MI	48507-2404	5/2/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
119	Physical	507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	48507	5/2/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
120	Mailing	PO Box 25023		Lansing	MI	489095023	7/10/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
121	Physical	2015 Gold Ave		Flint	MI	485032133	8/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
122	Mailing	1235 WEST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485035015	2/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
123	Physical	1235 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035015	2/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
124	Mailing	3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
125	Physical	3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184	5/19/2011 10:32:43 AM	No Map Found
126	Mailing	817 E KEARSLEY ST	Suite #B	FLINT	MI	485032076	9/11/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
85	Physical	690348.5	275849	43.00923933	-83.66508447	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:34:23 AM
86	Mailing								
87	Physical	688057.0838	276508.8792	43.01577271	-83.69030789	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
88	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
89	Physical	680063.7	275936.1	43.01258	-83.78854	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:19:40 AM
90	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
91	Physical	688297.4	276383.4	43.01454305	-83.68743705	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:32:24 AM
92	Mailing								
93	Physical	685653.0333	269833.2597	42.95628262	-83.72204312	5	14	50	3/1/2015 12:00:00 AM
94	Mailing								
95	Physical	682279.2	279691.2	43.04588466	-83.76010635	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:27:02 AM
96	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
97	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	43.0036284	-83.6521503	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:19:46 AM
98	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
99	Physical	688927.9349	273530.94	42.98874997	-83.68064597	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
100	Mailing								
101	Physical	684503.4622	279790.4107	43.046191	-83.732799	5	27	34	9/1/2010 12:00:00 AM
102	Mailing								
103	Physical	687572.5	281497.6	43.06084342	-83.69563539	5	27	34	5/19/2011 9:30:47 AM
104	Mailing								
105	Physical	689138.6	276568.4	43.01599595	-83.67705509	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:26:50 AM
106	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
107	Physical	694320	284318.2	43.08434795	-83.61669073	5	27	48	5/19/2011 10:33:32 AM
108	Mailing								
109	Physical	690973.0485	276838.8328	43.01800697	-83.65442631	5	27	34	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
110	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
111	Physical	688020.9	280466.8	43.05146936	-83.68843922	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:33:09 AM
112	Mailing								
113	Physical	686849.1431	272837.0035	42.98302345	-83.70636886	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
114	Mailing								
115	Physical	684775.2	282991.3	43.07497851	-83.72841952	5	27	34	5/19/2011 9:30:41 AM
116	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
117	Physical	687671.2	282234.9	43.06741	-83.69308	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:19:12 AM
118	Mailing								
119	Physical	688927.9349	273530.94	42.98874997	-83.68064597	5	27	34	6/1/2015 12:00:00 AM
120	Mailing								
121	Physical	690182.6395	277503.0049	43.02418556	-83.66389268	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
122	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
123	Physical	687300.4209	275504.2638	43.00691923	-83.69993064	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
124	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
125	Physical	684513.1	279487.4	43.04469901	-83.73275911	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:32:43 AM
126	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
85	2	Validated by CGI	0032002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
86									8:59:42 AM
87	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
88	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
89	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
90	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
91	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
92									8:59:42 AM
93	2	Validated by CGI	0129052	56160	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
94									8:59:42 AM
95	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	GENESEE	14550		8:59:42 AM
96	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
97	2	Validated by CGI	0034001		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
98	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
99	2	Validated by CGI	0035001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
100									8:59:42 AM
101	2	Validated by CGI	0009001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
102									8:59:42 AM
103	2	Validated by CGI	0006004	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
104									8:59:42 AM
105	2	Validated by CGI	0029002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
106	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
107	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
108									8:59:42 AM
109	2	Validated by CGI	0031002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
110	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
111	2	Validated by CGI	0020002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
112									8:59:42 AM
113	2	Validated by CGI	0135005	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
114									8:59:42 AM
115	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
116	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
117	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
118									8:59:42 AM
119	2	Validated by CGI	0035001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
120									8:59:42 AM
121	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
122	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
123	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
124	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
125	2	Validated by CGI	0009001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
126									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
127	Other Non-School Recipient	9857	Motherly Intercession	990000918	72755	9857	2
128	Other Non-School Recipient	9986	Mott Community College	990001218	73041	9986	1
129	Other Non-School Recipient	9986	Mott Community College	990001218	73042	9986	2
130	Other Non-School Recipient	9936	Positive Start Child and Development Center	990001106	72937	9936	1
131	Other Non-School Recipient	9936	Positive Start Child and Development Center	990001106	72938	9936	2
132	Other Non-School Recipient	8794	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	25SPX0003	66672	8794	1
133	Other Non-School Recipient	8794	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	25SPX0003	70495	8794	2
134	Other Non-School Recipient	8803	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	250000058	66681	8803	1
135	Other Non-School Recipient	8803	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	250000058	70503	8803	2
136	Other Non-School Recipient	9538	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	990000204	71943	9538	1
137	Other Non-School Recipient	9538	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	990000204	71944	9538	2
138	Other Non-School Recipient	8845	TALL PINE COUNCIL	25SC04500	66723	8845	1
139	Other Non-School Recipient	8845	TALL PINE COUNCIL	25SC04500	70543	8845	2
140	Other Non-School Recipient	9978	T-Care's Daycare	990001202	73024	9978	1
141	Other Non-School Recipient	9978	T-Care's Daycare	990001202	73025	9978	2
142	Other Non-School Recipient	8882	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	810000039	66760	8882	1
143	Other Non-School Recipient	8882	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	810000039	70580	8882	2
144	Other Non-School Recipient	11104	uniquely created children's center Llc	990005147	75564	11104	1
145	Other Non-School Recipient	11104	uniquely created children's center Llc	990005147	75565	11104	2
146	Other Non-School Recipient	10151	village childcare Academy	990001417	73411	10151	1
147	Other Non-School Recipient	10151	village childcare Academy	990001417	73412	10151	2
148	Other Non-School Recipient	10352	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	990001939	73844	10352	1
149	Other Non-School Recipient	10352	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	990001939	73845	10352	2
150	Other Non-School Recipient	8908	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	25SPX0014	66786	8908	1
151	Other Non-School Recipient	8908	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	25SPX0014	70606	8908	2
152	Other Non-School Recipient	9176	Whaley Children's Center	250008002	70962	9176	1
153	Other Non-School Recipient	9176	Whaley Children's Center	250008002	70887	9176	2
154	Higher Education College/University	5061	Baker College Center f/Graduate Studies	08272	58755	5061	1
155	Higher Education College/University	5061	Baker College Center f/Graduate Studies	08272	58756	5061	2
156	Higher Education College/University	5060	Baker College Corporate Services	08271	58753	5060	1
157	Higher Education College/University	5060	Baker College Corporate Services	08271	58754	5060	2
158	Higher Education College/University	5029	Baker College of Flint	06551	58721	5029	1
159	Higher Education College/University	5029	Baker College of Flint	06551	58722	5029	2
160	Higher Education College/University	8008	Baker College Online	09862	65426	8008	1
161	Higher Education College/University	8008	Baker College Online	09862	65427	8008	2
162	Higher Education College/University	8007	Baker College System Office	09861	65424	8007	1
163	Higher Education College/University	8007	Baker College System Office	09861	65425	8007	2
164	Higher Education College/University	8017	Davenport University - Flint	09871	65436	8017	1
165	Higher Education College/University	8017	Davenport University - Flint	09871	65437	8017	2
166	Higher Education College/University	4952	Detroit College of Business-Flint	04776	58629	4952	1
167	Higher Education College/University	4952	Detroit College of Business-Flint	04776	58630	4952	2
168	Higher Education College/University	4976	Kettering University	05114	58600	4976	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
127	Physical	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076	5/19/2011 9:26:46 AM	No Map Found
128	Mailing	1401 E COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485032089	5/11/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
129	Physical	1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089	7/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
130	Mailing	3500 W PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042353	2/15/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
131	Physical	3500 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042353	5/19/2011 9:23:22 AM	No Map Found
132	Mailing	924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	48503	9/4/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
133	Physical	924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	485033620	9/4/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
134	Mailing	DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
135	Physical	DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	485070008	5/19/2011 10:18:37 AM	No Map Found
136	Mailing	1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217	7/6/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
137	Physical	1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217	5/19/2011 10:23:15 AM	No Map Found
138	Mailing	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
139	Physical	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:18:24 AM	No Map Found
140	Mailing	5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	48504	4/29/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
141	Physical	5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	485045002	7/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
142	Mailing	303 EAST KEARSLEY 1313 WSW		FLINT	MI	485020000	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
143	Physical	509 Harrison St		Flint	MI	485021715	5/19/2011 9:29:52 AM	No Map Found
144	Mailing	2040 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051908	11/26/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
145	Physical	2040 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	485051908	11/26/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
146	Mailing	G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/9/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
147	Physical	G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/9/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
148	Mailing	6436 BRAY RD		FLINT	MI	485051813	8/14/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
149	Physical	6436 Bray Rd		Flint	MI	485051813	8/14/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
150	Mailing	4406 LENNON RD		FLINT	MI	48507	10/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
151	Physical	4406 Lennon Rd		Flint	MI	485071029	10/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
152	Mailing	1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312	5/13/2009 9:11:38 AM	No Map Found
153	Physical	1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312	5/19/2011 10:27:10 AM	No Map Found
154	Mailing	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
155	Physical	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM	No Map Found
156	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
157	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM	No Map Found
158	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
159	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 11:08:15 AM	No Map Found
160	Mailing	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
161	Physical	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	5/19/2011 10:40:57 AM	No Map Found
162	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
163	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 10:40:58 AM	No Map Found
164	Mailing	4318 MILLER RD STE A		FLINT	MI	485071267	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
165	Physical	4318 MILLER RD STE A		FLINT	MI	485071267	5/19/2011 10:40:54 AM	No Map Found
166	Mailing	3488 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
167	Physical	3488 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	5/19/2011 11:08:50 AM	No Map Found
168	Mailing	1700 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046214	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
127	Physical	688709.8	277146.1	43.021008	-83.68268	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:26:46 AM
128	Mailing								
129	Physical	689637.4845	276839.188	43.01834848	-83.6708089	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
130	Mailing								
131	Physical	683591.4	279781.1	43.04628852	-83.74400614	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:23:22 AM
132	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
133	Physical	687438.9474	275569.8441	43.00747544	-83.69820423	5	27	49	9/4/2014 2:34:33 PM
134	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
135	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.96466	-83.71872	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:18:37 AM
136	Mailing								
137	Physical	684574.5	277603.4	43.02623129	-83.73295366	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:23:15 AM
138	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
139	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.98875	-83.680646	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:18:24 AM
140	Mailing								
141	Physical	685166.4677	281884.5932	43.06487788	-83.72395718	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
142	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
143	Physical	688153.5	276594.5	43.01647344	-83.68912579	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:29:52 AM
144	Mailing								
145	Physical	684740.3528	283025.1642	43.07524921	-83.72880504	5	27	49	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
146	Mailing								
147	Physical	681937.7488	277941.1174	43.03017212	-83.76489796	5	27	49	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
148	Mailing								
149	Physical	690539.7186	286074.0701	43.10124061	-83.65654448	5	27	48	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
150	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
151	Physical	681822.0186	273192.514	42.987457	-83.767885	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
152	Mailing								
153	Physical	686838.1	277483.8	43.02444284	-83.70452604	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:27:10 AM
154	Mailing								
155	Physical	687610.6	271629.1	42.97412109	-83.69694496	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM
156	Mailing								
157	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM
158	Mailing								
159	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:15 AM
160	Mailing								
161	Physical	687610.6	271629.1	42.97412109	-83.69694496	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:57 AM
162	Mailing								
163	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:58 AM
164	Mailing								
165	Physical	682167.1	272284.2	42.97915519	-83.76393644	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:54 AM
166	Mailing								
167	Physical	682839.1	281040.2	43.05520496	-83.75284154	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:50 AM
168	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
127	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
128									8:59:42 AM
129	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
130									8:59:42 AM
131	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
132	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
133	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
134	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
135	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
136									8:59:42 AM
137	2	Validated by CGI	0013001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
138	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
139	2	Validated by CGI	0035001		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
140									8:59:42 AM
141	2	Validated by CGI	0003001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
142	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
143	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
144									8:59:42 AM
145	2	Validated by CGI	0103043	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
146									8:59:42 AM
147	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
148									8:59:42 AM
149	2	Validated by CGI	0121001	31800	049	Genesee	20070		8:59:42 AM
150	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
151	2	Validated by CGI	0109101	29020	049	Genesee	33420		8:59:42 AM
152									8:59:42 AM
153	2	Validated by CGI	0015002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
154									8:59:42 AM
155	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
156									8:59:42 AM
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160									8:59:42 AM
161	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
162									8:59:42 AM
163	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
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165	2	Validated by CGI	0109121	29020	049	GENESEE	33420		8:59:42 AM
166									8:59:42 AM
167	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
168									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
169	Higher Education College/University	4976	Kettering University	05114	58601	4976	2
170	Higher Education College/University	4959	Mott Community College	04863	58578	4959	1
171	Higher Education College/University	4959	Mott Community College	04863	58579	4959	2
172	Higher Education College/University	5023	University of Michigan - Flint	05684	58838	5023	1
173	Higher Education College/University	5023	University of Michigan - Flint	05684	58839	5023	2
174	LEA Unique Education Provider	11162	Beecher Adult Education Center	02746	75702	11162	1
175	LEA Unique Education Provider	11162	Beecher Adult Education Center	02746	75701	11162	2
176	LEA Unique Education Provider	11028	Genesee County Jail	02564	75405	11028	1
177	LEA Unique Education Provider	11028	Genesee County Jail	02564	75406	11028	2
178	LEA Unique Education Provider	11029	Genesee Valley Regional Center	02565	75408	11029	1
179	LEA Unique Education Provider	11029	Genesee Valley Regional Center	02565	75407	11029	2
180	LEA Unique Education Provider	7449	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	09347	63960	7449	1
181	LEA Unique Education Provider	7449	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	09347	63961	7449	2
182	LEA Unique Education Provider	1690	Stalker Elementary	09054	51379	1690	1
183	LEA Unique Education Provider	1690	Stalker Elementary	09054	51380	1690	2
184	LEA Unique Education Provider	1683	The Learning Community	01220	51371	1683	1
185	LEA Unique Education Provider	1683	The Learning Community	01220	51372	1683	2
186	LEA Unique Education Provider	6561	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	08935	62414	6561	1
187	LEA Unique Education Provider	6561	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	08935	62415	6561	2
188	PSA School	10944	Eagle's Nest Academy	02434	75226	10944	1
189	PSA School	10944	Eagle's Nest Academy	02434	75225	10944	2
190	PSA School	10699	Genesee STEM Academy	02031	74635	10699	1
191	PSA School	10699	Genesee STEM Academy	02031	74634	10699	2
192	PSA School	10573	Greater Heights Academy	01751	74368	10573	1
193	PSA School	10573	Greater Heights Academy	01751	74367	10573	2
194	PSA School	268	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	08732	53646	268	1
195	PSA School	268	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	08732	53647	268	2
196	PSA School	271	Linden Charter Academy	08739	53682	271	1
197	PSA School	271	Linden Charter Academy	08739	53683	271	2
198	PSA School	7561	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	09450	64244	7561	1
199	PSA School	7561	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	09450	64245	7561	2
200	PSA School	267	Northridge Academy	08721	53510	267	1
201	PSA School	267	Northridge Academy	08721	53511	267	2
202	PSA School	7403	Richfield Public School Academy	09305	64076	7403	1
203	PSA School	7403	Richfield Public School Academy	09305	64077	7403	2
204	PSA School	9580	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	09947	72056	9580	1
205	PSA School	9580	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	09947	72057	9580	2
206	PSA School	10369	The New Standard Academy	01402	73879	10369	1
207	PSA School	10369	The New Standard Academy	01402	73878	10369	2
208	PSA School	10626	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	01882	74478	10626	1
209	PSA School	10626	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	01882	74477	10626	2
210	ISD Unique Education Provider	10548	Early On	01804	74312	10548	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
169	Physical	1700 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046214	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM	No Map Found
170	Mailing	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
171	Physical	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	5/19/2011 11:09:13 AM	No Map Found
172	Mailing	303 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485021950	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
173	Physical	303 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485021907	5/19/2011 11:07:19 AM	No Map Found
174	Mailing	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485058505	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
175	Physical	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485054831	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
176	Mailing	1000 E MOUNT MORRIS ST		MOUNT MORRIS	MI	484582074	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
177	Physical	1002 S. Saginaw		Flint	MI	485021499	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
178	Mailing	1000 E MOUNT MORRIS ST		MOUNT MORRIS	MI	484582074	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
179	Physical	4287 W. Pasadena Ave.		Flint	MI	485042342	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
180	Mailing	G3284 MACKIN RD		FLINT	MI	485043285	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
181	Physical	G2138 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
182	Mailing	3329 Burnell Ave		Flint	MI	485044303	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
183	Physical	3329 BURNELL AVE		FLINT	MI	485044303	5/19/2011 11:53:15 AM	No Map Found
184	Mailing	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
185	Physical	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615	5/19/2011 11:53:17 AM	No Map Found
186	Mailing	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
187	Physical	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
188	Mailing	5005 CLOVERLAWN DR		FLINT	MI	485042084	6/23/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
189	Physical	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084	6/23/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
190	Mailing	310 W OAKLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485033915	7/11/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
191	Physical	310 W Oakley St		Flint	MI	485033915	7/11/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
192	Mailing	3196 W PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042330	4/2/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
193	Physical	3196 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042330	4/2/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
194	Mailing	2820 SOUTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485035708	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
195	Physical	2820 SOUTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485035708	5/19/2011 11:39:06 AM	No Map Found
196	Mailing	3244 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485041753	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
197	Physical	3244 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485041753	5/19/2011 11:38:52 AM	No Map Found
198	Mailing	6170 TORREY RD		FLINT	MI	485075954	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
199	Physical	6170 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075954	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
200	Mailing	530 W PIERSON RD		FLINT	MI	485053114	8/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
201	Physical	530 W Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	485053114	8/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
202	Mailing	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
203	Physical	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642	5/19/2011 10:49:14 AM	No Map Found
204	Mailing	6103 EAGLE RIDGE LN		FLINT	MI	485056740	10/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
205	Physical	4358 Richfield Rd		Flint	MI	485062016	7/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
206	Mailing	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505	8/22/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
207	Physical	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505	8/22/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
208	Mailing	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	48503	9/11/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
209	Physical	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076	10/8/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
210	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

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171	Physical	689654.1	276845.3	43.01834844	-83.67080891	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:09:13 AM
172	Mailing								
173	Physical	688132.4	276760.9	43.01769618	-83.68989349	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:07:19 AM
174	Mailing								
175	Physical	687468.7029	284736.6313	43.08997726	-83.69471741	5	27	49	5/28/2015 1:25:37 PM
176	Mailing								
177	Physical	688346.6246	276039.7424	43.01147796	-83.68691146	5	27	49	9/11/2014 12:38:39 PM
178	Mailing								
179	Physical	681992.7163	279696.2722	43.04595776	-83.76363806	5	27	49	9/11/2014 12:10:19 PM
180	Mailing								
181	Physical	684660.1336	283022.1077	43.07524145	-83.72979101	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
182	Mailing								
183	Physical	683713.4	277467.4	43.02549671	-83.74318147	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:15 AM
184	Mailing								
185	Physical	687568.8	271428.8	42.97021233	-83.69798023	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:17 AM
186	Mailing								
187	Physical	693813.6	282661.2	43.06968	-83.61753	5	27	48	7/20/2011 3:17:04 PM
188	Mailing								
189	Physical	684714.2577	281267.5119	43.05943503	-83.72971581	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
190	Mailing								
191	Physical	688891.5758	274464.0866	42.99715832	-83.6807723	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
192	Mailing								
193	Physical	683893.084	279786.4296	43.04630546	-83.74029085	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
194	Mailing								
195	Physical	689099.5	274448.2	42.99696003	-83.67816847	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:39:06 AM
196	Mailing								
197	Physical	681228.4	280877.2	43.04976933	-83.77253416	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:38:52 AM
198	Mailing								
199	Physical	684914.7643	267914.3537	42.93919194	-83.73173258	5	14	50	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
200	Mailing								
201	Physical	686273.1374	281493.6301	43.061085	-83.710504	5	27	34	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
202	Mailing								
203	Physical	692381.9	280269.8	43.04989069	-83.63593213	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:49:14 AM
204	Mailing								
205	Physical	693474.7349	280581.0491	43.051049	-83.622426	5	27	48	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
206	Mailing								
207	Physical	685949.737	283092.1695	43.07555389	-83.71392822	5	27	48	8/22/2012 9:56:02 AM
208	Mailing								
209	Physical	688662.2166	277107.3733	43.021008	-83.68268	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
210	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
169	2	Validated by CGI	0016003		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
170									8:59:42 AM
171	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
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173	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
174									8:59:42 AM
175	2	Validated by CGI	0103041	55980	049	Genesee	04500		8:59:42 AM
176									8:59:42 AM
177	2	Validated by CGI	0028001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
178									8:59:42 AM
179	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	Genesee	14550		8:59:42 AM
180									8:59:42 AM
181	2	Validated by CGI	0103043	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
182									8:59:42 AM
183	2	Validated by CGI	0108123	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
184									8:59:42 AM
185	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
186									8:59:42 AM
187	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
188									8:59:42 AM
189	2	Validated by CGI	0005001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
190									8:59:42 AM
191	2	Validated by CGI	0038002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
192									8:59:42 AM
193	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
194									8:59:42 AM
195	2	Validated by CGI	0038002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
196									8:59:42 AM
197	2	Validated by CGI	0105022	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
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199	2	Validated by CGI	0129041	56160	049	Genesee	33420		8:59:42 AM
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208									8:59:42 AM
209	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
210									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
211	ISD Unique Education Provider	10548	Early On	01804	74311	10548	2
212	ISD Unique Education Provider	10549	Early On / Special Education	01810	74314	10549	1
213	ISD Unique Education Provider	10549	Early On / Special Education	01810	74313	10549	2
214	ISD Unique Education Provider	10770	Genesee Career Institute	02258	74785	10770	1
215	ISD Unique Education Provider	10770	Genesee Career Institute	02258	74784	10770	2
216	ISD Unique Education Provider	7904	Genesee ISD Transition Center	09765	65094	7904	1
217	ISD Unique Education Provider	7904	Genesee ISD Transition Center	09765	65095	7904	2
218	ISD Unique Education Provider	9582	Health, Safety and Nutrition Services	00055	72318	9582	1
219	ISD Unique Education Provider	9582	Health, Safety and Nutrition Services	00055	72060	9582	2
220	ISD Unique Education Provider	1605	Special Education Services-South	02658	51218	1605	1
221	ISD Unique Education Provider	1605	Special Education Services-South	02658	51219	1605	2
222	ISD School	1607	Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center	06156	51222	1607	1
223	ISD School	1607	Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center	06156	51223	1607	2
224	ISD School	7865	Special Services - North	09725	64849	7865	1
225	ISD School	7865	Special Services - North	09725	64850	7865	2
226	Nonpublic School	5309	Fairhaven SDA School	05098	59672	5309	1
227	Nonpublic School	5309	Fairhaven SDA School	05098	59673	5309	2
228	Nonpublic School	5289	First Flint SDA School	06603	59399	5289	1
229	Nonpublic School	5289	First Flint SDA School	06603	59400	5289	2
230	Nonpublic School	5280	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	06022	59389	5280	1
231	Nonpublic School	5280	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	06022	59390	5280	2
232	Nonpublic School	5296	Holy Rosary School	01737	59405	5296	1
233	Nonpublic School	5296	Holy Rosary School	01737	59406	5296	2
234	Nonpublic School	5283	St. John Vianney School	06217	59129	5283	1
235	Nonpublic School	5283	St. John Vianney School	06217	59130	5283	2
236	Nonpublic School	5278	St. Paul Lutheran School	03956	59385	5278	1
237	Nonpublic School	5278	St. Paul Lutheran School	03956	59386	5278	2
238	Nonpublic School	5291	St. Pius X School	03991	59139	5291	1
239	Nonpublic School	5291	St. Pius X School	03991	59140	5291	2
240	State School	6333	Michigan School for the Deaf	02548	61517	6333	1
241	State School	6333	Michigan School for the Deaf	02548	61518	6333	2
242	PSA Unique Education Provider	11209	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	02801	75796	11209	1
243	PSA Unique Education Provider	11209	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	02801	75795	11209	2

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
211	Physical	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
212	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
213	Physical	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
214	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073493	7/2/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
215	Physical	5081 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075999	9/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
216	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
217	Physical	3136 SOUTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485073004	6/7/2010 1:49:01 PM	No Map Found
218	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
219	Physical	5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
220	Mailing	5089 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
221	Physical	5089 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
222	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
223	Physical	1493 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613	5/19/2011 11:54:13 AM	No Map Found
224	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
225	Physical	2413 W Maple Ave		Flint	MI	485073429	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
226	Mailing	G-1379 WEST LOUIS AVE		FLINT	MI	48505	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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228	Mailing	G4285 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	485322711	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
229	Physical	G4285 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	485322711	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM	No Map Found
230	Mailing	1505 W COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485035002	9/26/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
231	Physical	1505 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035002	9/26/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
232	Mailing	5191 RICHFIELD RD		FLINT	MI	485062114	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
233	Physical	5191 RICHFIELD RD		FLINT	MI	485062114	5/19/2011 11:03:57 AM	No Map Found
234	Mailing	2319 BAGLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485044613	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
235	Physical	2319 BAGLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485044613	5/19/2011 11:05:11 AM	No Map Found
236	Mailing	402 SOUTH BALLENGER HWY		FLINT	MI	485323637	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
237	Physical	402 SOUTH BALLENGER HWY		FLINT	MI	485323637	5/19/2011 11:03:59 AM	No Map Found
238	Mailing	G3139 HOGARTH AVE		FLINT	MI	485325132	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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240	Mailing	1235 W. COURT ST.		FLINT	MI	485035015	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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242	Mailing	6103 Eagle Ridge Lane		Flint	MI	48505	7/14/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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214	Mailing								
215	Physical	684834.6823	269859.2791	42.956718	-83.732063	5	14	50	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
216	Mailing								
217	Physical	681481.242	272760.628	42.98038842	-83.77228837	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:49:01 PM
218	Mailing								
219	Physical	685681.3116	269797.8961	42.95595733	-83.72170847	5	14	50	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
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221	Physical	685650.843	269814.859	42.95623558	-83.72199574	5	14	50	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
222	Mailing								
223	Physical	686790.4	270180.9	42.95917168	-83.70808884	5	14	50	5/19/2011 11:54:13 AM
224	Mailing								
225	Physical	685162.2793	270103.7995	42.95883881	-83.72796644	5	14	50	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
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	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
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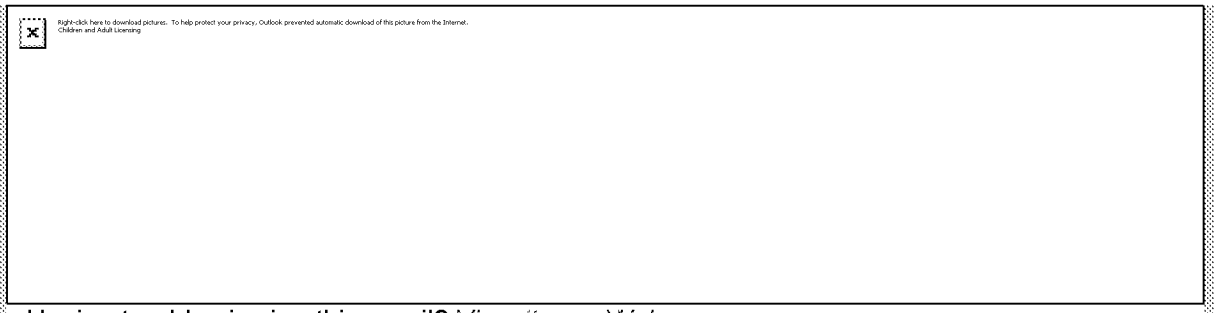
From: Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs <LARA@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Drinking Water Action Plan



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On Friday, October 2, 2015, Gov. Rick Snyder announced a comprehensive action plan created with state, federal and city leaders to address concerns about Flint drinking water so that residents have access to safe, clean, water now and long into the future. The water leaving Flint's drinking water system is safe to drink, but some families with lead plumbing in their homes or service connections could experience higher levels of lead in the water that comes out of their faucets.

For more information, go to www.mi.gov/flintwater.

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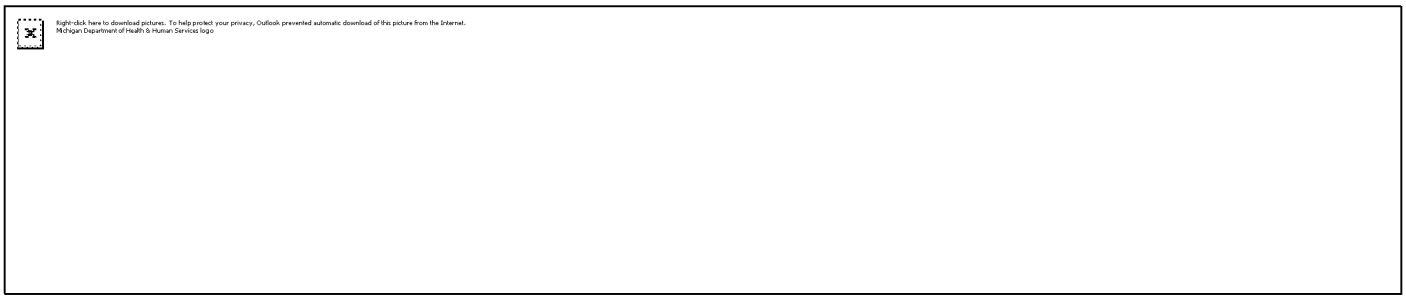
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:09 PM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

Water filters available for MDHHS clients, all Flint residents beginning Tuesday

LANSING, Mich. – Free water filters will be available to current Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients and Flint residents at four locations beginning Tuesday, October 6, at 9 a.m. through a partnership between the MDHHS and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. Free National Sanitation Foundation certified water filters are being provided to Flint residents as part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area.

Current MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location to obtain a free, certified home water filter. Residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices located at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be onsite at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

"Ensuring that families in the Flint area have access to resources that will help reduce the potential for lead exposure is our top priority," said Nick Lyon, director of the MDHHS. "I want to thank our partners who have mobilized to make water filters available – a point that highlights the importance of continued collaboration at the local, state and federal level as we move forward."

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active Family Independence Program (FIP), Food Assistance Program (FAP), Child Development and Care (CDC), State Disability Assistance (SDA),

or Social Security Insurance (SSI) recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office to receive their filter free of charge. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their water bill to the GCCARD location.

Although blood lead levels throughout the city of Flint have remained steady, last week, MDHHS data was found to be consistent with a recent Hurley Children's Hospital study indicating increased blood lead levels in children residing in two Flint ZIP codes after a 2014 change in water source. While lead paint remains the number one cause of lead poisoning in Michigan, the recent data prompted MDHHS to take action to reduce potential lead exposures through water sources.

MDHHS is urging parents in Flint and throughout the state to do their part in preventing elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information about steps you can take now, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and available resources, visit www.michigang.gov/flintwater.

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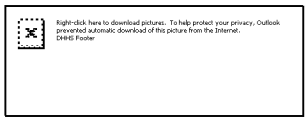
- Flint Filters Press Release 10515.pdf



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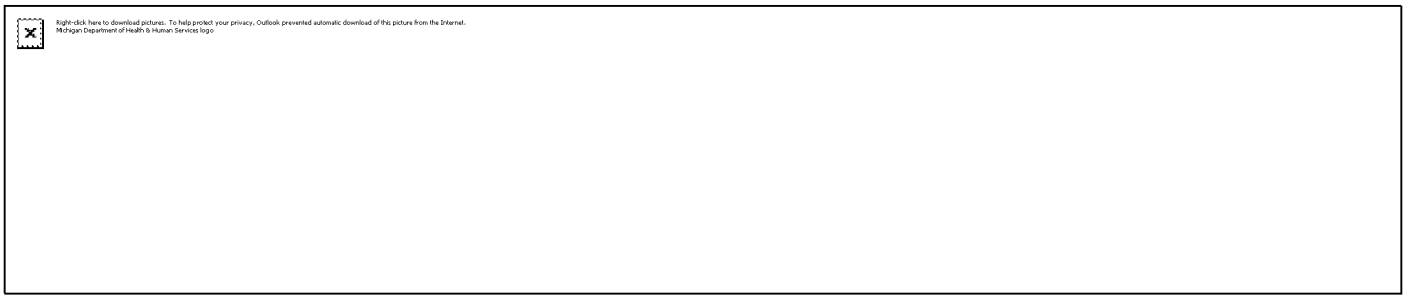
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:51 AM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: State offering extended, weekend hours for water filter distribution at Lippincott GCCARD



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2015
CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

State offering extended, weekend hours for water filter distribution at Lippincott GCCARD

Nearly 5,000 NSF certified filters issued by MDHHS to Flint residents since Monday

LANSING, Mich. – Flint residents and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services clients with a city of Flint water bill will now be able to take advantage of extended hours this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department 2727 Lippincott location. Extended hours will be offered at the Lippincott facility only, and will run until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. The other three locations will maintain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. operating hours, Monday through Friday, for filter pick up.

Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive, reemphasized that the Brita SAFF-100 filters being distributed by the department and GCCARD do meet the NSF/ANSI 53 standards for drinking water treatment units.

“The Brita faucet filtration system that we are distributing to residents are National Sanitation Foundation certified to reduce lead in drinking water,” said Dr. Eden Wells. “When connected appropriately, these filters improve water quality by filtering out contaminates including lead, chlorine, benzene and other chemicals.”

Since Monday when MDHHS announced that free water filters would be distributed at four Flint locations, the state and GCCARD have partnered to issue approximately 5,000 free NSF certified

water filters to residents that are on the city of Flint water system. The distribution of filters is part of the administration's comprehensive approach to addressing water concerns in the area. These NSF certified water filters remove lead in the water administered through water taps in homes.

MDHHS clients and residents with a city of Flint water bill may take advantage of the extended hours at the Lippincott GCCARD. During the regular business hours, MDHHS clients are encouraged to visit either the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office location; residents on Flint water who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs should visit the GCCARD offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw. Staff will be onsite at all four locations to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation.

MDHHS clients in the city of Flint who are active recipients should bring valid identification and a copy of their water bill to their local MDHHS office. Flint residents who are not active MDHHS clients should bring identification and their city of Flint water bill to a GCCARD location.

MDHHS is urging all residents do their part to prevent elevated blood lead levels in children. For more information on prevention, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and resources, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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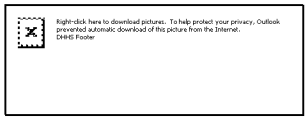
- Flint Extended Hours Press Release 10715.pdf



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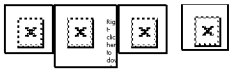

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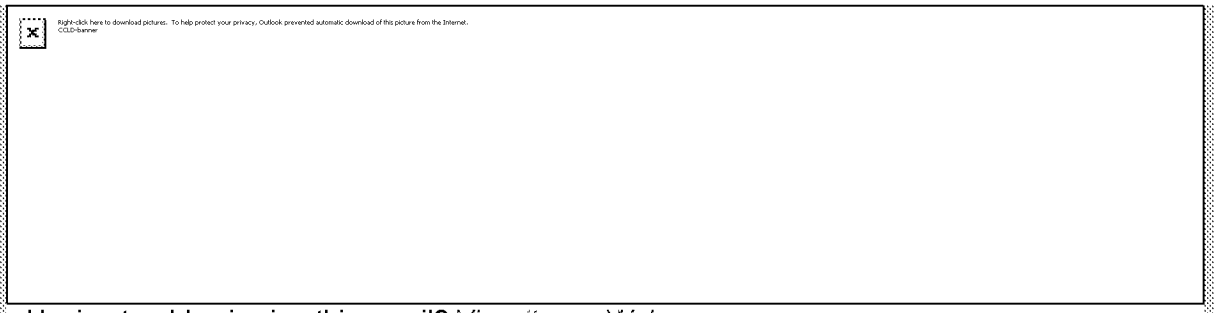
From: Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs <LARA@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: Water Filters for Child Care Providers in the CIty of Flint



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Beginning Tuesday, October 13 at 9 a.m., city of Flint licensed and registered child care facilities can pick up a free NSF-certified filter water pitcher from the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (GCCARD) located at 2727 Lippincott in Flint. Thanks to a donation from the United Way, child care providers may obtain one free 23-cup water pitcher for every 100 children.

Additionally, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is providing a NSF-certified faucet filter to every licensed and registered child care provider in the city of Flint. This is in addition to the filter a child care provider may have received as a homeowner in the city of Flint.

Staff picking up the filters must bring a copy of the child care license, personal identification, and proof of employment.

The Lippincott GCCARD will distribute filters and pitchers daily this week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extended hours are Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., as well as this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MDHHS and LARA are urging all residents do their part to prevent elevated blood lead levels in children. For more prevention information, visit www.michigan.gov/lead, or contact your local health department. For updates on Flint water and resources, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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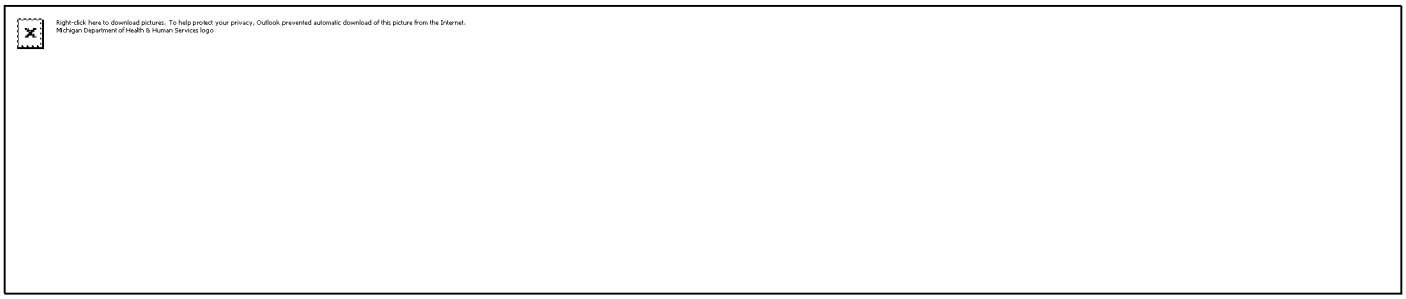
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint

Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

LANSING, Mich. – Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the state's action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

"Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education efforts."

Information comes from tests administered citywide to 1,361 children and adults since October 1. Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and 9 of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report covers test results reported to MDHHS since the state action plan was put in place Oct.

2. It includes the number of tests and number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests that have been reported to MDHHS since the beginning of October. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Five micrograms per deciliter is the level that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers elevated and triggers health care professional follow up with families.

The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available.

When reviewing historical trend data, the risk of lead exposure is highest during the third quarter of each year – July through September. Seasonal variation is the result of a number of factors including increased exposure to lead in dust and soil in the summer months.

In the third quarter of 2010, 8.3 percent of Flint children 6 and under showed elevated blood lead levels. The figure gradually decreased to 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013. During the same months in 2014, the figure increased to 7.5 percent and decreased to 6.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letters to Flint parents regarding lead testing. The state is providing funding for GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected. During these follow-up visits, nurses coordinate with environmental health investigators to meet with families in their homes to identify lead exposures, address questions and provide water filters. People can be exposed to lead from paint, soil, plumbing and other sources.

MDHHS continues to provide free water filters and replacement cartridges to Flint residents at four locations, including the MDHHS Flint offices and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

- Flint Blood Lead Level Summary Report December.pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release.pdf

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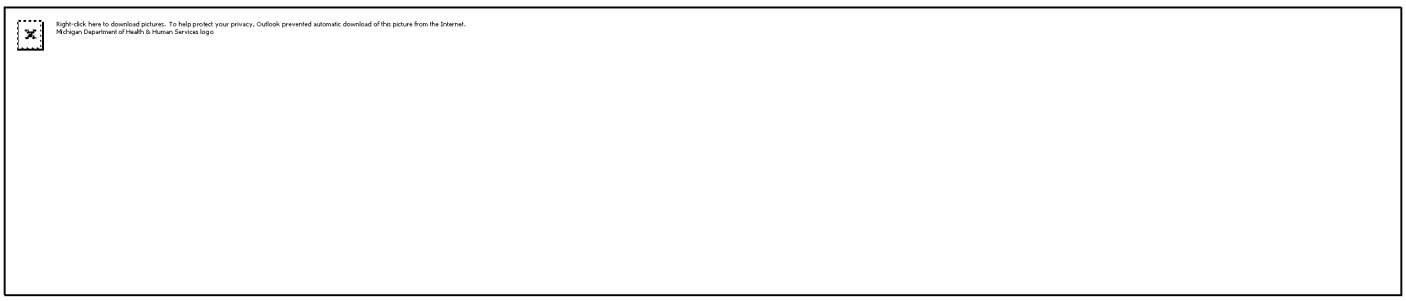
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its newest summary report on lead testing in Flint. According to preliminary data, 39 of 1,836 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"As testing continues, our focus remains on helping families reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We are working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to provide information and offer tools in the community, and encourage families to explore the resources that are available to them."

Both capillary and venous blood tests are included in the report, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS is working closely with local partners to offer resources and distribute important lead testing and prevention information. Additional state funding has allowed for Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. These families can also choose to have the nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other

sources.

To support these efforts, the state is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities on enhanced screening and testing. In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS has recommended blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are still available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

- Flint EBL Data Press Release Dec 11.pdf
- Flint Blood Testing Report December 11.pdf

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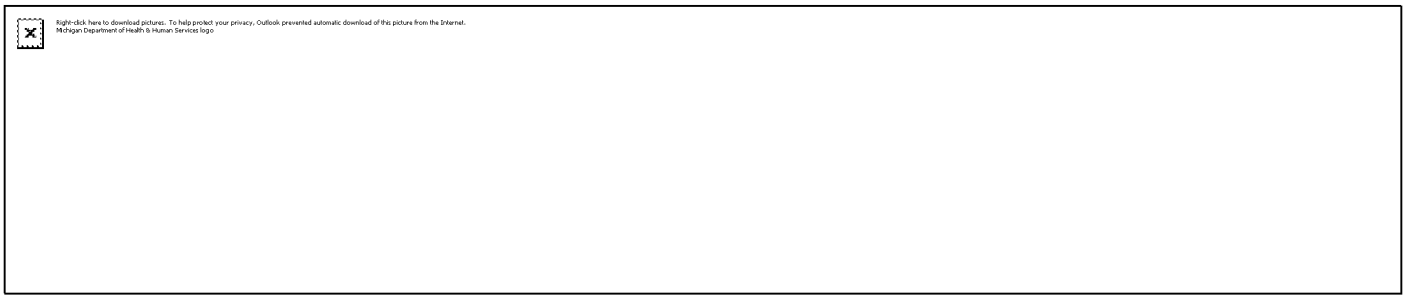
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2015

CONTACT: Angela Minicuci, 517-241-2112

Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its bi-weekly summary report on lead testing in Flint. Preliminary data indicate that 43 of 2,182 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"In partnership with the Genesee County Health Department, we are working to engage and provide resources to residents to reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Case management and home lead analysis are available for families in which an elevated blood lead level has been detected."

The first MDHHS summary report on blood lead levels in Flint was issued Dec. 3, 2015. Updated reports are posted on a bi-weekly basis on the www.michigan.gov/flintwater website. After refining our methods to identify age, some people are now counted in a different age group than on previous reports. The total counts for each year have not changed.

The report includes both capillary and venous blood tests, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms

per deciliter.

MDHHS, together with the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), is working with local partners to distribute educational information around lead testing and prevention. Supplemental state dollars are funding GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected.

Families with an elevated blood lead level can also choose to have a nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to help identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources. Families with questions about their blood lead levels or test results are also encouraged to contact their primary care physician or local health department.

In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities to recommend blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

- Flint Blood Testing Report 23Dec15 .pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release 122315.pdf

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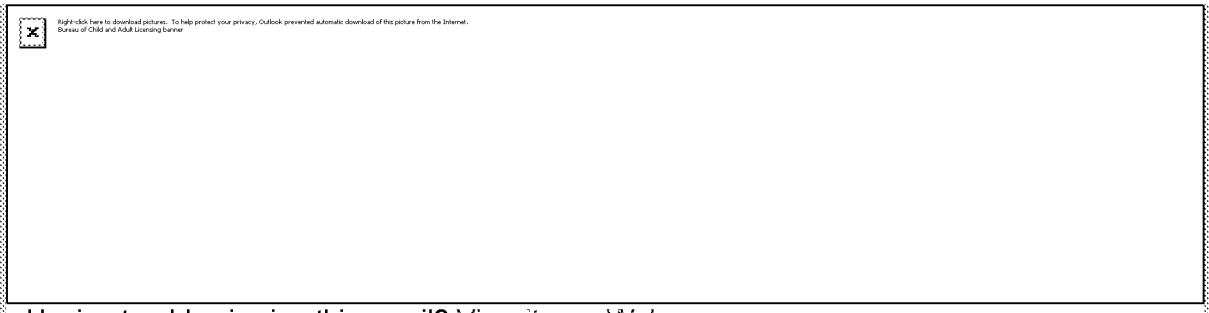
From: Michigan Dept of Human Services <MIDHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 3:44 PM
To: Hudson, Kristen (DTMB)
Subject: City of Flint Warns of Potential Health Risks Caused by the City's Drinking Water



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City of Flint Warns of Potential Health Risks Caused by the City's Drinking Water

The city says there's been too much disinfection byproduct in Flint's water system recently, something that -- over many years could cause liver, kidney or central nervous system problems and an increased risk of cancer.

The notice from the city says Flint water is safe to drink but warns that those with a severely compromised immune system, who have an infant or who are elderly may be at increased risk and should seek advice about drinking water from their health care provider.

For others, there is no need to boil water or take other actions, the notice says.

It is recommended that licensed child care providers and licensed adult foster care and homes for the aged providers seek medical advice or use bottle water when serving individuals at increased risk as outlined above.

For more information, go to to the city's website at http://cityofflint.com.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:58 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint water shut-off protection plan gets nod from city council

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/MeXNP_N9PV4/flint_councilman_gets_backing.html

Wantwaz Davis FLINT, MI -- The City Council wants a shut-off protection plan for water customers who fall behind on their bills but continue paying something every month. Council has voted 6-1 in favor of the program proposed last week by council Vice President Wantwaz Davis,...

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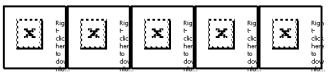
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, April 02, 2015 12:55 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint Mayor Dayne Walling: I drink Flint water every day

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/xBpmQyMn3w8/flint_mayor_dayne_walling_on_t.html

Mayor Dayne Walling has said it before, and he's saying it again -- just as residents are receiving notices that Flint remains in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, April 06, 2015 2:03 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint councilman equates water troubles to 'genocide' by governor

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/3xPNgd_knI8/flint_councilman_claims_govern.html

A city councilman says Gov. Rick Snyder and emergency manager Jerry Ambrose are attempting to carry out a genocide on Flint residents with "contaminated, unhealthy water."

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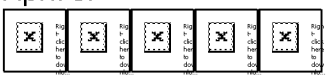
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, April 07, 2015 5:08 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint pastors plan news conference on 'lack of progress' on Flint water issues

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/h8i_FTH-6Os/flint_pastors_plan_news_confer.html

Concerned Pastors for Social Action plan to speak out on a "lack of progress" on Flint water issues Wednesday, April 8.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 2:02 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Rep. Kildee asks EPA about clearing Flint's $22-million water loans

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/6i2e8Gb-yqk/kildee_asks_feds_about_forgive.html

U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee says the state may have the authority to forgive Flint's $22 million in remaining water loans, potentially freeing up that money for "immediate water infrastructure improvements."

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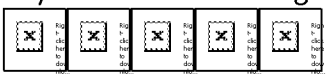
RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Wednesday, April 08, 2015 4:51 PM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	Pastors threaten lawsuit over Flint River water, demand reconnection to Detroit system
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/lIoOeB57hoU/pastors_threaten_lawsuit_over.html

Pastors in Flint are threatening to go to court if that's what it takes to end the use of the Flint River as the city's source of drinking water.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 7:05 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint emergency manager recommends borrowing $7 million to pay off city deficit

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/SIXmSILR6Jc/flint_emergency_manager_recomm.html

The city of Flint would borrow $7 million to wipe out its deficit under a plan proposed by emergency manager Jerry Ambrose.

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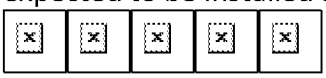
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 6:02 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: $1.5 million Flint River filter could be installed in July, but won't be needed long

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ZR9b3kNSBb0/15_million_flint_river_filter.html

A key part of Flint's plan to improve water quality -- a $1.5 million granulated active charcoal filter -- is expected to be installed at the city's water treatment plant by mid-July.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 7:06 AM
Author: Kurt Nagl | knagl@mlive.com
Subject: Flint river, community cleanup day approaching, all hands needed

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/tcuvxrUsNg4/flint_river_cleanup_day_approa.html

The 2015 Flint River and Community Cleanup, organized by the Flint River Watershed Coalition, will take place Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to noon.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 4:03 PM
Author: Kurt Nagl | knagl@mlive.com
Subject: Pastors plan water meeting in Flint to discuss cost, quality, legal action

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/fV3j4j7AkGs/pastors_to_hold_water_meeting.html

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting which will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. at Saints of God Church, 2200 Forest Hill in Flint.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, April 20, 2015 1:56 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: U.S. EPA says Flint's water loans 'not eligible for forgiveness'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/n2i-xx5qsGk/us_epa_says_flints_water_loans.html

Flint's $22 million in water loan debts are not eligible for forgiveness despite the city's financial problems, the U.S. EPA has told U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 4:26 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint finances, hiring detailed in emergency manager's latest report

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/faoeHWb3kug/emergency_manager_says_flint_c_1.html

The city of Flint could have a new finance director, human resources director and treasurer in place by the end of June, emergency manager Jerry Ambrose says in a quarterly report to the state.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, April 27, 2015 6:03 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Proposed Flint budget would leave water rates unchanged, add 10 part-time cops

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/XpaRcDQyMIE/proposed_flint_budget_would_le.html

Flint water and sewer rates would remain unchanged and 10 part-time police officers would be hired, according to a proposed budget unveiled Monday, April 27.

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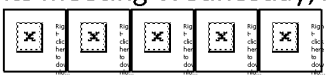
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 6:03 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint's request to borrow $7 million heads to state loan board

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/gL7txlpAI0E/flints_request_to_borrow_7_mil.html

The state Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board will consider Flint's request for a $7 million loan at its meeting Wednesday, April 29, in Lansing.



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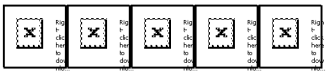
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 12:19 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint emergency manager plans news conference with deputy state treasurer

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/NA6fNiumiDI/flint_emergency_manager_deputy.html

Flint has been in state receivership for more than three years.



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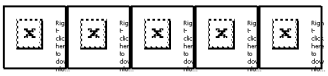
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:10 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Gov. Snyder declares end to Flint's financial emergency

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/sC6scqcd-0U/governor_declares_flints_finan.html

The city of Flint's 41-month financial emergency has been lifted by Gov. Rick Snyder, state officials have told The Flint Journal.



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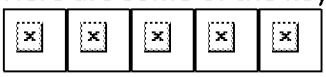
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 1:33 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Follow Flint's long road back from financial emergency

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/7O_ZFmaegGs/follow_flints_long_road_back_f.html

Here are some of the key moments in Flint's three-plus years of financial receivership.



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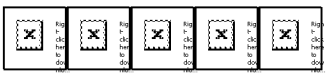
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:26 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Watch Flint, state officials announce end of financial emergency

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/xPboIONUR8w/watch_flint_state_officials_an.html

Update 2:05 p.m.: The news conference has ended. Story: Gov. Snyder declares end to Flint's financial emergency FLINT, MI -- The city's 41-month financial emergency has been lifted by Gov. Rick Snyder, state officials have told The Flint Journal. Emergency financial manager...



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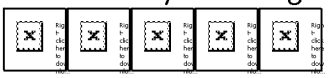
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, April 30, 2015 7:06 PM
Author: Blake Thorne | bthorne1@mlive.com
Subject: Gov. Rick Snyder weighs in on Genesee County Roads, Flint financial emergency lifting

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/izF0DlOSag8/gov_rick_snyder_weighs_in_on_g.html

Gov. Rick Snyder brought his bus tour to Genesee County on April 30 to spread the word about Proposal 1.



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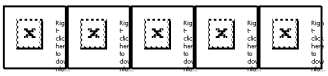
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 12:29 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Exiting Flint emergency manager issues final orders on transition

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/I0aQPn2bbYY/departing_flint_emergency_mana.html

Jerry Ambrose has left his position as Flint's emergency manager, but his influence will be felt for years because of the final orders issued in his last days in City Hall.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Friday, May 08, 2015 7:06 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint emergency manager lifted restrictions on Eric Mays before exit

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/zoKwtrBlJL8/flint_emergency_manager_lifted.html

Former Flint emergency manager Jerry Ambrose lifted an order restricting City Councilman Eric Mays days before leaving his post last week.

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RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Wednesday, May 13, 2015 5:52 AM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	Flint council must decide what to do with budget signed by departed emergency manager
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/po3IHgUKpXo/departed_flint_emergency_manag_1.html

If they want to change former emergency manager Jerry Ambrose's two-year financial plan for Flint, members of the City Council will have to work in reverse.

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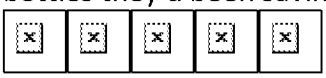
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, May 20, 2015 5:02 AM
Author: Scott Atkinson | satkins1@mlive.com
Subject: Art project traveling across Flint protests city's decisions on drinking water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/1C2ex79xcm4/art_project_traveling_flint_pr.html

When Flint artist Desiree Duell's son asked her if they were going to make an art project out of all the water bottles they'd been saving, Duell could only say one thing.



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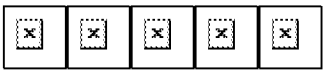
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, June 01, 2015 1:50 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint water tests OK, but violation of Safe Drinking Water Act lingers

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/8px3ee_UfB4/flints_water_tests_ok_but_city.html

Flint's water is getting better, but it's not good enough to end the city's violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.



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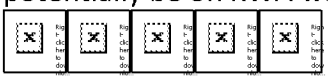
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, June 04, 2015 5:42 PM
Author: Blake Thorne | bthorne1@mlive.com
Subject: Work to begin soon on water treatment plant for Genesee County's new pipeline

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/jrAviCRMAcE/work_to_begin_soon_on_water_tr.html

The Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline construction is underway, with officials saying customers could potentially be on KWA water by the end of the year.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, June 04, 2015 6:03 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Concerned Pastors say lawsuit aims to force Flint to abandon river water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/pL1GRmGJEzo/concerned_pastors_say_lawsuit.html

The president of the Concerned Pastors for Social Action says his group and others will file a lawsuit Friday, June 5, with the goal of forcing to city to stop using the Flint River as its drinking water source.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 2:23 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint warns of possible low pressure, discolored water as valve testing moves east

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/3HcxOCAlJHY/city_warns_of_possible_low_pre.html

The city of Flint is warning of the potential for discolored water and low pressure in parts of Flint where crews are testing water main valves.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, June 11, 2015 4:03 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Valve break could drop pressure, discolor water in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Naspg8yRrSI/valve_break_could_drop_pressur.html

A broken valve could knock out pressure and discolor water in the area of Pierson Road and I-475, the city of Flint says in a news release today, June 11.

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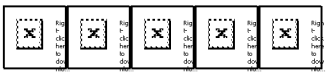
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, June 15, 2015 4:27 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint councilman urges city to negotiate end to water rate lawsuit

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/B29c0DzBUAU/flint_councilman_urges_city_to.html

Councilman Scott Kincaid is urging the city to the negotiating table to end a lawsuit that claims the city owes water customers a refund.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 3:02 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: City wants to move Flint River water lawsuit to federal court

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/92APMyaCOL8/flint_wants_to_move_river_wate.html

The city of Flint wants a federal judge to decide whether it should be forced to end its use of the Flint River as a drinking water source, according to a new filing in U.S. District Court.

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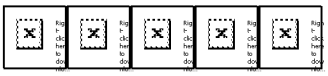
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Friday, June 19, 2015 8:10 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint council members want water customers refunded, lawsuit settled

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/WsZcXhT1dO0/flint_council_members_say_city.html

Flint should settle a potential class action lawsuit that claims a former emergency manager illegally raised water and sewer rates here in 2012, some City Council members say.



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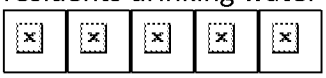
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, July 09, 2015 3:50 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint installing new water plant filter expected to be in use this month

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/1D-D7kBag0k/flint_shows_off.html

Flint officials say they expect a new, $1.6 million filtering system to be operational this month and to give residents drinking water with lower levels of total trihalomethanes (TTHM).



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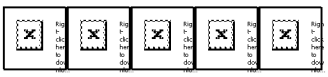
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, July 16, 2015 3:35 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Water coalition drops federal claim, Flint calls lawsuit 'baseless'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/rhgK9pc3kNI/water_coalition_drops_federal.html

A lawsuit aimed at forcing the city of Flint to stop using the Flint River for drinking water is almost certainly headed back to Genesee Circuit Court, but the city is calling the complaint "baseless and devoid of legal merit" -- wherever it lands.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 2:17 PM
Author: Sarah Schuch | sschuch@mlive.com
Subject: Flint officials 'hopeful' newest TTHM water notice will be last warning

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/i4LUWmcYY_s/flint_city_administrator_hopes.html

The city of Flint has a high quality of water, said City Administrator Natasha Henderson, but the city is moving forward in ensuring confidence from the residents.

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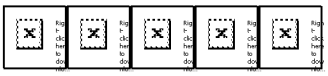
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 4:04 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Vendor starts looking for leaks in Flint's water distribution system

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ocSKSPAhZts/flint_vendor_looking_for_leaks.html

A program to root out water leaks in Flint's transmission lines has started and is expected to continue for the next 10-14 weeks.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, September 03, 2015 3:18 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Lower TTHM levels put Flint in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/3IgPLgIkoKs/lower_tthm_levels_moves_flint.html

The good news on TTHM comes the day after researchers at Virginia Tech published an online report, saying tests show Flint drinking water is "very corrosive" and is "causing lead contamination in homes."

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 11:30 AM
Author: Andrew Heller | MLive
Subject: Flint now needs to get the lead out, too? -- Come Heller high water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/0vs0gaChmpc/does_flint_need_to_get_the_lea.html

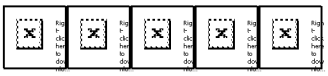
It's one thing when you're told your tap water has too many "trihalomethanes" because nobody knows what those are. But everyone understands what lead is and what it can do.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, September 10, 2015 6:04 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Feds sending in experts to help Flint keep lead out of water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/baFvR-tVxfM/university_researchers_dont_dr.html

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it will send help to Flint as it develops plans for controlling corrosion in treated Flint River water, a key to keeping lead from leaching into homes and businesses.



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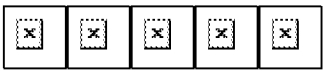
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, September 14, 2015 1:57 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint council meeting today will include special water presentation

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/lD8lmVcpvbk/flint_council_meeting_today_wi.html

A special presentation on water will be a part of a Flint City Council meeting at 6 p.m. today, Sept. 14, in the third-floor council chambers in City Hall, 1101 S. Saginaw St.



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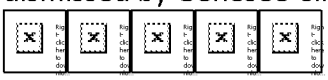
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 11:30 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Lawsuit aimed at forcing Flint to end use of Flint River dismissed

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/glSY6mJBCzE/lawsuit_aimed_at_forcing_flint.html

A lawsuit that sought to force the city of Flint to end its use of the Flint River for drinking water has been dismissed by Genesee Circuit Court Judge Archie Hayman.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, September 21, 2015 7:24 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: U.S. congressman calls for more testing of Flint water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ntqL5m9-nGY/kildee_says_independent_tests.html

Congressman Dan Kildee says more homes need to to have water tested for lead in Flint and wants an agency or company other than the city or state to carry out the testing.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, September 24, 2015 6:52 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint to issue lead in water warning after push from doctors, health officials

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/wGQX5MQlLWQ/flint_will_issue_lead_advisory.html

"I am extremely concerned to hear from doctors about any elevated blood lead levels in Flint's children," the mayor said in a statement.

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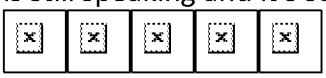
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:10 PM
Author: MLive/Flint Journal opinion
Subject: City must abandon Flint River as drinking water source amid lead crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/o0QbCx1ursk/abandon_flint_river_for_drinki.html

"The water quality speaks for itself," Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said the day of the switch. Today, that quality is still speaking and it's sounding worse by the day.



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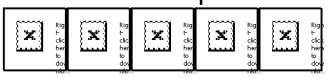
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:31 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Elevated lead found in more Flint kids after water switch, study finds

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/qNM9Aw5FUbk/study_shows_twice_as_many_flin.html

The percentage of Flint infants and children with elevated levels of lead in their blood has nearly doubled since the city began using the Flint River as its water source, according to a study by Hurley Medical Center's director of the pediatric residency.



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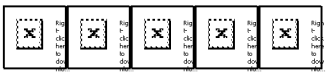
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, September 24, 2015 6:52 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: State says data shows no link to Flint River, elevated lead in blood

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/B2rPuEbXWIc/state_says_its_data_shows_no_c.html

FLINT, MI -- The state is wasting no time in taking issue with a study linking use of the Flint River as a drinking water source to elevated blood lead levels in children.



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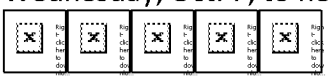
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 05, 2015 4:11 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Lead revives Flint's dormant expert committee on water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/rCU4xcFOFbI/flints_expert_committee_on_wat.html

A blue ribbon panel of water experts has been dormant for months but is expected to return to work Wednesday, Oct. 7, to help fix Flint's water problems.



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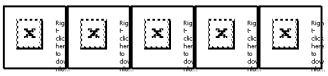
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 05, 2015 5:56 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Water filter giveaway branches out to four Flint locations

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/BImBgQOx96M/whats_next_for_water_filter_di.html

The state Department of Health & Human Services said free water filters will be available to Michigan HHS clients and Flint residents at four locations beginning 9 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6.



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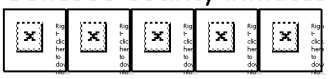
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 05, 2015 6:38 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Jail inmates may be first in Flint to get bottled water on Genesee County's dime

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/8l-DzfCQUuE/genesee_county_inmates_served.html

Genesee County inmates may be first in the city to get fresh water on the county's dime.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 05, 2015 10:44 PM
Author: Roberto Acosta | racosta1@mlive.com
Subject: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe to donate bottled water in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/QSmH2UZdRLc/saginaw_chippewa_indian_tribe_1.html

The water being donated Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan comes from the tribe, as well as Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, and Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

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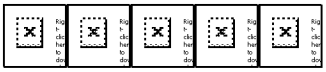
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 12:16 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint must change its water source, the sooner the better, Ananich says

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/dsWWGSFpVF4/ananich_says.html

The city is compounding its lead-in-water problem by continuing to use the Flint River, says state Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich.



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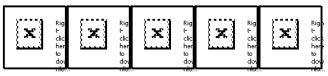
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 2:45 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Call 211 for help with water filter questions in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Mok9Nk2b754/211_assistance_line_set_up_to.html

Use 211 --the area's non-emergency help line -- to find where Flint residents can find water filters for their homes.



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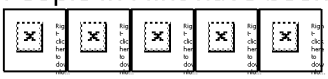
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 8:05 PM
Author: Amanda Emery | aemery@mlive.com
Subject: Dealing with nasty-looking Flint water? Send us your photos

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/nGkv1ZiXAys/dealing_with_discolored_flint.html

People in Flint have been plagued with water problems, including discoloration and now elevated lead levels.



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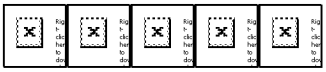
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 10:45 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Statewide donations of clean water pour in for Flint students, residents

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/oMSbvj3rMU0/post_444.html

Donations from businesses, individuals and charities are pouring in to make sure Flint students have clean water.



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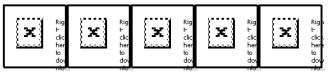
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 5:04 AM
Author: Gary Ridley | gridley@mlive.com
Subject: How the Flint water crisis emerged

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/g6IBvPj4jeE/how_the_flint_water_crisis_eme.html

Check out this timeline of the problems with Flint's drinking water



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:59 AM
Author: Gary Ridley | gridley@mlive.com
Subject: CBS Evening News puts Flint water crisis on national stage

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/sZDr_PuPbpI/flint_water_crisis_gets_nation.html

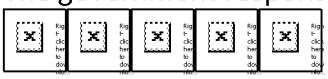
Flint's water crisis is now receiving national attention after the issues was featured in a segment on the CBS Evening News.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:04 AM
Author: Andrew Heller | MLive
Subject: Water, water everywhere and not a drop that's safe to drink -- Andrew Heller

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/SxVIFolH8DY/water_water_everywhere_and_not.html

The government response to Flint's water woes has been agonizingly slow and sometimes puzzling.



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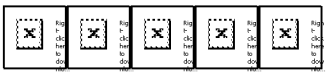
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 1:35 PM
Author: Sarah Schuch | sschuch@mlive.com
Subject: Debunking that social media rumor on Flint water filters

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/7uwKoXDXEl8/debunking_that_social_media_ru.html

The question has been spreading on social media and through the neighborhoods: Are the free faucet filters handed out certified to remove lead from drinking water?



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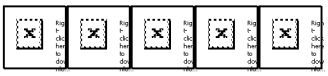
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 2:26 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Here's how that toxic lead gets into Flint water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/IoS1RenNhgw/see_step_by_step_how_lead_is_g.html

Tests show water leaving Flint's treatment plant is lead free, but by the time it reaches the tap, it sometimes has elevated levels of lead, and here's why.



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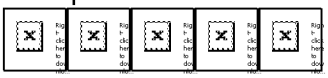
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:11 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Watch live: Experts meet amid Flint drinking water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/zEkhchxp8c0/watch_live_advisory_committee.html

On a possible reconnection to Detroit, Walling said: "That option continues to be actively under discussion."



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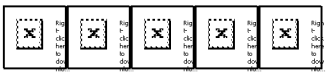
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 12, 2015 1:58 PM
Author: Gary Ridley | gridley@mlive.com
Subject: Lawmaker's lawsuit claims Flint, state withheld documents on water safety

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/pUiPGJ36iiY/lawmakers_lawsuit_claims_flint.html

Rep. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing, announced Monday, Oct. 12, that he is filing the lawsuit to force the city and state to turn over documents he sought under the state's Freedom of Information Act.



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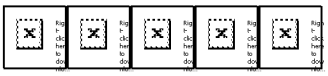
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:11 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Michael Moore says governor took over Flint, made citizens drink sewage

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/08g7sW_TKoA/michael_moore_says_governor_to.html

Filmmaker Michael Moore hasn't said much about Flint's water crisis, but he made it clear where he thinks the blames lies in a Twitter message Sunday, Oct. 11.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 11:05 AM
Author: Andrew Heller | MLive
Subject: It's time to play the Blame Game in Flint -- Come Heller high water ...

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/5h2aQsaTi-A/its_time_to_play_the_blame_gam.html

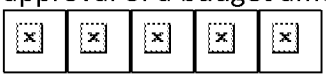
The emergency manager law is seriously, dangerously, disastrously flawed if it allows managers with God-like powers to cut corners and take chances with the public's health for the sake of saving money.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 6:11 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint's $2 million share for Detroit water reconnection a done deal

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/GOBxCp7-IAU/state_oversight_board_makes_fl.html

The city has locked into spending $2 million for a temporary connection to the Detroit water system after approval of a budget amendment today, Oct. 14, by Flint's Receivership Transition Advisory Board.



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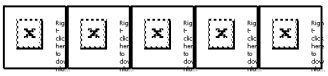
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:21 PM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Michigan House OKs $9.35M for Flint water switch, crisis response

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/PhAmZMGHWxo/michigan_house_oks_935m_for_fl.html

The Michigan House on Wednesday unanimously approved a $9.35 million spending plan to help Flint switch water sources and address a public health crisis fueled by contaminated drinking water.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:37 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Newsweek column calls Flint 'cheapskate city that poisoned its children'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/aJ_yVMFjkyY/newsweek_column_calls_flint_ch.html

The senior medical adviser to the Environmental Health Trust says a lead-in-water disaster is unfolding in Flint, one that on average will shave a point off the IQ of every child in the city.

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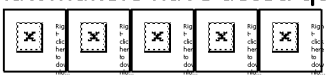
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:55 AM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Michigan lawmakers act on Flint water crisis, unanimously approve $9.35M in state aide

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/M4hGx4CXXSM/flint_water_crisis_prompts_una.html

Michigan officials have faced criticism for an initial slow response to a drinking water crisis in Flint, but lawmakers have acted quickly on Gov. Rick Snyder's request for state aide.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:04 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Temporary stop-work order won't delay pipeline, says KWA

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/asAcsooCzcA/temporary_stop_work_order_wont.html

A Lapeer contractor working on the KWA pipeline to bring lake water to Flint ran into a hitch, but Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright says the project is still underway without any major delays.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 15, 2015 6:27 PM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs spending bill with $9.35M for Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/TUn6C6QWzTw/michigan_gov_rick_snyder_signs_9.html

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday signed a supplemental spending bill that includes $9.35 million to address a public health crisis in Flint linked to contaminated drinking water.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:01 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Episcopal Diocese joins efforts to send bottled water to Flint Schools

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/3kcX1ltW41M/community_leaders.html

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan along with county leaders, businesses, a radio station and school districts are donating bottles of water for students in Flint Schools.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:10 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: DEQ chief says state used wrong federal water rules in Flint for 17 months

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Z_wK4DqjO2w/state_deq_flint_should_have_be.html

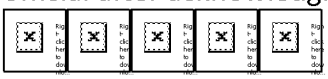
The city should have been treating Flint River water to make it less corrosive for the last 17 months but was never required to, Michigan's chief environmental officer now says.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 19, 2015 11:50 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: DEQ replaces water official after state acknowledges 'mistake' in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/vVlUWYQtDIw/top_state_water_official_repla.html

State Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant is replacing his top municipal drinking water official after acknowledging oversight mistakes with the Flint water system in a news release today, Oct. 19.



View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 19, 2015 5:15 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Emails show feds warned state in February of leaching lead in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Gv4N41hBdR0/emails_show_feds_told_state_of.html

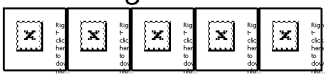
The federal government told the state more than seven months ago that the chemistry of Flint River water was apparently causing transmission pipes to leach contaminants like lead here, according to emails between environmental regulators.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 6:46 AM
Author: Tim Skubick | Politics Columnist for MLive.com
Subject: Lawmakers moved fast to get the lead out of Flint water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/mBH2ATIlH4Y/lawmakers_moved_fast_to_get_th.html

Nobody knows how many column inches are written every year on the comings and goings at the state Capitol, but we do know that the focus is mainly on all the stuff lawmakers screw up. So when they get something...

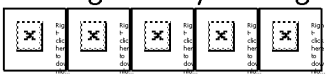


View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 2:55 PM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Michigan DEQ 'completely failed' Flint residents, says Ananich, calling for water investigation

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ygnxb1MMq2Q/michigan_deq_failed_flint_resi.html

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality "completely failed" to protect Flint residents from contaminated drinking water, according to Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who is calling for a formal investigation by the Legislature.



View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 3:06 PM
Author: MLive/Flint Journal opinion
Subject: Flint water crisis exposes Michigan's infrastructure funding problem

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/u7-7DbTJ_NI/op-ed_flint_water_crisis.html

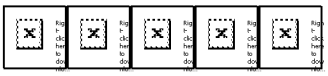
Other municipalities throughout Michigan have significant problems, and no one is talking about them publicly, in most cases.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 4:50 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Read state DEQ emails as lead-in-water crisis unfolded in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Qxb2KJD-Io4/read_state_deq_emails_as_flint.html

These emails from the state Department of Environmental Quality supply some of the background to the story of how Flint was allowed to operate its water system for more than 17 months without controlling corrosion.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 12:37 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Kildee, Ananich call for federal investigation into Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ggXlYd8pwiw/kildee_ananich_call_for_federa.html

Dan Kildee FLINT, MI -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is being asked to investigate the cause of water problems in Flint by U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, and state Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint. In separate letters to...

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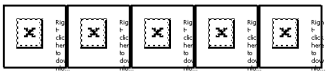
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 6:57 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Gov. Snyder names task force to review actions in Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/yaosl-3kG4E/gov_snyder_names_task_force_to.html

Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a task force to review "actions regarding water use and testing in Flint" and to make recommendations for future guidelines.



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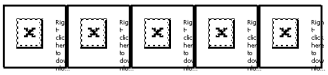
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 22, 2015 6:05 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: State says it will speed up money transfer to Flint for Detroit water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/bgt19iW-xyM/flint_administrator_says_state.html

The state says it will speed up funding to help Flint buy Detroit water less than 24 hours after top city officials said the cash was needed now -- not in 2016.



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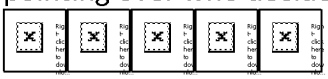
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, October 26, 2015 4:23 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Ex-emergency manager says local leaders made decision to use Flint River water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ReIaDBKsGSM/ex-emergency_manager_says_loca.html

The city has stopped using the Flint River as its drinking water source, but that hasn't ended the finger pointing over who decided to use it in the first place.



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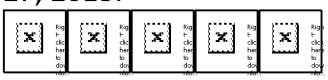
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 11:28 AM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Former Flint EM Darnell Earley: Water switch was local decision

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/c4EJUrjJSz8/former_flint_em_darnell_earley.html

Darnell Earley answers Flint water questions outside a education hearing at the Michigan Capitol on October 27, 2015.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 7:13 AM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Ananich blasts former emergency manager for Flint water switch 'fairy tale'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/lII2_0waFwU/ananich_blasts_flint_water_fai.html

"This kind of fantasy, this fairy tale stuff, is just irresponsible, and he needs to take accountability for his failings in the past before he expects us to trust him in the future," said Ananich, D-Flint.

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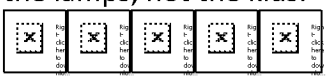
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 11:07 AM
Author: Andrew Heller | MLive
Subject: Maybe Ida Know and Not Me are to blame for Flint's water woes -- come Heller or high water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/RLU1Hd98oIc/come_heller_high_water_maybe_i.html

Figuring out who's to blame for Flint's water woes is like a "Family Circus" cartoon where Not Me and Ida Know break the lamps, not the kids.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 4:55 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Follow Telephone Town Hall live as key figures in Flint water crisis speak

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/6i1CHy30Pnw/follow_it_live.html

Three key figures in the Flint water crisis are scheduled to participate in a "Telephone Town Hall" starting at 7 p.m. today, Oct. 28, and you can follow the event here.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 10:56 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Watch Lansing water protester tell governor, 'You owe Flint'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/zq4XmPc5-w8/watch_lansing_protest.html

Protesters called on Gov. Rick Snyder to fire state Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant for his agency's role in Flint's water crisis Wednesday, Oct. 28.

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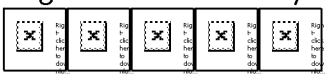
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, October 29, 2015 4:27 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Seven key takeaways from a town hall meeting on Flint's water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/boaMebF4KRo/seven_key_takeaways_from_the_t.html

More than 4,000 people joined in a Telephone Town Hall to talk about Flint's water emergency Wednesday, Oct. 29, asking questions to U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, a Hurley Medical Center doctor and a professor from Virginia Tech university. Here are some of the key takeaways from the discussion.



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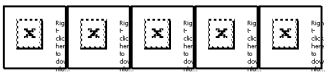
RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Thursday, October 29, 2015 8:13 PM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	Flint City Council votes to hire outside legal help on water issue
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Djdaznbj_N4/flint_city_council_votes_to_hi.html

The Flint City Council wants its own attorney to advise it on issues related to Flint's water emergency, but it's unclear whether it will be able to pay any bill.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:34 AM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Michigan DEQ audit expanded to include Flint water response

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/4GujxjdZfgQ/michigan_deq_audit_expanded_to.html

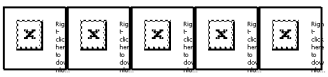
Michigan Auditor General Doug Ringler is expanding an ongoing review of the Department of Environmental Quality's water division to include response protocols related to lead contamination in Flint drinking water.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 6:45 AM
Author: Tim Skubick | Politics Columnist for MLive.com
Subject: Flint water crisis spills over to Detroit schools plan

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/R4RbMR2BQxI/flint_water_crisis_spills_over.html

Rarely in the rough-and-tumble world of politics do you have one person call the other a liar. Usually they will say, "he was stretching the truth," or "the statement was not quite accurate." Call it honor among thieves, but that's...



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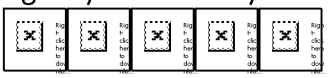
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 9:56 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: New EPA report warns of potential large-scale lead releases in Flint water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/7gE0QFO1Mjo/new_epa_report_warns_of_potent.html

Flint residents should be warned of the potential risk of increased lead in drinking water when crews do underground work that could dislodge scale and sediment in water pipes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency told the city and state today, Nov. 4.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, November 05, 2015 5:06 AM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: County agencies prepare to distribute water filter replacement cartridges in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/JyXJsZS3qGY/mdhhs_will_distribute_water_fi.html

Genesee County agencies are set to give Flint residents replacement cartridges for filters distributed in the city to prevent lead from getting into their drinking water.

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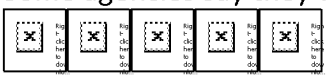
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, November 05, 2015 5:51 AM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Bottled water donations continue to trickle into Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/pCBbQNQeM2Q/bottled_water_donations_trickl.html

Some agencies say they will continue to donate water until it is safe to drink water from taps in Flint homes.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, November 05, 2015 7:18 PM
Author: Amanda Emery | aemery@mlive.com
Subject: Legislators call for investigation into altered Flint lead report

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/B3NQsU_waKg/legislators_call_for_investiga.html

Two state representatives are pushing for a federal investigation into the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, November 05, 2015 8:11 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint sending out 1,800 new notices for past-due water bills

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/ZDJPDhX2fk8/flint_sending_out_first_discon.html

The city of Flint says it will send out the first water shutoff notices since a judge's ruling temporarily halted the practice in August.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Friday, November 06, 2015 7:01 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Partnership will help Flint schools recycle thousands of water bottles

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/FiHq0wvvi4w/partnership_will_help_flint_sc.html

Flint Community Schools have partnered with various agencies to recycle the estimated 5,000 empty water bottles a day used by students, teachers and staff during Flint's water crisis.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 1:43 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: EPA to audit Michigan drinking water program following Flint lead crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Db4o7s25zNE/epa_says_it_will_audit_michiga.html

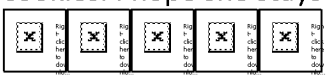
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will audit of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water program, the agency announced today, Nov. 10.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 11:06 AM
Author: Andrew Heller | MLive
Subject: Some tough words for Flint's tough new mayor -- Come Heller high water ...

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/gK6uvDVHNWo/some_tough_words_for_flints_to.html

She's one tough cookie, judging from her words and her tone. That's a good thing, by the way. I like tough cookies. I hope she stays that way. The last mayor was a crumbly cookie, in my opinion.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 3:43 PM
Author: Bob Johnson | bob_johnson@mlive.com
Subject: Saginaw students collect bottled water for sister school in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/82-n-F1bypE/saginaw_students_collect_bottl.html

More than 2,500 bottles of water were collected by students at the K-8 charter school located at 1944 Iowa in Bridgeport.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, November 12, 2015 10:33 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Documents show Flint filed false reports about testing for lead in water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/5dgM7uorBX4/documents_show_city_filed_fals.html

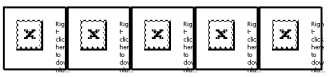
Flint officials filed certfied documents with state regulators that claimed the city only tested Flint River water from homes where residents were at the highest risk of lead poisoning, but records obtained by The Flint Journal-MLive through the Freedom of Information Act show those claims were false and may have delayed efforts to fix the public health emergency here.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, November 12, 2015 3:45 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Four ways Flint failed in its testing for lead in water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/bRyNwKc2Sic/five_key_takeaways_about_flint.html

The city of Flint's assurance that it was testing homes at the highest risk for lead leaching isn't supported by its own records, according to documents obtained by The Flint Journal-MLive through the Freedom of Information Act.

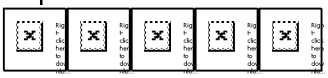


View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Friday, November 13, 2015 5:05 AM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: County Health Department, state partner to educate Flint area on lead

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/PyY26gZpLc8/county_health_department_state.html

The Genesee County Health Department and Michigan Department of Health and Human say they are providing resources educate Flint residents and primary care providers about lead and what people should do to protect themselves.



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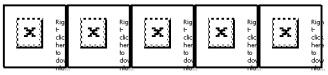
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Sunday, November 15, 2015 5:04 AM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Flint businessman gets recognition in Detroit for Flint water crisis work

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/_dWuzzgF5Fs/a_flint_area_businessman_recie.html

A Flint-area man was recognized in the Motor City for his efforts during the city's water crisis.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, November 16, 2015 11:09 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: ACLU, national activists intend to sue Gov. Snyder, Flint over lead in water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/qACEwvtgRUs/nrdc_aclu_file_notice_to_sue_s.html

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and the Natural Resource Defense Council have notified officials for the city and the state that they intend to sue over lead in Flint drinking water and what they call ongoing violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, November 16, 2015 4:24 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Class action lawsuit claims Snyder, Flint put water cost above safety

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/bQz-dkMIRA4/class_action_lawsuit_claims_sn.html

City and state officials supplied highly toxic water to Flint residents solely because it was the cheaper option, attorneys seeking a class action lawsuit claimed in a news conference today, Nov. 16.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 1:20 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Read resignation letter of Flint official in charge of city water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/MddeP8CRu5g/read_resignation_letter_of_fli.html

In the photo gallery here, see the letter from Howard Croft on his sudden resignation as the city of Flint's Department of Public Works director.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 5:06 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Refund Flint $2 million for cost of Detroit water, Kildee tells Gov. Snyder

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/5ubp6fC3H_I/kildee_asks_gov_snyder_for_pay.html

The state of Michigan should repair damage to Flint's water lines, create a fund for ongoing assistance here, and reimburse the city for the $2 million it's spending to temporarily reconnect to the Detroit water system, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee says.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 2:47 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Story of Flint water crisis, 'failure of government,' unfolds in Washington

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/tMcL4HwGefg/story_of_flint_water_crisis_fa.html

Elected officials and activists have delivered the story of Flint's lead-in-water crisis in person to the federal government, testifying Wednesday, Nov. 18, before a U.S. EPA advisory council.

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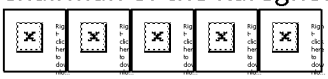
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, November 23, 2015 5:15 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: With Walling out as Flint mayor, water authority set to choose new leader

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/pX0HSeViAu8/with_walling_gone_as_flint_may.html

Dayne Walling's defeat in the election for Flint mayor this month also takes him out of the running to return as chairman of the Karegnondi Water Authority Board of Trustees.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 2:46 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Appeals court greenlights hearing on Flint water rate ruling

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/DtLQgw5gpaw/appeals_court_green_lights_hea.html

The Michigan Court of Appeals has turned down the city's request to delay a hearing on whether it has complied with an injunction aimed at lowering Flint's water and sewer rates.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, December 03, 2015 1:18 PM
Author: Dominic Adams | dadams5@mlive.com
Subject: New tests show toxic lead in plumbing at Flint elementary schools

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/upeOSCd8uC8/18_faucets_at_flints_eisenhowe.html

Results showed potential lead leaching into the water is attributed to lead solder joints on copper piping, brass valves and brass fittings, brass components in fixtures and galvanized piping, the DEQ said.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, December 07, 2015 5:04 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Crusading Flint doctor says 'we're not done' fighting fallout of lead in water

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/rWffJI95t6I/crusading_flint_doctor_says_we.html

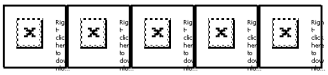
You may have thought Flint's lead in water crisis was drawing to a close, but the Hurley Medical Center doctor who played a critical role in ending the city's use of the Flint River has other plans.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, December 07, 2015 6:06 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Hear professor explain how Washington, D.C., was a prelude to Flint's water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/DOUHpz2OPAM/hear_professor_explain_how_wat.html

FLINT, MI -- Virginia Tech Professor Marc Edwards spoke to a small group of doctors and others interested in the Flint water crisis during a presentation at Hurley Medical Center last week. For those who missed it, all of Edwards' remarks...



View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 08, 2015 2:05 PM
Author: Gary Ridley | gridley@mlive.com
Subject: Daughter's piggy bank makes appearance in Flint water rate hearing

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/T94Rh4wVLDU/daughters_piggy_bank_makes_app.html

An attorney for the city of Flint raided his daughter's piggy bank in an attempt to prove the city did not violate a judge's order to reduce water and sewer rates.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 1:41 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint administrator says city plans to add third-party water testing

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/Ky328dzQ38s/flint_administrator_says_city_1.html

The city of Flint is planning to start independent testing for lead in its water supply, and details on the arrangement could be announced soon.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, December 10, 2015 4:54 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint will pay for independent water tests, added phosphate treatment

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/4Z-5WrRGVXg/flint_will_pay_for_independent.html

The city of Flint has hired a contractor to do what it did not on its own -- search out and test water in homes that are most likely to have the highest lead levels.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, December 10, 2015 6:08 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: More lead in plumbing found at Flint's Brownell school, state report says

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/jvwNjCjKgjo/state_report_identifies_more_l.html

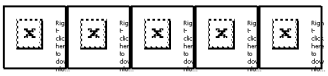
State testing at another Flint school has identified old faucets and plumbing as potential sources of lead leaching into water.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, December 14, 2015 9:38 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Mayor Karen Weaver declares water crisis state of emergency in Flint

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/qTQdNL-avYg/mayor_karen_weaver_declares_st.html

Mayor Karen Weaver has declared a state of emergency in Flint, saying the city needs federal help to deal with its lead in water crisis.



View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 11:05 AM
Author: Andrew Heller | MLive
Subject: Some emergency advice for Flint's new mayor -- Come Heller high water ...

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/gJCXEDCijcU/some_emergency_advice_for_flin.html

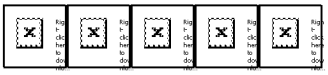
My unsolicited advice to the mayor: Keep it going. Talk to every reporter. Invite in every camera. Do bold, dramatic things. Don't take no for an answer. Dare to make a fuss.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Thursday, December 17, 2015 11:04 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Governor's task force on Flint water crisis releases early recommendations

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/IfWO7vzkh28/state_task_force_on_flint_wate.html

Current actions to protect the public from lead in water appear to be taking place without a system to measure results and delineate responsibilities, according to a task force charged with reviewing Flint's lead in water crisis.



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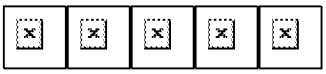
RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Monday, December 21, 2015 5:45 PM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	Newly published study gives more evidence of elevated lead in Flint kids
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/TQ2_KhyDiCw/health_journal_publishes_blood.html

The American Journal of Public Health has published research by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha that further details the rise in blood lead levels in children who drank Flint River water for as long as 17 months.



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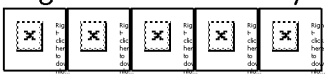
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 5:56 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: State failed to sound alarm when it knew of rising Flint blood lead levels

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/uA_Jpp8AHfY/documents_show_state.html

Michigan public health officials found evidence of elevated blood lead levels in Flint two months before a Hurley Medical Center doctor exposed the spike, according to documents released by a water researcher from Virginia Tech university.



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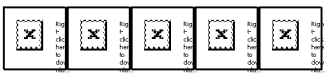
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 5:31 AM
Author: Gary Ridley | gridley@mlive.com
Subject: State health fund needed in response to Flint water crisis, congressman says

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/H3L9cI8n2jY/us_rep_dan_kildee_calls_for_st.html

As questions continue to swirl about who should be held responsible for the Flint water crisis, U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee said the state needs to step forward and fund a program to monitor the health of the city's youngest residents.



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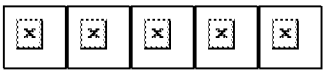
RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Wednesday, December 23, 2015 9:41 AM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	MSNBC's Rachel Maddow keeps national spotlight on water crisis in Michigan
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/U-Tkuyqwhlc/msnbcs_rachel_maddow_puts_nati.html

The story of Flint's water crisis is getting a broader audience, including three segments in the last 10 days on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show."



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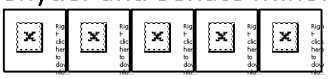
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 9:41 AM
Author: Jonathan Oosting | joosting@mlive.com
Subject: Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, legislative leaders name biggest disappointments of 2015

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/irSGIl7mQEs/michigan_gov_rick_snyder_legis_1.html

The Flint drinking water crisis was one of the biggest disappointments of 2015, according to both Gov. Rick Snyder and Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who have very different perspectives on the situation.



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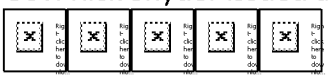
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 3:44 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Gov. Rick Snyder says he's sorry for Flint's lead-in-water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/nwlFxbgI5sY/gov_snyder_says_hes_sorry_for.html

Gov. Rick Snyder issued a statement Tuesday, Dec. 29, saying he's sorry for Flint's water crisis.



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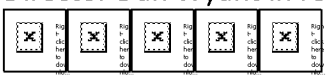
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 4:55 PM
Author: Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com
Subject: Director Dan Wyant resigns after task force blasts MDEQ over Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/aNxrlHLPEi0/deq_director_dan_wyant_resigns.html

Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday accepted a resignation from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant in relation to the Flint water crisis.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 5:30 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Congressman Dan Kildee will again discuss Flint water on 'The Rachel Maddow Show'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/_sjfkTrgjHk/congressman_dan_kildee_appears.html

Congressman Dan Kildee appeared last week on "The Rachel Maddow Show" asking for Gov. Rick Snyder to help residents in Flint during the city's water crisis.

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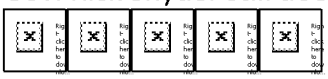
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 5:54 PM
Author: Bryn Mickle | bmickle1@mlive.com
Subject: Gov. Rick Snyder still doesn't get it when it comes to Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/k47RSXhfPq0/gov_rick_snyder_still_doesnt_g.html

Gov. Rick Snyder still doesn't get it.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 6:41 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Flint leaders applaud DEQ director's resignation, governor's apology

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/99GvEWedIMs/gov_rick_snyder_accepts_mdeq_h.html

Mayor Karen Weaver and other local leaders say the resignation of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant and release of Flint Water Task Force findings Tuesday are the first steps toward holding people accountable for Flint's water crisis.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 6:31 AM
Author: Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com
Subject: DEQ spokesman also resigns over Flint water crisis, says city 'didn't feel like we cared'

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/1Bqo4PDr7Dc/deq_spokesman_also_resigns_ove.html

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesperson Brad Wurfel has joined director Dan Wyant in resigning after a task force cited department failures in addressing the Flint water crisis.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 1:01 PM
Author: Jiquanda Johnson | jjohns16@mlive.com
Subject: Four takeways from the Flint Water Advisory Task Force preliminary report

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/sJPtZ8QEtGs/five_takeways_for_the_flint_wa.html

The Flint Water Advisory Task Force turned in a preliminary report of Flint's water crisis saying the responsibility ultimately falls to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

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RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Wednesday, December 30, 2015 1:32 PM
Author:	Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com
Subject:	Flint water prompts state changes: DNR Director Keith Creagh appointed as interim DEQ director
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/taNGm8U7tDM/flint_water_prompts_state_chan.html

Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh will serve as interim director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality after that director's resignation over the Flint water crisis.

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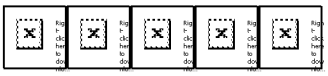
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:32 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Flint water crisis emergency declaration heading to Gov. Rick Snyder

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/xYt4fR6Mlh4/genesee_county_declares_emerge.html

The chairman of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners has declared a state of emergency in Flint because of lead in the city's water supply.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, January 04, 2016 3:14 PM
Author: Emily Lawler | elawler@mlive.com
Subject: Bill inspired by Flint water crisis would make data manipulation by Michigan officials a felony

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/2CpXGTo_jlU/bill_inspired_by_flint_water_c.html

Michigan Rep. Phil Phelps doesn't know whether officials at state agencies manipulated data to mask lead levels in Flint water, but he does know that there's no law stopping somebody from doing so.

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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Monday, January 04, 2016 3:20 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Gov. Snyder must decide whether to declare disaster in Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/kh82wEGWoRU/governor_must_decide_if_flint.html

Last week, Gov. Rick Snyder said he was sorry for Flint's lead in water crisis. Now he must decide whether the situation amounts to a man-made disaster, created while the city was being run by emergency managers that he appointed.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 5:07 AM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: With just 17 miles to go, KWA pipeline work might not stop for mild winter

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/xN5gnSECxJU/mild_weather_helping_speed_kwa.html

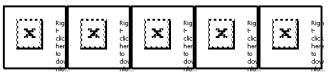
Five contractors and about 1,200 workers are taking advantage of a mild winter as they push to build the last 17 miles of the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline to Lake Huron. It's possible they won't be stopped by the weather until the job is complete.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 9:28 AM
Author: Molly Young | myoung7@mlive.com
Subject: MSNBC's Rachel Maddow talks water crisis with Flint Journal editor

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/tges7d3FAn8/flint_journal_editor_talks_fli.html

Flint Journal/MLive Editor Bryn Mickle appeared on the Rachel Maddow show Monday, Jan. 4, to talk about Flint's water crisis.



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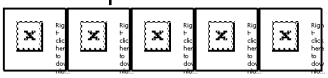
RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 10:01 AM
Author: Gary Ridley | gridley@mlive.com
Subject: U.S. Attorney's Office investigating Flint water crisis

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/-Gow2mvos1M/us_attorneys_office_investigat.html

Federal prosecutors are investigating Flint's water crisis, an official said.



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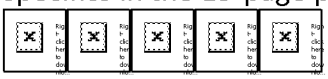
RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Tuesday, January 05, 2016 10:46 AM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	Read Flint's request for $50M in government aid for water crisis
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/sdftK_TdO2M/read_flints_request_for_50m_in.html

Flint and Genesee County officials call their request for a disaster declaration a work in progress but there are specifics in the 15-page package headed to Gov. Rick Snyder.



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RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 1:01 PM
Author: Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject: Watchdog group calls on Gov. Snyder to release all Flint water documents

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/s38h-kZHeJw/common_cause_calls_on_gov_snyd.html

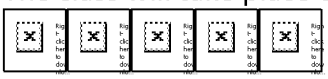
Common Cause Michigan is calling for Gov. Rick Snyder to drop his executive privilege and release all documents and correspondence connected to the Flint water crisis.

View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 1:29 PM
Author: Dominic Adams | dadams5@mlive.com
Subject: UM-Flint offers free course on Flint water crisis implications

Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/MIkmR1fAErQ/um-flint_to_offer_free_course.html

The class will take place on select Wednesdays and Thursdays and begins later this month.



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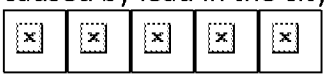
RSS Feed:	Michigan News
Posted on:	Tuesday, January 05, 2016 5:32 PM
Author:	Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com
Subject:	Governor declares state of emergency over lead in Flint water
Full article link:	http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/lGIJZ_S-LfM/governor_declares_state_of_eme.html

Gov. Rick Snyder has declared a state of emergency for Genesee County because of health and safety issues caused by lead in the city's drinking water.

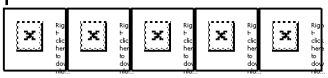


View article...

RSS Feed: Michigan News
Posted on: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 7:02 PM
Author: Khalil AlHajal | kalhajal@mlive.com
Subject: Lawmakers urge MDEQ to reject Detroit oil refinery permit, compare risk to Flint water crisis

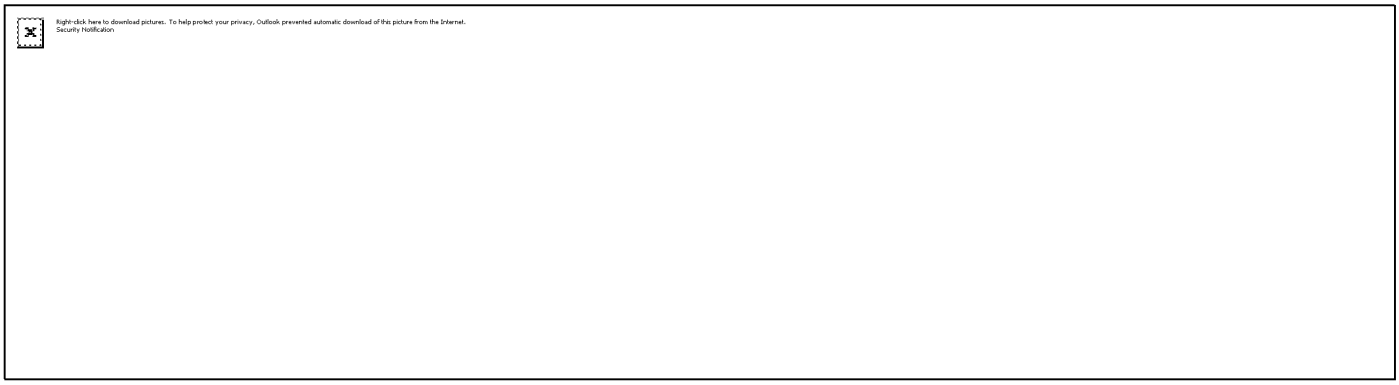
Full article link: http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/michigan-news/~3/1AsG74-04cU/lawmakers_urge_mdeq_to_reject.html

Comparing the situation to Flint's water crisis, a group of Democratic state lawmakers are urging the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality not to approve a permit that would allow Marathon Oil to release more pollutants into the air at its southwest Detroit refinery.



View article...

From: DTMB Facilities <dtmb@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Jacokes, Paul (DTMB)
Subject: Facility Notification: Constitution Hall



Protest Activity

Date/Time:

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Details:

Please be aware that there is a protest event planned for today, October 28, outside of the Constitution Hall from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The event is being held in response to the water condition in Flint. Please plan your daily activities with this in mind as a large turnout for this event is anticipated. DTMB and MSP will be working together to monitor the situation.

Contact:

DTMB Customer Service Center, DTMB-Customerservice@michigan.gov or 517-373-6227

This email was sent to jacokesp@michigan.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of DTMB · Lewis Cass Building · 320 South Walnut Street · Lansing, MI 48933 · 517-373-1004

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Howell, Thomas (CEPI);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: FW: DEQ calling

I think they want to focus on providing filters to schools first, but I only heard that anecdotally.

-----Original Message-----
From: Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 10:48 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB); Howell, Thomas (CEPI)
Subject: DEQ calling

Maggie Pallone from DEQ will be calling CEPI for timely data related to the Flint water situation. I am in a meeting with John and will touch base with her asap. But she might need to talk to you sooner.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB);Howell, Thomas (CEPI)
Subject: Time sensitive-Flint Schools Data
Attachments: List of All Flint Schools 9_30_15.xlsx; ATT00001.htm

Hi Tom,

I believe Maggie from DEQ left you a voicemail on this, but the Governors office needs some data CEPI provided on Flint Schools broken down in greater detail. This is time-sensitive and related to discussions involving the Flint water situation that are happening at a fast pace. Can you please assist?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
> **Date:** October 7, 2015 at 11:28:53 AM EDT
> **To:** "Starr, Scott (DTMB)" <StarrS1@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: FW: Flint Area Schools Request**
>
> Scott-
> Here is what I received through MDE last week.
>
> Thanks,
> Maggie
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
> **Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2015 12:04 PM
> **To:** Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov>; Wurfel, Sara (GOV) <Wurfels@michigan.gov>; Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ) <TommasuloK@michigan.gov>
> **Subject:** Fwd: Flint Area Schools Request
>
> According to CEPI there are 243 (please open file and double check that number) that would qualify- from preschools to u's.
>
> Begin forwarded message:
>
> > **From:** "Liethen, Caroline (MDE)" <LiethenC@michigan.gov>
> > **Date:** September 30, 2015 at 10:31:10 AM EDT
> > **To:** "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
> > **Subject: FW: Flint Area Schools Request**
> >
> > See attached for a list of schools w/ addresses in the City of Flint. Let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

Caroline Liethen
Legislative Analyst
Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
Michigan Department of Education
Office: (517) 373-1948

Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education – helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.

From: CEPI
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Liethen, Caroline (MDE) <LiethenC@michigan.gov>
Cc: Morse, Connie (CEPI) <MorseC1@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Flint Area Schools Request

Hi Caroline,

Attached is a list of all schools in Flint with both mailing and physical addresses. This information can be accessed in the EEM by following the instructions below:

1. Go to https://cepi.state.mi.us/eem/
2. On the left-hand side of the screen, click "Search"
3. Click "Detailed"
4. Set the Status field to "Open-Active"
5. Set the Characteristic field to "Physical Address City" (Under the addresses section)
6. Set the Operator field to "Equals"
7. In the Value field, enter the word "Flint"
8. Click "Add Criterion"
9. Click "Search"
10. Near the bottom of the page, click "Download Entity Data"
11. You will see a list of characteristics sorted by Entity Type
12. Put a check in the "Entity Code" and "Official Name of Entity" for each type of entity you are interested in
13. Check the "Include Address Types" box
14. Click "Start Download"
15. The file will be generated in xml format
16. Save the file somewhere on your computer
17. Go to Excel, and open a new spreadsheet
18. Within Excel, click File then Open
19. Locate the saved xml file and open
20. The file will open in Excel with all requested data

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you for your inquiry,

Helena
CEPI customer support

Avoid sending personally identifiable information by email. While you can send PIC or UIC numbers when necessary, do not include or attach student names, social security numbers, or other confidential information.

Please let us know how we're doing by completing a quick, anonymous survey about your experience with CEPI support, at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLB8J7N.

The CEPI website includes links to security forms, application deadlines and other resources. If you have further questions, please email cepi@michigan.gov or call 517-335-0505 x3.

From: Liethen, Caroline (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:33 AM
To: CEPI <CEPI@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Flint Area Schools Request

Schools in the city of Flint. Thank you!

Caroline Liethen
Legislative Analyst
Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
Michigan Department of Education
Office: (517) 373-1948

Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education – helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.

From: CEPI
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:15 AM
To: Liethen, Caroline (MDE) <LiethenC@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Flint Area Schools Request

Hi Caroline,

We can pull a mailing list for you with this information. Could you please specify what is meant by "Flint area"? We can search by county, city, or zip code, and we would need to know exactly which regions should be included in the search.

Thank you,

Helena
CEPI customer support

Avoid sending personally identifiable information by email. While you can send PIC or UIC numbers when necessary, do not include or attach student names, social security numbers, or other confidential information.

Please let us know how we're doing by completing a quick, anonymous survey about your experience with CEPI support, at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLB8J7N.

The CEPI website includes links to security forms, application deadlines and other resources. If you have further questions, please email cepi@michigan.gov or call 517-335-0505 x3.

From: Liethen, Caroline (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 3:49 PM
To: CEPI <CEPI@michigan.gov>
Subject: Flint Area Schools Request

Good Afternoon,

The Governor's office has requested a list of all schools in the Flint area including traditional public schools, public school academies, private, and parochial schools w/ addresses. Are you able to compile this list, please?

Thank you for your assistance!

Sincerely,

Caroline Liethen
Legislative Analyst
Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
Michigan Department of Education
Office: (517) 373-1948

Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education – helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	EntityTypeName	EntityId	EntityOfficialName	OriginalEntityCode	EntityAddressId	EntityId2	AddressTypeId
2	LEA School	10600	Academy West Alternative Education	01915	74425	10600	1
3	LEA School	10600	Academy West Alternative Education	01915	74426	10600	2
4	LEA School	1616	Accelerated Learning Academy	05950	51234	1616	1
5	LEA School	1616	Accelerated Learning Academy	05950	51235	1616	2
6	LEA School	1704	Armstrong Middle School	06282	51651	1704	1
7	LEA School	1704	Armstrong Middle School	06282	51652	1704	2
8	LEA School	1674	Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth Alternative Education	07710	51359	1674	1
9	LEA School	1674	Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth Alternative Education	07710	51360	1674	2
10	LEA School	10601	Brownell STEM Academy	01916	74427	10601	1
11	LEA School	10601	Brownell STEM Academy	01916	74428	10601	2
12	LEA School	11194	Carman Park-Baker Career Academy	02790	75766	11194	1
13	LEA School	11194	Carman Park-Baker Career Academy	02790	75765	11194	2
14	LEA School	1688	Carman-Ainsworth High School	05009	51373	1688	1
15	LEA School	1688	Carman-Ainsworth High School	05009	51374	1688	2
16	LEA School	1684	Carman-Ainsworth Middle School	00031	51303	1684	1
17	LEA School	1684	Carman-Ainsworth Middle School	00031	51304	1684	2
18	LEA School	1743	Colonel Donald McMonagle Elementary School	05928	51616	1743	1
19	LEA School	1743	Colonel Donald McMonagle Elementary School	05928	51617	1743	2
20	LEA School	1630	Doyle/Ryder School	03129	51246	1630	1
21	LEA School	1630	Doyle/Ryder School	03129	51247	1630	2
22	LEA School	1651	Durant Tuuri Mott School	00974	51267	1651	1
23	LEA School	1651	Durant Tuuri Mott School	00974	51268	1651	2
24	LEA School	1682	Dye Elementary School	00980	51369	1682	1
25	LEA School	1682	Dye Elementary School	00980	51370	1682	2
26	LEA School	1648	Eisenhower School	01098	51264	1648	1
27	LEA School	1648	Eisenhower School	01098	51265	1648	2
28	LEA School	1646	Freeman School	01320	51197	1646	1
29	LEA School	1646	Freeman School	01320	51198	1646	2
30	LEA School	10531	Gateway to College-Mott Community College	01795	74278	10531	1
31	LEA School	10531	Gateway to College-Mott Community College	01795	74279	10531	2
32	LEA School	7913	Genesee Early College	09774	65104	7913	1
33	LEA School	7913	Genesee Early College	09774	65061	7913	2
34	LEA School	1742	Hamady Community High School	06235	51469	1742	1
35	LEA School	1742	Hamady Community High School	06235	51470	1742	2
36	LEA School	1741	Hamady Middle School	01543	51467	1741	1
37	LEA School	1741	Hamady Middle School	01543	51468	1741	2
38	LEA School	10602	Holmes STEM Academy	01917	74430	10602	1
39	LEA School	10602	Holmes STEM Academy	01917	74429	10602	2
40	LEA School	1698	Kate Dowdall Elementary School	00949	51387	1698	1
41	LEA School	1698	Kate Dowdall Elementary School	00949	51388	1698	2
42	LEA School	1701	Kearsley High School	01993	51645	1701	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	AddressTypeCode	Street	AddressLine2	City	State	Zip4	EffDate	MapURL
2	Mailing	3223 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485041247	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
3	Physical	3400 N Jennings Rd		Flint	MI	485041757	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
4	Mailing	G2138 W. Carpenter Road		FLINT	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
5	Physical	G2138 W. Carpenter Road		Flint	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
6	Mailing	G-6161 HOPKINS RD		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
7	Physical	6161 HOPKINS RD # G		FLINT	MI	485061657	5/19/2011 11:51:33 AM	No Map Found
8	Mailing	G-3493 BEVERIDGE RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
9	Physical	3493 Beveridge Rd # G		Flint	MI	48532	10/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
10	Mailing	6302 OXLEY DR		FLINT	MI	485041698	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
11	Physical	6302 Oxley Dr		Flint	MI	485041698	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
12	Mailing	3375 Van Campen Rd		Flint	MI	48507	6/25/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
13	Physical	3375 Van Campen Rd		Flint	MI	48507	6/25/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
14	Mailing	1300 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485322366	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
15	Physical	1300 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485322341	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
16	Mailing	1409 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075699	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
17	Physical	1409 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613	5/19/2011 11:53:45 AM	No Map Found
18	Mailing	3484 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
19	Physical	3484 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	5/19/2011 11:51:47 AM	No Map Found
20	Mailing	1040 NORTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485031736	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
21	Physical	1040 NORTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485031736	5/19/2011 11:54:06 AM	No Map Found
22	Mailing	1518 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
23	Physical	1518 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046208	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
24	Mailing	1174 SOUTH GRAHAM RD		FLINT	MI	485323562	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
25	Physical	1174 SOUTH GRAHAM RD		FLINT	MI	485323533	5/19/2011 11:53:18 AM	No Map Found
26	Mailing	1235 PERSHING ST		FLINT	MI	485033533	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
27	Physical	1235 PERSHING ST		FLINT	MI	485033533	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
28	Mailing	4001 OGEMA AVE		FLINT	MI	485072887	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
29	Physical	4001 OGEMA AVE		FLINT	MI	485072887	5/19/2011 11:54:24 AM	No Map Found
30	Mailing	923 E KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031974	2/5/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
31	Physical	1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089	2/5/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
32	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
33	Physical	2413 W Maple Ave		Flint	MI	48507	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
34	Mailing	G-3223 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	48504	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
35	Physical	3223 WEST CARPENTER RD # G		FLINT	MI	485041247	5/19/2011 11:52:39 AM	No Map Found
36	Mailing	G-3223 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	48504	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
37	Physical	3223 WEST CARPENTER RD # G		FLINT	MI	485041247	5/19/2011 11:52:40 AM	No Map Found
38	Mailing	6602 OXLEY DR		FLINT	MI	485041674	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
39	Physical	6602 Oxley Dr		Flint	MI	485041674	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
40	Mailing	3333 SHILLELAGH DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
41	Physical	3333 SHILLELAGH DR		FLINT	MI	485062246	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
42	Mailing	G-4302 UNDERHILL DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
1	AddressTypeName	XLocation	YLocation	Latitude	Longitude	USCongressionalDistrict	MISenateDistrict	MIHouseDistrict	CGIStatusDate
2	Mailing								
3	Physical	682847.8683	280645.7794	43.05429601	-83.75283278	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
4	Mailing								
5	Physical	685485.0809	283059.2749	43.07537287	-83.71964447	5	27	34	2/16/2015 12:42:41 PM
6	Mailing								
7	Physical	695951.4996	283828.1288	43.07963205	-83.59087384	5	27	48	5/19/2011 11:51:33 AM
8	Mailing								
9	Physical	683206.8885	274037.4649	42.99472586	-83.75062424	5	27	49	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
10	Mailing								
11	Physical	684757.797	282346.7266	43.06913831	-83.72881883	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
12	Mailing								
13	Physical	687355.7367	272274.3877	42.97783367	-83.70034397	5	27	49	6/25/2015 2:08:53 PM
14	Mailing								
15	Physical	681274.409	277335.634	43.02464487	-83.7730952	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
16	Mailing								
17	Physical	686841.6851	269757.4285	42.95530569	-83.70750238	5	14	50	5/19/2011 11:53:45 AM
18	Mailing								
19	Physical	682839	281045.1	43.05516364	-83.75284113	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:51:47 AM
20	Mailing								
21	Physical	687789.9	277474.6	43.02552676	-83.6933395	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:06 AM
22	Mailing								
23	Physical	686397.4514	276338.7424	43.014655	-83.71072298	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
24	Mailing								
25	Physical	682529.0348	276096.7463	43.01342699	-83.75825441	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:18 AM
26	Mailing								
27	Physical	686559.0213	275144.9047	43.00386911	-83.70914516	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
28	Mailing								
29	Physical	690548.8	273387.2	42.98741964	-83.66088539	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:24 AM
30	Mailing								
31	Physical	689637.4845	276839.188	43.018348	-83.670809	5	27	49	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
32	Mailing								
33	Physical	685162.28	270103.8	42.958839	-83.727966	5	14	50	6/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
34	Mailing								
35	Physical	683677.2	282991.7	43.07525532	-83.74195061	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:52:39 AM
36	Mailing								
37	Physical	683657.025	282723.5105	43.07280012	-83.74220722	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:52:40 AM
38	Mailing								
39	Physical	684753.6416	282513.0083	43.07063603	-83.72881398	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
40	Mailing								
41	Physical	695085.4057	281263.6304	43.05677608	-83.602417	5	27	48	7/26/2011 10:33:59 AM
42	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
1	CGIStatusId	CGIStatus	BlockGroup	CivilDivision	FIPSCounty	County	DistCode	CGIData	EEMEndTime
2									8:59:42 AM
3	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
4									8:59:42 AM
5	2	Validated by CGI	0001003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
6									8:59:42 AM
7	2	Validated by CGI	0120091	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
8									8:59:42 AM
9	2	Validated by CGI	0109101	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
10									8:59:42 AM
11	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
12									8:59:42 AM
13	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
14									8:59:42 AM
15	2	Validated by CGI	0108112	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
16									8:59:42 AM
17	2	Validated by CGI	0129052	56160	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
18									8:59:42 AM
19	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
20									8:59:42 AM
21	2	Validated by CGI	0136001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
22									8:59:42 AM
23	2	Validated by CGI	0015003		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
24									8:59:42 AM
25	2	Validated by CGI	0109102	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
26									8:59:42 AM
27	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
28									8:59:42 AM
29	2	Validated by CGI	0035003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
30									8:59:42 AM
31	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
32									8:59:42 AM
33	2	Validated by CGI	0129041	56160	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
34									8:59:42 AM
35	2	Validated by CGI	0105012	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
36									8:59:42 AM
37	2	Validated by CGI	0105012	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
38									8:59:42 AM
39	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
40									8:59:42 AM
41	2	Validated by CGI	0120082	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
42									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
43	LEA School	1701	Kearsley High School	01993	51646	1701	2
44	LEA School	1699	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	01230	51389	1699	1
45	LEA School	1699	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	01230	51390	1699	2
46	LEA School	11161	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	02745	75700	11161	1
47	LEA School	11161	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	02745	75699	11161	2
48	LEA School	1611	Mott Middle College High School	07576	51155	1611	1
49	LEA School	1611	Mott Middle College High School	07576	51156	1611	2
50	LEA School	1632	Neithercut Elementary School	02670	51250	1632	1
51	LEA School	1632	Neithercut Elementary School	02670	51251	1632	2
52	LEA School	1628	Northwestern High School	02777	51173	1628	1
53	LEA School	1628	Northwestern High School	02777	51174	1628	2
54	LEA School	1629	Pierce School	03033	51175	1629	1
55	LEA School	1629	Pierce School	03033	51176	1629	2
56	LEA School	1631	Potter School	03108	51248	1631	1
57	LEA School	1631	Potter School	03108	51249	1631	2
58	LEA School	1686	Randels Elementary School	03147	51307	1686	1
59	LEA School	1686	Randels Elementary School	03147	51308	1686	2
60	LEA School	1624	Southwestern Classical Academy	03554	51242	1624	1
61	LEA School	1624	Southwestern Classical Academy	03554	51243	1624	2
62	Other Non-School Recipient	10501	Alpha Montessori School	990002480	74218	10501	1
63	Other Non-School Recipient	10501	Alpha Montessori School	990002480	74219	10501	2
64	Other Non-School Recipient	9639	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	990000250	72194	9639	1
65	Other Non-School Recipient	9639	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	990000250	72195	9639	2
66	Other Non-School Recipient	8175	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	250000041	66053	8175	1
67	Other Non-School Recipient	8175	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	250000041	69911	8175	2
68	Other Non-School Recipient	9420	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	25SPX0025	71682	9420	1
69	Other Non-School Recipient	9420	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	25SPX0025	71616	9420	2
70	Other Non-School Recipient	8233	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	250000072	66111	8233	1
71	Other Non-School Recipient	8233	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	250000072	69964	8233	2
72	Other Non-School Recipient	9469	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	990000160	71808	9469	1
73	Other Non-School Recipient	9469	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	990000160	71809	9469	2
74	Other Non-School Recipient	9083	Connexion, Incorporated	990000070	70790	9083	1
75	Other Non-School Recipient	9083	Connexion, Incorporated	990000070	70791	9083	2
76	Other Non-School Recipient	10861	Eagles Nest Academy	990004408	75056	10861	1
77	Other Non-School Recipient	10861	Eagles Nest Academy	990004408	75057	10861	2
78	Other Non-School Recipient	9010	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	25SPX0022	66888	9010	1
79	Other Non-School Recipient	9010	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	25SPX0022	70692	9010	2
80	Other Non-School Recipient	10356	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	990001945	73852	10356	1
81	Other Non-School Recipient	10356	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	990001945	73853	10356	2
82	Other Non-School Recipient	9511	Flint Institute of Music	250005113	71893	9511	1
83	Other Non-School Recipient	9511	Flint Institute of Music	250005113	71894	9511	2
84	Other Non-School Recipient	8357	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	250000066	66235	8357	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
43	Physical	4302 UNDERHILL DR # G		FLINT	MI	485061534	5/19/2011 11:51:35 AM	No Map Found
44	Mailing	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
45	Physical	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	485061714	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
46	Mailing	1020 W COLDWATER RD		FLINT	MI	485054831	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
47	Physical	G5159 Summit Street		Flint	MI	485051429	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
48	Mailing	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
49	Physical	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	5/19/2011 11:54:31 AM	No Map Found
50	Mailing	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
51	Physical	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
52	Mailing	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
53	Physical	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
54	Mailing	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
55	Physical	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840	5/19/2011 11:54:28 AM	No Map Found
56	Mailing	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
57	Physical	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010	5/19/2011 11:54:05 AM	No Map Found
58	Mailing	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
59	Physical	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006	5/19/2011 11:53:44 AM	No Map Found
60	Mailing	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
61	Physical	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
62	Mailing	310 E 3RD ST		FLINT	MI	485021711	1/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
63	Physical	310 E 3rd St		Flint	MI	485021711	1/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
64	Mailing	2400 N SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485054442	9/21/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
65	Physical	2400 N. Saginaw St.		Flint	MI	48505	5/19/2011 10:22:08 AM	No Map Found
66	Mailing	KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
67	Physical	KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:20:32 AM	No Map Found
68	Mailing	817 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485032076	5/27/2009 8:25:38 AM	No Map Found
69	Physical	817 EAST KEARSLEY ST	SUITE 3C	FLINT	MI	485032076	5/19/2011 10:26:05 AM	No Map Found
70	Mailing	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
71	Physical	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504	5/19/2011 10:20:24 AM	No Map Found
72	Mailing	1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630	6/1/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
73	Physical	1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630	5/19/2011 10:24:29 AM	No Map Found
74	Mailing	1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923	5/4/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
75	Physical	1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923	5/19/2011 10:28:10 AM	No Map Found
76	Mailing	5005 CLOVERLAWN DR		FLINT	MI	485042084	3/5/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
77	Physical	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084	3/5/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
78	Mailing	6103 EAGLE RIDGE LN		FLINT	MI	485056740	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
79	Physical	6103 Eagle Ridge Ln		Flint	MI	485056740	6/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
80	Mailing	1185 E FOSS AVE		FLINT	MI	485052324	8/15/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
81	Physical	1185 E Foss Ave		Flint	MI	485052324	8/15/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
82	Mailing	1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
83	Physical	1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922	5/19/2011 10:23:33 AM	No Map Found
84	Mailing	2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
43	Physical	694434.2697	282794.6681	43.07072504	-83.60986815	5	27	48	5/19/2011 11:51:35 AM
44	Mailing								
45	Physical	696471.2827	282691.0537	43.06926211	-83.58489777	5	27	48	7/26/2011 10:35:53 AM
46	Mailing								
47	Physical	687140.024	283641.0423	43.08019817	-83.69912691	5	27	49	5/28/2015 11:48:54 AM
48	Mailing								
49	Physical	689490.4744	277010.6758	43.01992912	-83.67255326	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:54:31 AM
50	Mailing								
51	Physical	687060.552	273155.262	42.98235234	-83.70771607	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
52	Mailing								
53	Physical	685592.729	283061.47	43.07524397	-83.72973579	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
54	Mailing								
55	Physical	690402.6894	276614.9196	43.01613634	-83.66149993	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:28 AM
56	Mailing								
57	Physical	691687.2203	279250.26	43.03952969	-83.64482724	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:05 AM
58	Mailing								
59	Physical	679573.7	274200.8	42.99703451	-83.79488844	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:44 AM
60	Mailing								
61	Physical	687519.771	274505.155	42.99665372	-83.69971783	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
62	Mailing								
63	Physical	688389.0765	276453.4879	43.015191	-83.686255	5	27	49	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
64	Mailing								
65	Physical	687718.9	279023.5	43.0380872	-83.6936355	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:22:08 AM
66	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
67	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.9819543	-83.6628483	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:20:32 AM
68	Mailing								
69	Physical	688709.8	277146.1	43.02100791	-83.6826803	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:26:05 AM
70	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
71	Physical	683045.9	280981.8	43.05727	-83.75028	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:20:24 AM
72	Mailing								
73	Physical	684105.6	276145.8	43.01338639	-83.73902163	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:24:29 AM
74	Mailing								
75	Physical	690918.9	274058.5	42.99302258	-83.6569739	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:28:10 AM
76	Mailing								
77	Physical	684714.2577	281267.5119	43.05943503	-83.72971581	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
78	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
79	Physical	688306.6	282323.3	43.0678255	-83.6854165	5	27	34	6/14/2010 7:57:25 AM
80	Mailing								
81	Physical	688626.2342	282762.6813	43.0719195	-83.68118426	5	27	34	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
82	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
83	Physical	689032.4	277364.2	43.02208689	-83.68036121	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:23:33 AM
84	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
43	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
44									8:59:42 AM
45	2	Validated by CGI	0120091	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
46									8:59:42 AM
47	2	Validated by CGI	0103044	55980	049	Genesee	04500		8:59:42 AM
48									8:59:42 AM
49	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
50									8:59:42 AM
51	2	Validated by CGI	0135005		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
52									8:59:42 AM
53	2	Validated by CGI	0103043		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
54									8:59:42 AM
55	2	Validated by CGI	0030003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
56									8:59:42 AM
57	2	Validated by CGI	0027002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
58									8:59:42 AM
59	2	Validated by CGI	0108134	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
60									8:59:42 AM
61	2	Validated by CGI	0135002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
62									8:59:42 AM
63	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
64									8:59:42 AM
65	2	Validated by CGI	0136001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
66	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
67	2	Validated by CGI	0035002		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
68									8:59:42 AM
69	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
70	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
71	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
72									8:59:42 AM
73	2	Validated by CGI	0109112	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
74									8:59:42 AM
75	2	Validated by CGI	0033002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
76									8:59:42 AM
77	2	Validated by CGI	0005001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
78	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
79	2	Validated by CGI	0017002		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
80									8:59:42 AM
81	2	Validated by CGI	0017002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
82	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
83	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
84	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
85	Other Non-School Recipient	8357	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	250000066	70086	8357	2
86	Other Non-School Recipient	10918	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	990004592	75169	10918	1
87	Other Non-School Recipient	10918	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	990004592	75170	10918	2
88	Other Non-School Recipient	8418	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	250000018	66296	8418	1
89	Other Non-School Recipient	8418	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	250000018	70146	8418	2
90	Other Non-School Recipient	8603	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	250000016	66481	8603	1
91	Other Non-School Recipient	8603	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	250000016	70326	8603	2
92	Other Non-School Recipient	11125	Genesee ISD Head Start	990005280	75627	11125	1
93	Other Non-School Recipient	11125	Genesee ISD Head Start	990005280	75628	11125	2
94	Other Non-School Recipient	9120	Genesee Valley Regional Center	250008005	70972	9120	1
95	Other Non-School Recipient	9120	Genesee Valley Regional Center	250008005	70898	9120	2
96	Other Non-School Recipient	8386	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	25SPX0011	66264	8386	1
97	Other Non-School Recipient	8386	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	25SPX0011	70114	8386	2
98	Other Non-School Recipient	8317	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	82SC07500	66195	8317	1
99	Other Non-School Recipient	8317	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	82SC07500	70046	8317	2
100	Other Non-School Recipient	9903	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	990001001	72846	9903	1
101	Other Non-School Recipient	9903	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	990001001	72847	9903	2
102	Other Non-School Recipient	9750	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	990000662	72484	9750	1
103	Other Non-School Recipient	9750	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	990000662	72485	9750	2
104	Other Non-School Recipient	9190	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	990000089	70997	9190	1
105	Other Non-School Recipient	9190	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	990000089	70998	9190	2
106	Other Non-School Recipient	8462	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	25SPX0006	66340	8462	1
107	Other Non-School Recipient	8462	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	25SPX0006	70190	8462	2
108	Other Non-School Recipient	11039	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	990004905	75431	11039	1
109	Other Non-School Recipient	11039	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	990004905	75432	11039	2
110	Other Non-School Recipient	8503	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	250000001	66381	8503	1
111	Other Non-School Recipient	8503	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	250000001	70229	8503	2
112	Other Non-School Recipient	10559	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	990002690	74337	10559	1
113	Other Non-School Recipient	10559	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	990002690	74338	10559	2
114	Other Non-School Recipient	9739	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	990000653	72458	9739	1
115	Other Non-School Recipient	9739	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	990000653	72459	9739	2
116	Other Non-School Recipient	8542	MARY MCGEE	250000038	66420	8542	1
117	Other Non-School Recipient	8542	MARY MCGEE	250000038	70267	8542	2
118	Other Non-School Recipient	11150	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	990005379	75677	11150	1
119	Other Non-School Recipient	11150	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	990005379	75678	11150	2
120	Other Non-School Recipient	9547	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	990000208	71960	9547	1
121	Other Non-School Recipient	9547	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	990000208	75347	9547	2
122	Other Non-School Recipient	8596	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	253300000	66474	8596	1
123	Other Non-School Recipient	8596	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	253300000	70319	8596	2
124	Other Non-School Recipient	8562	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	250000060	66440	8562	1
125	Other Non-School Recipient	8562	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	250000060	70286	8562	2
126	Other Non-School Recipient	9857	Motherly Intercession	990000918	72754	9857	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
85	Physical	2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221	5/19/2011 10:34:23 AM	No Map Found
86	Mailing	519 S SAGINAW ST STE 200	Ste 200	FLINT	MI	485021815	5/16/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
87	Physical	519 S Saginaw St		Flint	MI	485021815	5/16/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
88	Mailing	MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
89	Physical	MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532	5/19/2011 10:19:40 AM	No Map Found
90	Mailing	719 Harrison Street		Flint	MI	485021613	9/26/2008 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
91	Physical	719 HARRISON ST		FLINT	MI	485021613	5/19/2011 10:32:24 AM	No Map Found
92	Mailing	5075 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	3/3/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
93	Physical	5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	3/3/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
94	Mailing	4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342	5/13/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
95	Physical	4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342	5/19/2011 10:27:02 AM	No Map Found
96	Mailing	ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
97	Physical	ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:19:46 AM	No Map Found
98	Mailing	1776 WEST WARREN AVE		DETROIT	MI	482082215	5/13/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
99	Physical	507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	485072404	4/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
100	Mailing	G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	48504	11/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
101	Physical	G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	485041894	11/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
102	Mailing	642 E PIERSON RD		FLINT	MI	485053395	5/7/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
103	Physical	642 E Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	51900	5/19/2011 9:30:47 AM	No Map Found
104	Mailing	925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701	5/16/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
105	Physical	925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701	5/19/2011 10:26:50 AM	No Map Found
106	Mailing	5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
107	Physical	5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521	5/19/2011 10:33:32 AM	No Map Found
108	Mailing	915 S DORT HWY STE H		FLINT	MI	485032800	9/22/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
109	Physical	915 S Dort Hwy		Flint	MI	485032800	9/22/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
110	Mailing	930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
111	Physical	930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519	5/19/2011 10:33:09 AM	No Map Found
112	Mailing	1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	48507	3/4/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
113	Physical	1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	485072211	3/4/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
114	Mailing	2001 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	48505	4/30/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
115	Physical	2001 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	50479	5/19/2011 9:30:41 AM	No Map Found
116	Mailing	MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
117	Physical	MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505	5/19/2011 10:19:12 AM	No Map Found
118	Mailing	507 West Atherton Road		Flint	MI	48507-2404	5/2/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
119	Physical	507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	48507	5/2/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
120	Mailing	PO Box 25023		Lansing	MI	489095023	7/10/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
121	Physical	2015 Gold Ave		Flint	MI	485032133	8/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
122	Mailing	1235 WEST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485035015	2/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
123	Physical	1235 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035015	2/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
124	Mailing	3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
125	Physical	3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184	5/19/2011 10:32:43 AM	No Map Found
126	Mailing	817 E KEARSLEY ST	Suite #B	FLINT	MI	485032076	9/11/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
85	Physical	690348.5	275849	43.00923933	-83.66508447	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:34:23 AM
86	Mailing								
87	Physical	688057.0838	276508.8792	43.01577271	-83.69030789	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
88	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
89	Physical	680063.7	275936.1	43.01258	-83.78854	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:19:40 AM
90	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
91	Physical	688297.4	276383.4	43.01454305	-83.68743705	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:32:24 AM
92	Mailing								
93	Physical	685653.0333	269833.2597	42.95628262	-83.72204312	5	14	50	3/1/2015 12:00:00 AM
94	Mailing								
95	Physical	682279.2	279691.2	43.04588466	-83.76010635	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:27:02 AM
96	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
97	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	43.0036284	-83.6521503	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:19:46 AM
98	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
99	Physical	688927.9349	273530.94	42.98874997	-83.68064597	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
100	Mailing								
101	Physical	684503.4622	279790.4107	43.046191	-83.732799	5	27	34	9/1/2010 12:00:00 AM
102	Mailing								
103	Physical	687572.5	281497.6	43.06084342	-83.69563539	5	27	34	5/19/2011 9:30:47 AM
104	Mailing								
105	Physical	689138.6	276568.4	43.01599595	-83.67705509	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:26:50 AM
106	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
107	Physical	694320	284318.2	43.08434795	-83.61669073	5	27	48	5/19/2011 10:33:32 AM
108	Mailing								
109	Physical	690973.0485	276838.8328	43.01800697	-83.65442631	5	27	34	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
110	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
111	Physical	688020.9	280466.8	43.05146936	-83.68843922	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:33:09 AM
112	Mailing								
113	Physical	686849.1431	272837.0035	42.98302345	-83.70636886	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
114	Mailing								
115	Physical	684775.2	282991.3	43.07497851	-83.72841952	5	27	34	5/19/2011 9:30:41 AM
116	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
117	Physical	687671.2	282234.9	43.06741	-83.69308	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:19:12 AM
118	Mailing								
119	Physical	688927.9349	273530.94	42.98874997	-83.68064597	5	27	34	6/1/2015 12:00:00 AM
120	Mailing								
121	Physical	690182.6395	277503.0049	43.02418556	-83.66389268	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
122	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
123	Physical	687300.4209	275504.2638	43.00691923	-83.69993064	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
124	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
125	Physical	684513.1	279487.4	43.04469901	-83.73275911	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:32:43 AM
126	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
85	2	Validated by CGI	0032002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
86									8:59:42 AM
87	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
88	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
89	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
90	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
91	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
92									8:59:42 AM
93	2	Validated by CGI	0129052	56160	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
94									8:59:42 AM
95	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	GENESEE	14550		8:59:42 AM
96	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
97	2	Validated by CGI	0034001		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
98	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
99	2	Validated by CGI	0035001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
100									8:59:42 AM
101	2	Validated by CGI	0009001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
102									8:59:42 AM
103	2	Validated by CGI	0006004	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
104									8:59:42 AM
105	2	Validated by CGI	0029002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
106	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
107	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
108									8:59:42 AM
109	2	Validated by CGI	0031002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
110	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
111	2	Validated by CGI	0020002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
112									8:59:42 AM
113	2	Validated by CGI	0135005	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
114									8:59:42 AM
115	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
116	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
117	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
118									8:59:42 AM
119	2	Validated by CGI	0035001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
120									8:59:42 AM
121	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
122	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
123	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
124	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
125	2	Validated by CGI	0009001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
126									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
127	Other Non-School Recipient	9857	Motherly Intercession	990000918	72755	9857	2
128	Other Non-School Recipient	9986	Mott Community College	990001218	73041	9986	1
129	Other Non-School Recipient	9986	Mott Community College	990001218	73042	9986	2
130	Other Non-School Recipient	9936	Positive Start Child and Development Center	990001106	72937	9936	1
131	Other Non-School Recipient	9936	Positive Start Child and Development Center	990001106	72938	9936	2
132	Other Non-School Recipient	8794	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	25SPX0003	66672	8794	1
133	Other Non-School Recipient	8794	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	25SPX0003	70495	8794	2
134	Other Non-School Recipient	8803	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	250000058	66681	8803	1
135	Other Non-School Recipient	8803	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	250000058	70503	8803	2
136	Other Non-School Recipient	9538	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	990000204	71943	9538	1
137	Other Non-School Recipient	9538	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	990000204	71944	9538	2
138	Other Non-School Recipient	8845	TALL PINE COUNCIL	25SC04500	66723	8845	1
139	Other Non-School Recipient	8845	TALL PINE COUNCIL	25SC04500	70543	8845	2
140	Other Non-School Recipient	9978	T-Care's Daycare	990001202	73024	9978	1
141	Other Non-School Recipient	9978	T-Care's Daycare	990001202	73025	9978	2
142	Other Non-School Recipient	8882	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	810000039	66760	8882	1
143	Other Non-School Recipient	8882	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	810000039	70580	8882	2
144	Other Non-School Recipient	11104	uniquely created children's center Llc	990005147	75564	11104	1
145	Other Non-School Recipient	11104	uniquely created children's center Llc	990005147	75565	11104	2
146	Other Non-School Recipient	10151	village childcare Academy	990001417	73411	10151	1
147	Other Non-School Recipient	10151	village childcare Academy	990001417	73412	10151	2
148	Other Non-School Recipient	10352	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	990001939	73844	10352	1
149	Other Non-School Recipient	10352	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	990001939	73845	10352	2
150	Other Non-School Recipient	8908	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	25SPX0014	66786	8908	1
151	Other Non-School Recipient	8908	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	25SPX0014	70606	8908	2
152	Other Non-School Recipient	9176	Whaley Children's Center	250008002	70962	9176	1
153	Other Non-School Recipient	9176	Whaley Children's Center	250008002	70887	9176	2
154	Higher Education College/University	5061	Baker College Center f/Graduate Studies	08272	58755	5061	1
155	Higher Education College/University	5061	Baker College Center f/Graduate Studies	08272	58756	5061	2
156	Higher Education College/University	5060	Baker College Corporate Services	08271	58753	5060	1
157	Higher Education College/University	5060	Baker College Corporate Services	08271	58754	5060	2
158	Higher Education College/University	5029	Baker College of Flint	06551	58721	5029	1
159	Higher Education College/University	5029	Baker College of Flint	06551	58722	5029	2
160	Higher Education College/University	8008	Baker College Online	09862	65426	8008	1
161	Higher Education College/University	8008	Baker College Online	09862	65427	8008	2
162	Higher Education College/University	8007	Baker College System Office	09861	65424	8007	1
163	Higher Education College/University	8007	Baker College System Office	09861	65425	8007	2
164	Higher Education College/University	8017	Davenport University - Flint	09871	65436	8017	1
165	Higher Education College/University	8017	Davenport University - Flint	09871	65437	8017	2
166	Higher Education College/University	4952	Detroit College of Business-Flint	04776	58629	4952	1
167	Higher Education College/University	4952	Detroit College of Business-Flint	04776	58630	4952	2
168	Higher Education College/University	4976	Kettering University	05114	58600	4976	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
127	Physical	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076	5/19/2011 9:26:46 AM	No Map Found
128	Mailing	1401 E COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485032089	5/11/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
129	Physical	1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089	7/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
130	Mailing	3500 W PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042353	2/15/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
131	Physical	3500 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042353	5/19/2011 9:23:22 AM	No Map Found
132	Mailing	924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	48503	9/4/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
133	Physical	924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	485033620	9/4/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
134	Mailing	DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
135	Physical	DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	485070008	5/19/2011 10:18:37 AM	No Map Found
136	Mailing	1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217	7/6/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
137	Physical	1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217	5/19/2011 10:23:15 AM	No Map Found
138	Mailing	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
139	Physical	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:18:24 AM	No Map Found
140	Mailing	5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	48504	4/29/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
141	Physical	5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	485045002	7/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
142	Mailing	303 EAST KEARSLEY 1313 WSW		FLINT	MI	485020000	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
143	Physical	509 Harrison St		Flint	MI	485021715	5/19/2011 9:29:52 AM	No Map Found
144	Mailing	2040 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051908	11/26/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
145	Physical	2040 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	485051908	11/26/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
146	Mailing	G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/9/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
147	Physical	G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/9/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
148	Mailing	6436 BRAY RD		FLINT	MI	485051813	8/14/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
149	Physical	6436 Bray Rd		Flint	MI	485051813	8/14/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
150	Mailing	4406 LENNON RD		FLINT	MI	48507	10/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
151	Physical	4406 Lennon Rd		Flint	MI	485071029	10/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
152	Mailing	1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312	5/13/2009 9:11:38 AM	No Map Found
153	Physical	1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312	5/19/2011 10:27:10 AM	No Map Found
154	Mailing	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
155	Physical	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM	No Map Found
156	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
157	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM	No Map Found
158	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
159	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 11:08:15 AM	No Map Found
160	Mailing	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
161	Physical	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	5/19/2011 10:40:57 AM	No Map Found
162	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
163	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 10:40:58 AM	No Map Found
164	Mailing	4318 MILLER RD STE A		FLINT	MI	485071267	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
165	Physical	4318 MILLER RD STE A		FLINT	MI	485071267	5/19/2011 10:40:54 AM	No Map Found
166	Mailing	3488 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
167	Physical	3488 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	5/19/2011 11:08:50 AM	No Map Found
168	Mailing	1700 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046214	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
127	Physical	688709.8	277146.1	43.021008	-83.68268	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:26:46 AM
128	Mailing								
129	Physical	689637.4845	276839.188	43.01834848	-83.6708089	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
130	Mailing								
131	Physical	683591.4	279781.1	43.04628852	-83.74400614	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:23:22 AM
132	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
133	Physical	687438.9474	275569.8441	43.00747544	-83.69820423	5	27	49	9/4/2014 2:34:33 PM
134	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
135	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.96466	-83.71872	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:18:37 AM
136	Mailing								
137	Physical	684574.5	277603.4	43.02623129	-83.73295366	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:23:15 AM
138	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
139	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.98875	-83.680646	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:18:24 AM
140	Mailing								
141	Physical	685166.4677	281884.5932	43.06487788	-83.72395718	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
142	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
143	Physical	688153.5	276594.5	43.01647344	-83.68912579	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:29:52 AM
144	Mailing								
145	Physical	684740.3528	283025.1642	43.07524921	-83.72880504	5	27	49	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
146	Mailing								
147	Physical	681937.7488	277941.1174	43.03017212	-83.76489796	5	27	49	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
148	Mailing								
149	Physical	690539.7186	286074.0701	43.10124061	-83.65654448	5	27	48	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
150	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
151	Physical	681822.0186	273192.514	42.987457	-83.767885	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
152	Mailing								
153	Physical	686838.1	277483.8	43.02444284	-83.70452604	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:27:10 AM
154	Mailing								
155	Physical	687610.6	271629.1	42.97412109	-83.69694496	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM
156	Mailing								
157	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM
158	Mailing								
159	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:15 AM
160	Mailing								
161	Physical	687610.6	271629.1	42.97412109	-83.69694496	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:57 AM
162	Mailing								
163	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:58 AM
164	Mailing								
165	Physical	682167.1	272284.2	42.97915519	-83.76393644	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:54 AM
166	Mailing								
167	Physical	682839.1	281040.2	43.05520496	-83.75284154	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:50 AM
168	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
127	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
128									8:59:42 AM
129	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
130									8:59:42 AM
131	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
132	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
133	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
134	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
135	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
136									8:59:42 AM
137	2	Validated by CGI	0013001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
138	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
139	2	Validated by CGI	0035001		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
140									8:59:42 AM
141	2	Validated by CGI	0003001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
142	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
143	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
144									8:59:42 AM
145	2	Validated by CGI	0103043	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
146									8:59:42 AM
147	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
148									8:59:42 AM
149	2	Validated by CGI	0121001	31800	049	Genesee	20070		8:59:42 AM
150	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
151	2	Validated by CGI	0109101	29020	049	Genesee	33420		8:59:42 AM
152									8:59:42 AM
153	2	Validated by CGI	0015002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
154									8:59:42 AM
155	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
156									8:59:42 AM
157	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
158									8:59:42 AM
159	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
160									8:59:42 AM
161	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
162									8:59:42 AM
163	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
164									8:59:42 AM
165	2	Validated by CGI	0109121	29020	049	GENESEE	33420		8:59:42 AM
166									8:59:42 AM
167	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
168									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
169	Higher Education College/University	4976	Kettering University	05114	58601	4976	2
170	Higher Education College/University	4959	Mott Community College	04863	58578	4959	1
171	Higher Education College/University	4959	Mott Community College	04863	58579	4959	2
172	Higher Education College/University	5023	University of Michigan - Flint	05684	58838	5023	1
173	Higher Education College/University	5023	University of Michigan - Flint	05684	58839	5023	2
174	LEA Unique Education Provider	11162	Beecher Adult Education Center	02746	75702	11162	1
175	LEA Unique Education Provider	11162	Beecher Adult Education Center	02746	75701	11162	2
176	LEA Unique Education Provider	11028	Genesee County Jail	02564	75405	11028	1
177	LEA Unique Education Provider	11028	Genesee County Jail	02564	75406	11028	2
178	LEA Unique Education Provider	11029	Genesee Valley Regional Center	02565	75408	11029	1
179	LEA Unique Education Provider	11029	Genesee Valley Regional Center	02565	75407	11029	2
180	LEA Unique Education Provider	7449	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	09347	63960	7449	1
181	LEA Unique Education Provider	7449	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	09347	63961	7449	2
182	LEA Unique Education Provider	1690	Stalker Elementary	09054	51379	1690	1
183	LEA Unique Education Provider	1690	Stalker Elementary	09054	51380	1690	2
184	LEA Unique Education Provider	1683	The Learning Community	01220	51371	1683	1
185	LEA Unique Education Provider	1683	The Learning Community	01220	51372	1683	2
186	LEA Unique Education Provider	6561	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	08935	62414	6561	1
187	LEA Unique Education Provider	6561	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	08935	62415	6561	2
188	PSA School	10944	Eagle's Nest Academy	02434	75226	10944	1
189	PSA School	10944	Eagle's Nest Academy	02434	75225	10944	2
190	PSA School	10699	Genesee STEM Academy	02031	74635	10699	1
191	PSA School	10699	Genesee STEM Academy	02031	74634	10699	2
192	PSA School	10573	Greater Heights Academy	01751	74368	10573	1
193	PSA School	10573	Greater Heights Academy	01751	74367	10573	2
194	PSA School	268	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	08732	53646	268	1
195	PSA School	268	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	08732	53647	268	2
196	PSA School	271	Linden Charter Academy	08739	53682	271	1
197	PSA School	271	Linden Charter Academy	08739	53683	271	2
198	PSA School	7561	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	09450	64244	7561	1
199	PSA School	7561	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	09450	64245	7561	2
200	PSA School	267	Northridge Academy	08721	53510	267	1
201	PSA School	267	Northridge Academy	08721	53511	267	2
202	PSA School	7403	Richfield Public School Academy	09305	64076	7403	1
203	PSA School	7403	Richfield Public School Academy	09305	64077	7403	2
204	PSA School	9580	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	09947	72056	9580	1
205	PSA School	9580	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	09947	72057	9580	2
206	PSA School	10369	The New Standard Academy	01402	73879	10369	1
207	PSA School	10369	The New Standard Academy	01402	73878	10369	2
208	PSA School	10626	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	01882	74478	10626	1
209	PSA School	10626	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	01882	74477	10626	2
210	ISD Unique Education Provider	10548	Early On	01804	74312	10548	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
169	Physical	1700 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046214	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM	No Map Found
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171	Physical	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	5/19/2011 11:09:13 AM	No Map Found
172	Mailing	303 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485021950	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
173	Physical	303 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485021907	5/19/2011 11:07:19 AM	No Map Found
174	Mailing	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485058505	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
175	Physical	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485054831	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
176	Mailing	1000 E MOUNT MORRIS ST		MOUNT MORRIS	MI	484582074	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
177	Physical	1002 S. Saginaw		Flint	MI	485021499	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
178	Mailing	1000 E MOUNT MORRIS ST		MOUNT MORRIS	MI	484582074	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
179	Physical	4287 W. Pasadena Ave.		Flint	MI	485042342	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
180	Mailing	G3284 MACKIN RD		FLINT	MI	485043285	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
181	Physical	G2138 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
182	Mailing	3329 Burnell Ave		Flint	MI	485044303	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
183	Physical	3329 BURNELL AVE		FLINT	MI	485044303	5/19/2011 11:53:15 AM	No Map Found
184	Mailing	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
185	Physical	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615	5/19/2011 11:53:17 AM	No Map Found
186	Mailing	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
187	Physical	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
188	Mailing	5005 CLOVERLAWN DR		FLINT	MI	485042084	6/23/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
189	Physical	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084	6/23/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
190	Mailing	310 W OAKLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485033915	7/11/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
191	Physical	310 W Oakley St		Flint	MI	485033915	7/11/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
192	Mailing	3196 W PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042330	4/2/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
193	Physical	3196 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042330	4/2/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
194	Mailing	2820 SOUTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485035708	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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196	Mailing	3244 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485041753	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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198	Mailing	6170 TORREY RD		FLINT	MI	485075954	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
199	Physical	6170 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075954	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
200	Mailing	530 W PIERSON RD		FLINT	MI	485053114	8/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
201	Physical	530 W Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	485053114	8/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
202	Mailing	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
203	Physical	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642	5/19/2011 10:49:14 AM	No Map Found
204	Mailing	6103 EAGLE RIDGE LN		FLINT	MI	485056740	10/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
205	Physical	4358 Richfield Rd		Flint	MI	485062016	7/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
206	Mailing	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505	8/22/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
207	Physical	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505	8/22/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
208	Mailing	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	48503	9/11/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
209	Physical	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076	10/8/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
210	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

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171	Physical	689654.1	276845.3	43.01834844	-83.67080891	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:09:13 AM
172	Mailing								
173	Physical	688132.4	276760.9	43.01769618	-83.68989349	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:07:19 AM
174	Mailing								
175	Physical	687468.7029	284736.6313	43.08997726	-83.69471741	5	27	49	5/28/2015 1:25:37 PM
176	Mailing								
177	Physical	688346.6246	276039.7424	43.01147796	-83.68691146	5	27	49	9/11/2014 12:38:39 PM
178	Mailing								
179	Physical	681992.7163	279696.2722	43.04595776	-83.76363806	5	27	49	9/11/2014 12:10:19 PM
180	Mailing								
181	Physical	684660.1336	283022.1077	43.07524145	-83.72979101	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
182	Mailing								
183	Physical	683713.4	277467.4	43.02549671	-83.74318147	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:15 AM
184	Mailing								
185	Physical	687568.8	271428.8	42.97021233	-83.69798023	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:17 AM
186	Mailing								
187	Physical	693813.6	282661.2	43.06968	-83.61753	5	27	48	7/20/2011 3:17:04 PM
188	Mailing								
189	Physical	684714.2577	281267.5119	43.05943503	-83.72971581	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
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191	Physical	688891.5758	274464.0866	42.99715832	-83.6807723	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
192	Mailing								
193	Physical	683893.084	279786.4296	43.04630546	-83.74029085	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
194	Mailing								
195	Physical	689099.5	274448.2	42.99696003	-83.67816847	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:39:06 AM
196	Mailing								
197	Physical	681228.4	280877.2	43.04976933	-83.77253416	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:38:52 AM
198	Mailing								
199	Physical	684914.7643	267914.3537	42.93919194	-83.73173258	5	14	50	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
200	Mailing								
201	Physical	686273.1374	281493.6301	43.061085	-83.710504	5	27	34	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
202	Mailing								
203	Physical	692381.9	280269.8	43.04989069	-83.63593213	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:49:14 AM
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205	Physical	693474.7349	280581.0491	43.051049	-83.622426	5	27	48	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
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207	Physical	685949.737	283092.1695	43.07555389	-83.71392822	5	27	48	8/22/2012 9:56:02 AM
208	Mailing								
209	Physical	688662.2166	277107.3733	43.021008	-83.68268	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
210	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
169	2	Validated by CGI	0016003		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
170									8:59:42 AM
171	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
172									8:59:42 AM
173	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
174									8:59:42 AM
175	2	Validated by CGI	0103041	55980	049	Genesee	04500		8:59:42 AM
176									8:59:42 AM
177	2	Validated by CGI	0028001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
178									8:59:42 AM
179	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	Genesee	14550		8:59:42 AM
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184									8:59:42 AM
185	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
186									8:59:42 AM
187	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
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189	2	Validated by CGI	0005001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
190									8:59:42 AM
191	2	Validated by CGI	0038002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
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193	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
194									8:59:42 AM
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208									8:59:42 AM
209	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
210									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
211	ISD Unique Education Provider	10548	Early On	01804	74311	10548	2
212	ISD Unique Education Provider	10549	Early On / Special Education	01810	74314	10549	1
213	ISD Unique Education Provider	10549	Early On / Special Education	01810	74313	10549	2
214	ISD Unique Education Provider	10770	Genesee Career Institute	02258	74785	10770	1
215	ISD Unique Education Provider	10770	Genesee Career Institute	02258	74784	10770	2
216	ISD Unique Education Provider	7904	Genesee ISD Transition Center	09765	65094	7904	1
217	ISD Unique Education Provider	7904	Genesee ISD Transition Center	09765	65095	7904	2
218	ISD Unique Education Provider	9582	Health, Safety and Nutrition Services	00055	72318	9582	1
219	ISD Unique Education Provider	9582	Health, Safety and Nutrition Services	00055	72060	9582	2
220	ISD Unique Education Provider	1605	Special Education Services-South	02658	51218	1605	1
221	ISD Unique Education Provider	1605	Special Education Services-South	02658	51219	1605	2
222	ISD School	1607	Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center	06156	51222	1607	1
223	ISD School	1607	Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center	06156	51223	1607	2
224	ISD School	7865	Special Services - North	09725	64849	7865	1
225	ISD School	7865	Special Services - North	09725	64850	7865	2
226	Nonpublic School	5309	Fairhaven SDA School	05098	59672	5309	1
227	Nonpublic School	5309	Fairhaven SDA School	05098	59673	5309	2
228	Nonpublic School	5289	First Flint SDA School	06603	59399	5289	1
229	Nonpublic School	5289	First Flint SDA School	06603	59400	5289	2
230	Nonpublic School	5280	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	06022	59389	5280	1
231	Nonpublic School	5280	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	06022	59390	5280	2
232	Nonpublic School	5296	Holy Rosary School	01737	59405	5296	1
233	Nonpublic School	5296	Holy Rosary School	01737	59406	5296	2
234	Nonpublic School	5283	St. John Vianney School	06217	59129	5283	1
235	Nonpublic School	5283	St. John Vianney School	06217	59130	5283	2
236	Nonpublic School	5278	St. Paul Lutheran School	03956	59385	5278	1
237	Nonpublic School	5278	St. Paul Lutheran School	03956	59386	5278	2
238	Nonpublic School	5291	St. Pius X School	03991	59139	5291	1
239	Nonpublic School	5291	St. Pius X School	03991	59140	5291	2
240	State School	6333	Michigan School for the Deaf	02548	61517	6333	1
241	State School	6333	Michigan School for the Deaf	02548	61518	6333	2
242	PSA Unique Education Provider	11209	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	02801	75796	11209	1
243	PSA Unique Education Provider	11209	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	02801	75795	11209	2

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
211	Physical	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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213	Physical	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
214	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073493	7/2/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
215	Physical	5081 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075999	9/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
216	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
217	Physical	3136 SOUTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485073004	6/7/2010 1:49:01 PM	No Map Found
218	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
219	Physical	5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
220	Mailing	5089 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
221	Physical	5089 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
222	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
223	Physical	1493 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613	5/19/2011 11:54:13 AM	No Map Found
224	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
225	Physical	2413 W Maple Ave		Flint	MI	485073429	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
226	Mailing	G-1379 WEST LOUIS AVE		FLINT	MI	48505	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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229	Physical	G4285 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	485322711	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM	No Map Found
230	Mailing	1505 W COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485035002	9/26/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
231	Physical	1505 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035002	9/26/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
232	Mailing	5191 RICHFIELD RD		FLINT	MI	485062114	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
233	Physical	5191 RICHFIELD RD		FLINT	MI	485062114	5/19/2011 11:03:57 AM	No Map Found
234	Mailing	2319 BAGLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485044613	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
235	Physical	2319 BAGLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485044613	5/19/2011 11:05:11 AM	No Map Found
236	Mailing	402 SOUTH BALLENGER HWY		FLINT	MI	485323637	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
237	Physical	402 SOUTH BALLENGER HWY		FLINT	MI	485323637	5/19/2011 11:03:59 AM	No Map Found
238	Mailing	G3139 HOGARTH AVE		FLINT	MI	485325132	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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240	Mailing	1235 W. COURT ST.		FLINT	MI	485035015	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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242	Mailing	6103 Eagle Ridge Lane		Flint	MI	48505	7/14/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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214	Mailing								
215	Physical	684834.6823	269859.2791	42.956718	-83.732063	5	14	50	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
216	Mailing								
217	Physical	681481.242	272760.628	42.98038842	-83.77228837	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:49:01 PM
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219	Physical	685681.3116	269797.8961	42.95595733	-83.72170847	5	14	50	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
220	Mailing								
221	Physical	685650.843	269814.859	42.95623558	-83.72199574	5	14	50	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
222	Mailing								
223	Physical	686790.4	270180.9	42.95917168	-83.70808884	5	14	50	5/19/2011 11:54:13 AM
224	Mailing								
225	Physical	685162.2793	270103.7995	42.95883881	-83.72796644	5	14	50	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
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227	Physical	686295.051	284570.0024	43.08877	-83.70919	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM
228	Mailing								
229	Physical	682521.076	277517.845	43.01448671	-83.73669488	5	27	34	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM
230	Mailing								
231	Physical	686971.3099	275468.2773	43.006677	-83.703979	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
232	Mailing								
233	Physical	694519.1	280713.1	43.05200337	-83.60926666	5	27	48	5/19/2011 11:03:57 AM
234	Mailing								
235	Physical	685445	276966.7	43.01987106	-83.71966449	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:05:11 AM
236	Mailing								
237	Physical	684478.2	276449.9	43.01605809	-83.73411109	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:03:59 AM
238	Mailing								
239	Physical	684151.676	274168.634	42.99552682	-83.73913683	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM
240	Mailing								
241	Physical	687286.8876	275516.984	43.00703757	-83.70008714	5	27	49	7/11/2012 1:03:10 PM
242	Mailing								
243	Physical	688299.1393	282300.6981	43.06784391	-83.6853531	5	27	34	7/14/2015 11:18:28 AM

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From: Bob Murphy <bmurphy@masu.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 7:01 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good

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Welcome to the First Edition of *Stewardship*

Welcome to the first edition of ***Stewardship - The State Universities of Michigan and the Public Good***, brought to you by the Michigan Association of State Universities. Published monthly, *Stewardship* will serve as a media showcase for the tremendous outreach the state universities display in serving their students and communities as well as the State of Michigan and beyond. Covering issues as diverse as K-12 education, economic development, health care, environmental sustainability, and public safety, these media accounts will affirm that **Michigan's state universities are *public* universities serving the *public* interest.**

Civic Engagement & Civic Education

Warming U.P. the Sault
The Sault Evening News (Oct. 12, 2015)

Bill Clinton to speak at MSU next month
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

NMU shows off expanded archive
WLUC TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Grand Valley State University announces speakers for 2016 MLK Commemoration Week
Holland Sentinel (Oct. 19, 2015)

Trayvon Martin lawyer talks to Central Michigan University on civil rights
USA Today (Oct. 20, 2015)

MSU debuts largest U.S. media collection in country
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

Links between leadership and mental illness explored in Saginaw Valley State University Lecture
Midland Daily News (Oct. 20, 2015)

Eight things to look out for at TEDx Oakland
The Oakland Post (Oct. 22, 2015)

NMU celebrates Make a Difference Day
WLUC TV (Oct. 24, 2015)

CMU students making Christmas brighter for vets
Midland Daily News (Oct. 25, 2015)

Presidential Candidate Martin O'Malley Comes to UM-Dearborn
The Michigan Journal (Oct. 27, 2015)

Talking on racism
Ferris State Torch (Oct. 28, 2015)

Native American Elder speaks at NMU
WLUC TV (Oct. 28, 2015)

Economic Development

Innovation and Entrepreneurialism

White House honoring University of Michigan scientist
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 9, 2015)

Automation Alley opens Innovation Lab at Oakland University
The Oakland Press (Oct. 15, 2015)

Erickson: NMU committed to innovation
The Mining Journal (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University Unveils MakerBot Innovation Center, First in Midwest
9 and 10 News (Oct. 22, 2015)

What can a city hall do for a business? [UMD]
Crain's Detroit Business (Oct. 29, 2015)

Research, Development & Technology Transfer

MSU celebrates 50 years of cyclotron beams
Lansing State Journal (Oct. 9, 2015)

Michigan State to expand lab for diamond growing
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 14, 2015)

How Michigan helped map path to the Internet
The Detroit News (Oct. 15, 2015)

NMU professor contributes to first field description of whale species
WJMN TV (Oct. 15, 2015)

Woolly mammoths WERE wiped out by hunters: Tusks suggest that calves were forced

to wean earlier because of human predators [UM]
Daily Mail (Oct. 16, 2015)

U-M botanical garden displays clone of ancient redwood
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 20, 2015)

UM's $150M biosciences initiative to add 30 faculty
The Detroit News (Oct. 23, 2015)

Michigan State gets $5.8M grant to improve potato production
WTOL TV (Oct. 27, 2015)

Environmental Sustainability

Oakland University to host symposium on climate change
The Oakland Press (Oct. 8, 2015)

Michigan State researchers studying algae on Torch Lake
The Detroit News (Oct. 12, 2015)

Grand Valley State University, Hastings Township complete sustainable rural recycling prototype
Holland Sentinel (Oct. 14, 2015)

Invasive species conference held at NMU
WJMN TV (Oct. 22, 2015)

Tech Green Enterprise recycles, hosts seminar
The Mining Gazette (Oct. 22, 2015)

University of Michigan boosts biosciences, sustainability
WTOL TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

WMU Prof.: Get ready for more-frequent, more-intense storms after Patricia
WTVB AM (Oct. 29, 2015)

Permaculture garden holds Halloween block party [NMU]
WLUC TV (Oct. 31, 2015)

Health Care

University of Michigan study explores social relationships, well-being in Detroit area
The Tribune (IN) (Oct. 12, 2015)

New $93M Wayne State center to study health disparities
The Detroit News (Oct. 13, 2015)

GVSU student: breast cancer can't stop me
WOOD TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

CMU faculty performs breast cancer research

The Morning Sun (Oct. 22, 2015)

Wayne State doctor: Women pass lead damage to grandkids
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 24, 2015)

Let's talk about health care: All have stake in deciding resource allocation, experts say [GVSU]
MLive (Oct. 27, 2015)

Blood lead clinic to be held for Flint children in Burton
MLive (Oct. 29, 2015)

K-12 Outreach

Students, teachers gain research experience from Saginaw Valley, Dow Foundation STEM program
Midland Daily News (Oct. 19, 2015)

Iron Range STEM Showcase Offers Hands-on Science for All Ages [MTU]
WDIO TV (Oct. 20, 2015)

Central Michigan University receives $5 million STEM donation from Midland Foundation
Midland Daily News (Oct. 21, 2015)

Blueberry program triples with 1,000 Genesee students, new scholarships [UM-F]
MLive (Oct. 22, 2015)

U-M college prep program to offer full scholarships
Detroit Free Press (Oct. 23, 2015)

Michigan Tech's residence halls to host Halloween Safe House
WLUC TV (Oct. 23, 2015)

Grand Valley State, other colleges to host science demonstrations at Grand Rapids mall
Daily Journal (Indiana) (Oct. 24, 2015)

Teaching Teachers To Teach: It's Not So Elementary [UM]
NPR, (Oct. 24, 2015)

Trick-or-treat at the U-M Museum of Natural History
MLive (Oct. 26, 2015)

Global Outreach

International University Officers to Visit Zimbabwe
Voice of America - Zimbabwe (Oct. 17, 2015)

Public Safety

WMU student non-profit looks to bring awareness to domestic violence
WWMT TV (Oct. 9, 2015)

Keenan: Wayne State police chief says campus is safe
The Detroit News (Oct. 20, 2015)

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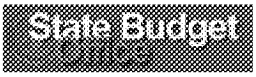
From: Weiss, Kurt (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:06 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: Freep Opinion on Flint Water

http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/columnists/nancy-kaffer/2015/12/17/flint-water-lead/77365380/

Kurt Weiss
State Budget Office
517-335-0050



From: Bob Murphy <bmurphy@masu.org>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 2:44 PM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: This Week in Michigan Public Higher Education News - Dec. 18, 2015

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December 13, 2015

This Week in Michigan Public Higher Education News will not publish again until January 2016. Happy holidays from all of us here at MASU!

In the News

Accountability

MI Universities Show Compelling Growth [Press release]
Business Leaders for Michigan (Dec. 14, 2015)

Collaboration

WMU weighs Battle Creek expansion
Battle Creek Enquirer (Dec. 15, 2015)

College Access & Affordability

Poorest areas have low student debt, highest defaults
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 13, 2015)

He's a college senior with a 3.4 GPA. And he's homeless. [EMU]
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 17, 2015)

Update: Bridge readers open hearts, wallets for homeless college student [EMU]
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 18, 2015)

Diversity on Campus

Pollack discusses campus diversity at Senate Assembly [UM]
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 14, 2015)

Fixing faculty diversity: It's time we do more than just talk about it [MSU]
Michigan Radio (Dec. 15, 2015)

WSW: WMU President Says Campus Needs to Remain "Inclusive"
WMUK FM (Dec. 17, 2015)

Economic Development

Switch-ing off the brain drain [GVSU]
WOOD TV (Dec. 17, 2015)

Educational Attainment

More than 75 percent of seniors apply during Midland County College Application Week [SVSU]
Midland Daily News (Dec. 13, 2015)

Study: Higher education is key to Michigan's future but comes with $500M annual price tag
MLive (Dec. 14, 2015)

Third generation UM-Flint student tours campus with grandpa, part of first class
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

Congressman Dan Kildee, a CMU grad, to speak at daughter's CMU graduation
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Business, higher education partner to unveil "Keep Learning, Michigan" campaign
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Facilities Planning & Campus Improvement

Western Michigan University selects design firms for Business Technology & Research Park expansion
MIBiz (Dec. 11, 2015)

Medical school project at Western Michigan University receives honors
American School & University Magazine (Dec. 11, 2015)

Canceled field trip prompts MSU to offer FRIB tour option
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 11, 2015)

Wireless Internet lacking in most MSU dorm rooms
The Detroit News (Dec. 12, 2015)

City allocates funds for Washington/Bellows roundabout [CMU]
Central Michigan Life (Dec. 14, 2015)

Repairs Of Eastern Michigan University's Athletic Dome Depends On The Weather
WEMU FM (Dec. 15, 2015)

FRIB up for full $100M in federal funding
Lansing State Journal (Dec. 16, 2015)

U-M to build $10M multicultural center
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 17, 2015)

Respect environment in developing WMU business park, public says at input session
MLive (Dec. 18, 2015)

Governance

EMU's education faculty submits 'no confidence' vote in regents over EAA issue
MLive (Dec. 15, 2015)

EMU education faculty votes to censure regents' chairman after comments on EAA
MLive (Dec. 18, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - Institutional Dynamics

NMU Board hears Students on Self-harm Policy, Approves Revised Budget, Property Sale
WJMN TV (Dec. 11, 2015)

Schlissel: U-M shouldn't divest fossil fuel holdings
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 14, 2015)

Appaloosa Protege to Manage Money for University of Michigan
Bloomberg (Dec. 17, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Capital Outlay

Lake Michigan College Gets State Help With Renovation Project
WSJM FM (Dec. 15, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Operating Support

State representatives face challenges in majority-GOP legislature
The Michigan Daily (Dec. 12, 2015)

Higher Education Finance - State Student Financial Aid

State's prepaid college plan opens 2016 enrollment
The Macomb Daily (Dec. 11, 2015)

Institutional Leadership

Wayne State president gets 2-year contract extension
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 15, 2015)

Leadership Transitions

EMU announces interim provost to replace departing Kim Schatzel
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Board secretary Betty Kocher exits WMU after serving 7 presidents and dozens of board trustees
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

University of Michigan names Jack Hu V.P. for Research
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

Harvey Hollins tapped to lead Flint water effort
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 17, 2015)

Philanthropic Support

OU student knows challenges of single parenthood, offers scholarship
The Oakland Press (Dec. 11, 2015)

'World-class' $7.5-million jazz hub set for Wayne State
The Detroit News (Dec. 13, 2015)

Novi schools get Japan Business Society donation [UM, EMU, JCMU]
Hometown Life (Dec. 15, 2015)

House Family Foundation Gives $2.3 Million to Michigan Tech
WLUC TV (Dec. 15, 2015)

WMU receives second grant for Fostering Success program
WWMT TV (Dec. 15, 2015)

University of Michigan-Flint gets one of the largest donations in its history
MLive (Dec. 17, 2015)

WMU president donates salary increase to school
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 18, 2015)

Program Delivery

330-year-old violin granted to GVSU professor
Grand Valley Lanthorn (Dec. 13, 2015)

CMU photojournalism students profile immigrants
WNEM TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

Recognitions & Awards

Sensible Explainer: Susan Dynarski [UM]
The Chronicle of Higher Education (Dec. 13, 2015)

UF ranked second-best value for public universities [UM]
The Gainesville Sun (FL) (Dec. 17, 2015)

Safety & Health

Students address board members about wellness policies [NMU]
ABC 10 News (Dec. 11, 2015)

Six takeaways from ASMSU's last meeting of the year [MSU]
The State News (Dec. 11, 2015)

New law exempts young adults if they report drug abuse
The Detroit News (Dec. 16, 2015)

Student Success

NMU graduates class of 2015
WLUC TV (Dec. 12, 2015)

Nearly 1,000 Grand Valley State graduates walk across stage

MLive (Dec. 12, 2015)

Allegan man overcomes doctors' predictions, set to graduate from WMU
WWMT TV (Dec. 16, 2015)

Workforce Alignment

Grant to fund police academy for Port Huron cadets [FSU]
The Times Herald (Dec. 16, 2015)

Commentaries

Some college, no degree, lots of debt: A burden for students, schools and communities
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 11, 2015)

SVSU showing support to Muslims during critical time
The Valley Vanguard (Dec. 13, 2015)

WMU has failed as Colony Farm Orchard steward (Guest column)
MLive (Dec. 16, 2015)

Is Southeast Michigan set to go over retirement cliff?
Crain's Detroit Business (Dec. 17, 2015)

When it comes to talent, Michigan needs more of everything
Bridge Magazine (Dec. 17, 2015)

State & National Reports

Michigan in Context

REPORT: Current Term Enrollment Estimates - Fall 2015
National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (Dec. 15, 2015)
Higher education enrollment for Fall 2015 in Michigan is down by 3.9% across all sectors of higher education providers.

The Dean's List

The Lighter Side of the News

SVSU coach, bowler, alum set national record one pin shy of perfection
MLive (Dec. 15, 2015)

Watch this: U-M engineering dean's 'Star Wars' rap
Detroit Free Press (Dec. 16, 2015)

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From: Weiss, Kurt (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Latest breaking news on Flint Water

Fyi...

Kurt Weiss
State Budget Office
517-335-0050

From: Weiss, Kurt (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 1:29 PM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB); Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: Latest breaking news on Flint Water

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/01/us_attorneys_office_investigat.html

http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/01/05/us-attorneys-office-investigating-lead-flint-water/78303960/

http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/michigan/2016/01/05/flint-water-probe/78307142/

Kurt Weiss
State Budget Office
517-335-0050

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 8:50 AM
To: Saxton, Thomas (Treasury);Wolenberg, Carol (MDE);Ruff, Craig (GOV);Howell, Thomas (CEPI);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Cc: Bullion, Beth (DTMB);Hoffstrom, Michael (DTMB)
Subject: See Gov's answer to last question

Gov. Rick Snyder answers questions about Flint's emergency manager, police, school deficits

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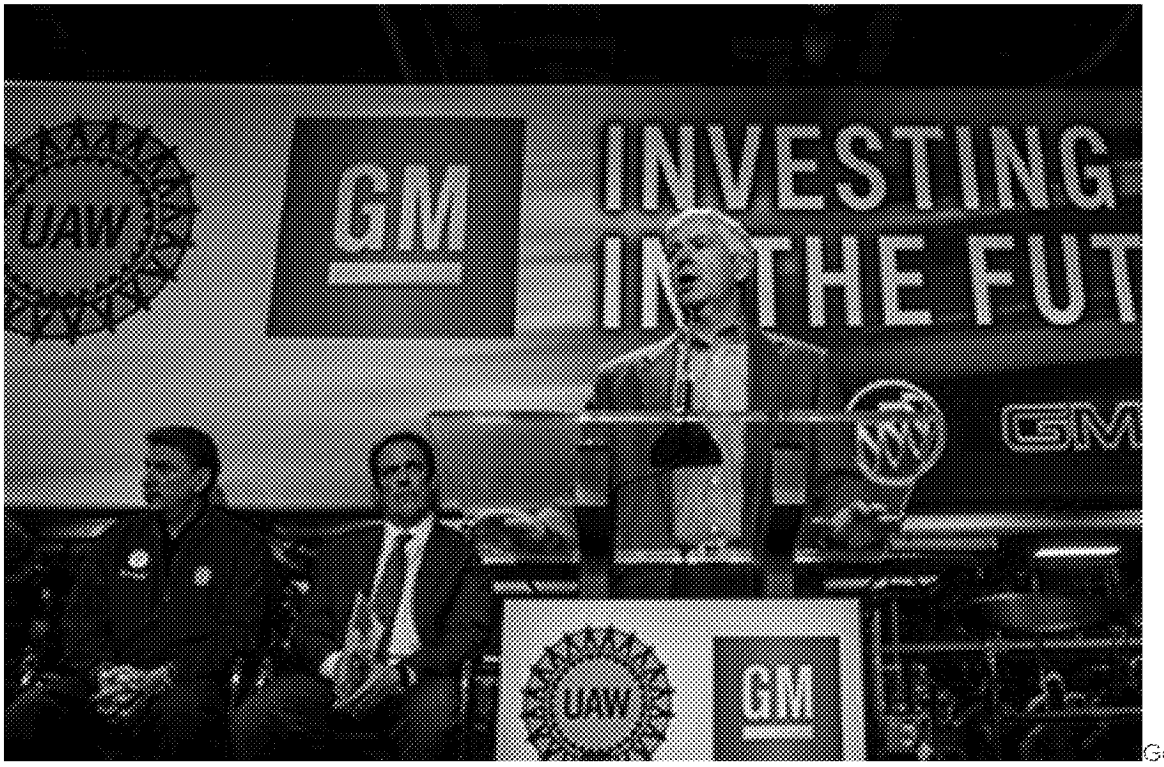
By Sarah Schuch | sschuch@mlive.com The Flint Journal
on December 17, 2013 at 6:00 AM, updated December 17, 2013 at 8:20 AM
Email



Gov. Rick Snyder speaks on Monday, Dec. 16 at the Flint Assembly Plant upon the announcement that General Motors is investing nearly $1.3 billion into five manufacturing sites in three states including Michigan. *Jake May | MLive.com*

FLINT, MI – Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder sat down with The Flint Journal Editorial Board and reporters while he was in town for a major General Motors announcement Monday, Dec. 16.

General Motors says it will invest $600 million in upgrades at Flint Assembly, including a new paint shop.

"It's very exciting. It was great to see. GM's announcing almost $1.3 billion in investment. The good part is over $1.2 (billion) of it is in Michigan," Snyder said.

The Flint Journal staff then had an opportunity to have a question-and-answer session with Snyder on local issues.

Here is what he had to say:

Question: The emergency manager is expected to transition out in 2014. Do you expect that a city administrator or manager would be put in power during or after the transition?

Governor: "I wouldn't necessarily draw that conclusion. I mean, what we're looking at is each community is somewhat different, so it's really looking at the community situation in terms of the mayor and the city council and how well prepared (they are) and what staff's already in the city government. And so, again, there isn't one model to do this, so I think we're going to be open to having a good discussion about what might be best. One thing we do want to be sensitive to is making sure there's procedures to best practices to really avoid people slipping back ... into some of the challenges that were there previously."

Question: Will the state troopers assigned in Flint continue after the emergency manager is gone?

Governor: "I would expect them to continue. They are not directly related to the EM situation at all. The issue about having the Michigan State Police having an enhanced role ... is because of the crime numbers. Again, when I started this process I looked at the four communities – we had four communities on the top 10 in the country of violent crime. So that's what grew the commitment. ...

So the good part is the results have improved quite a bit in Flint. I got 10-month numbers from January through October and the violent crime numbers were down 30 percent, the property crime numbers I believe were down 16 percent and when you look at it in the context of fewer crimes taking place, arrests were actually up and clearance on arrests were actually up, so the system is working better in Flint.

I don't really equate that with the EM thing. There's a problem. We're going to work on the problem.

When I made the statement, when I did the public safety message originally, I made the comment that this would be a multi-year effort because I wanted it to be a sustainable effort, so that also depends on how strong the local police force is, how strong the criminal justice system is and the community."

Question: On Friday, Emergency Manager Darnell Earley restricted the powers of Flint Councilman Eric Mays following his arrest for drunken driving and marijuana possession. Are there any discussions about removing Eric Mays from the Flint City Council?

Governor: "He as emergency manager has a certain set of powers and how he operates with city council and that's within his purview. With the respect to the whole formal removal of office, there's a fairly well established process that goes with the attorney general making a review and then report to me.

What I would say is it's premature, we'd be very early in that process at best."

Read the full story here.

Question: Flint is in the middle of a demolition blitz using those federal funds that were awarded. What solutions are being explored to help cities like Saginaw, Flint and Detroit utilize the space being created by blight elimination projects like this?

Governor: That's where the land banks can really play a development role. That's part of the point of having land banks is, to take those properties and ... look at whatever the community plan is. From a state perspective, I don't really view it as the state's purview to tell a community now you've cleared the properties, here's the land. What do you want to do with it? I really look to the community to say, what's your master plan for how you want to redevelop your communities?

Read full story here.

Question: What can we expect from the state budget?

Gov: Snyder will have an announcement in early February about the state's budget to explain more in detail.

"I wouldn't expect to see any major reductions," he said.

Question: 50 Michigan school districts ended 2012-2013 fiscal year in deficit. Flint has a $10 million deficit. What are the plans moving forward with addressing those deficits? Will there be a state takeover in Flint schools"?

Governor: "(A state takeover is) a very objective process. ... There are districts that come on and off that list. The goal here is as the economy continues improving we'll see that reduced.

One of the things we want to do is work with the school districts more on tools that help them do good financial management before they get into the environment of potentially even needing an emergency manager. I think one thing you can see is that we might try and get enhanced resources either in education or treasury or both to say how can they work with a better early warning system better management system to give feedback to district to solve these issues now."

Read full story here.

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 12:21 PM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB) (mcneelyj@michigan.gov);Harkins, Chris (DTMB);Duncan, Nancy (DTMB);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: GM's decision to stop using Flint River water will cost Flint $400,000 per year

GM's decision to stop using Flint River water will cost Flint $400,000 per year

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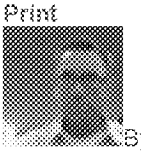


By Ron Fonger | rfonger1@mlive.com The Flint Journal
on October 14, 2014 at 12:00 PM, updated October 14, 2014 at 12:05 PM

FLINT, MI -- General Motors' decision to stop using Flint River water at its engine plant will cost the city an estimated $400,000 annually.

Department of Public Works Director Howard Croft told a City Council committee Monday, Oct. 13, that the city has agreed to allow GM to tap into a Flint Township water line because river water supplied by the city caused engine parts to rust.

"There was an agreement made already. This was a request from GM to the city," said Croft, who estimated the loss of revenue at $400,000 per year.

Although the city's permission to leave the Flint water system was required, some members of the City Council said they were left in the dark about the GM situation by emergency manager Darnell Earley and Mayor Dayne Walling.

Earley's office had not released details of the GM agreement or announced it as of Tuesday, and Walling told council members he had known about the deal for "just a couple of days."

"If we are (being asked) to act in good faith, let's have some good faith from the emergency manager," said 1st Ward Councilman Eric Mays.

Under the Flint-GM agreement, the plant will return as a Flint water customer after the city switches back to using Lake Huron water from the Karegnondi Water Authority once its pipeline is completed -- something that's expected to happen by the close of 2016.

Seventh Ward Councilwoman Monica Galloway said the decision by GM to stop using river water will cause more questions about its quality and safety from skeptical residents.

The city has struggled to maintain residual chlorine levels throughout the water system since it began using the Flint River rather than pre-treated Lake Huron water from the city of Detroit.

There were also three boil water advisories in a 22-day span this summer after positive tests for total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria.

"I hope this doesn't set a precedent for people to jump off (the Flint system) because of the quality of the water," Galloway said.

"(But) this is just another thing that says to me (that) we are like guinea pigs," she said. "It's like a research project ... that we would normally do on rats."

A district engineer for the state Department of Environmental Quality said Monday that Flint's system is producing safe water and that chloride levels are considered acceptable -- not excellent, which GM requires.

The city's use of ferric chloride, which works as a coagulant to help remove suspended and dissolved solids and contaminants, has likely caused elevated chloride levels, DEQ has said.

GM spokesman Tom Wickham said Tuesday, Oct. 14, that engine crankshafts showed rust after they were machined with river water this summer.

Wickham said the rusted parts never left Flint Engine Operations and said the automaker has been subjecting Flint River water to additional treatment to reduce chloride levels as well as hauling in water from Detroit for use in the plant since that time.

GM and Flint Township officials said Monday that the company last week reached a temporary agreement to buy Lake Huron water from Flint Township for the West Bristol Road engine plant.

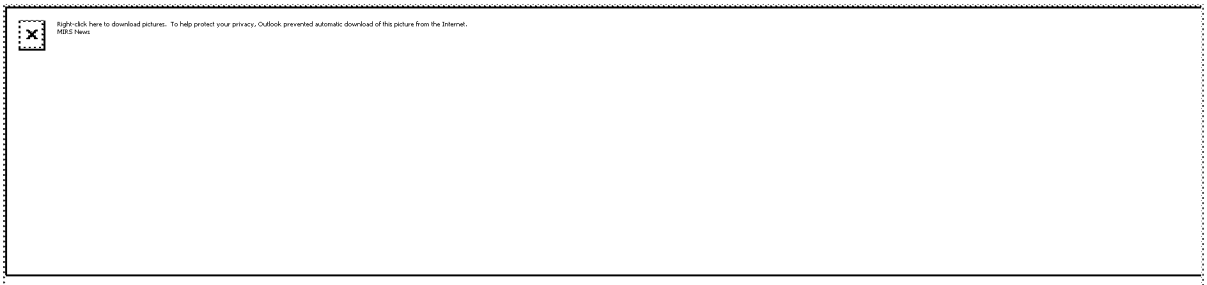
Wickham said GM has said GM had been coping with the water issue at Flint Engine by further treating the water it receives from Flint and supplementing it with non-river water.

He said employees at the engine plant discovered rust on the crankshafts initially, causing GM to investigate the possible cause further.

From: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:47 AM
To: Howell, Thomas (CEPI);Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

What did you end up sending DEQ?

From: MIRS Delivery [mailto:mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.



MIRS BREAKING NEWS: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2106

(FLINT) -- The city of Flint will transition back to getting its water from Detroit within weeks, and Gov. Rick **SNYDER** said today he is in "full support" of the move.

In addition to that, Snyder said he would be asking the Legislature for $6 million to assist with the move, which will make up half of the estimated $12 million it will cost Flint to go back to its old water supply, as estimated through next summer.

The other $6 million will be divided up between Flint itself ($2 million) and from a donation from the Mott Foundation ($4 million).

The cost estimate is based on the time it will take to complete the connection to Flint's new permanent water supply, the Karegnondi Water Authority. That's expected to go live in June 2016.

Snyder said the decision to support the move back to Detroit water -- something he said the city is ultimately in charge of deciding -- was based in part by a recommendation made by a meeting of technical experts Wednesday.

Joining Snyder at the press conference today were some of his cabinet officials and Flint leaders, as well as Senate Minority Leader Jim **ANANICH** (D-Flint), who described today's actions as a step in the right direction, but going forward, he said there must be more transparency and that the state's action plan be implemented fully.

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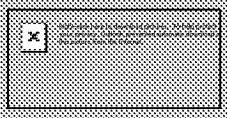

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From: Public Sector Consultants Inc. <donna@www-pscinc.ccsend.com> on behalf of Public Sector Consultants Inc. <psc@pscinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB)
Subject: Poll: Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

PRESS RELEASE
December 9, 2015

For Immediate Release
Contact: Selma Tucker
Director of Marketing & Communications
(517) 484-4954, stucker@pscinc.com
Public Sector Consultants Inc.

Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

LANSING, Mich. -- In the wake of the Flint water crisis, how concerned are voters about the safety of the water in their home? Enough to agree with each other, according to the latest Michigan's Pulse poll, a partnership of Public Sector Consultants and Michigan Radio.

From November 3 to November 5, 2015, Denno Research surveyed 600 likely voters on a range of topics, including water quality, concealed pistols, prison reform and autonomous vehicles. Beyond increased attention to urban water quality, these highly politicized topics yielded little agreement, with stark differences by political affiliation, race and age.

Water Safety

Ninety-one percent of respondents agree that the State of Michigan should examine the water systems in densely populated areas for signs of failing infrastructure. The vast majority (84 percent) also feel that water should be tested in Michigan's K-12 school buildings at least once a year.

About half of respondents (46 percent) are concerned about the safety of their water, but there are clear differences by subgroups:

- African-American voters (71 percent) are more concerned than white voters (40 percent).
- Democrats (52 percent) are more concerned than Republicans (36 percent).
- Wayne County respondents (61 percent) have higher concerns than those in other parts of the state, with 81 percent of voters in Detroit expressing concern about the safety of their water.

Concealed Pistols and Prison Reform

With the recent coverage of high-profile shootings on college and K-12 school campuses, allowing concealed pistols in these places has become a major topic for the upcoming presidential election. Under state law, those licensed to carry concealed pistols still cannot carry their weapons at schools; at day care centers, sports arenas or stadiums; at entertainment facilities that seat 2,500 or more; at bars, churches, hospitals, casinos and dormitories or classrooms of colleges or universities.

About half of voters (46 percent) support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, while (49 percent) oppose that.

- Of the Republicans polled, 65 percent support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, compared to Democrats, at 33 percent.

Less than half of respondents (40 percent) support lifting the ban in day care centers, K-12 schools and college dormitories and classrooms, with a little over half (55 percent) opposed.

- Almost half of all men polled (47 percent) and almost two-thirds of Republicans polled (62 percent) support lifting the ban; while women (34 percent), Democrats (27 percent) and Independents (34 percent) oppose doing so.

Slightly more than half of Michigan voters (53 percent) support presumptive parole, legislation recently passed by the Michigan House that automatically paroles low-risk felons after they serve their minimum sentence.

- African-Americans (74 percent) and Democrats (67 percent) are more supportive than whites (49 percent) and Republicans (40 percent).

Finally, we asked voters if they think offenders who were convicted of violent crimes under the age of 18 should be eligible for parole. The jury is clearly still out on this issue, with opinion split between yes (41 percent) and no (39 percent), with nearly a quarter (20 percent) saying they don't know or are unsure.

Robot Cars

Autonomous vehicles are currently being developed in Michigan, and some (like the Google Self-Driving Car) are already being road tested in other states. We wondered if people were comfortable with the idea of robots driving cars on Michigan's roads, and more to the point, if people thought they would make our roads safer.

- A solid majority (68 percent) are not comfortable with the idea of having driverless cars on Michigan's roads, with half (51 percent) saying they were very uncomfortable.
- A little more than half of voters (56 percent) feel that driverless cars would be more dangerous than the humans currently driving on Michigan's roads.

Despite this opposition, voters accept that this will be how people get around in the near future. Most respondents (57 percent) think that driverless cars will be common in Michigan sometime in the next five to 20 years. That buys humanity at least a few years to figure out how to prevent the cyborg invasion that is sure to follow.

Legislative Reform

In a previous PSC poll after the failure of Proposal 1, road funding was identified as a critical priority, with voters saying the legislature should work over the summer to resolve the issue. While the poll did not specifically address the merits of the $1.2 billion package recently signed by Gov.

Rick Snyder, voters clearly do not approve of the way this issue was handled, with the vast majority rating the legislature as bad (21 percent) or terrible (58 percent).

We followed this question with a couple of options on how to improve the effectiveness of the Michigan Legislature. All of the ideas appear to have similar appeal, which seems to indicate that voters are ready for a change -- even if they don't know exactly what the change should look like:

- Stricter campaign finance and/or ethics laws (25 percent)
- Switch to a part-time legislature (21 percent)
- Do nothing because legislators can always be voted out of office if they are doing a poor job (21 percent)
- Change the length of term limits by allowing members to serve up to 12 years in either chamber (18 percent)
- Don't know/unsure (15 percent)

Goodbye Halloween

On the heels of the Halloween season, we wondered what had scared voters the most so far in 2015. While a quarter (25 percent) were not willing to express their fears out loud, those that did were scared most by the presidential debates (42 percent), followed by the Detroit Lions (22 percent).

About the Survey

Michigan Radio, an NPR News Station and the state's most listened-to public radio service, and Public Sector Consultants (PSC), the state's premier nonpartisan think tank, are partnering on a yearlong initiative studying Michiganders' attitudes toward policy issues affecting their lives in a series called Michigan's Pulse. Michigan's Pulse will release quarterly in weeklong segments on Michigan Radio's Stateside with Cynthia Canty with in-depth analysis by PSC researchers and other thought leaders.

The Michigan Radio/PSC survey of the Michigan electorate was conducted by Lansing-based Denno Research. Six-hundred respondents, 450 by landline and 150 by cell phone, in the state of Michigan were surveyed from November 3 to 5, 2015, with a margin of error of plus/minus 4 percent. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they would vote, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2016 general election.

Full survey results are available here.

Public Sector Consultants is Michigan's most respected, connected, and dedicated research and program management firm, with specialties in governance and regulation, health care, education, energy, and environmental policy. PSC is committed to providing objective research and sound solutions to the public and private sector.

Michigan Radio is an NPR News Station, and the state's most listened-to public radio service, attracting more than 500,000 listeners each week across Michigan. Licensed to the University of Michigan, Michigan Radio broadcasts at 91.7 FM in southeastern Michigan, 91.1 FM in Flint, and 104.1 in western Michigan, and is available online at michiganradio.org.

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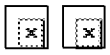

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From: Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 12:53 AM
To: Jaroche, Daniel (DTMB)
Subject: Michigan Report, Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Attachments: Oct14.htm; Oct14House.htm; Oct14Senate.htm; 151014dayplan.htm

Michigan Report for Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Tentative Deals Reached On State Employees Contracts

Meekhof Slams Schuette On Presumptive Parole; Snyder Also Jumps In

On Roads, Meekhof, Greimel Trade Barbs As Meeting Canceled

House Approves Nearly $10M For Flint Water

Third Grade Reading Bill Delayed In House With Votes Short

Kosowski Proposes Sports Gambling For Road Funding

Michigan Chamber, Which Backed Peabody In 2014, Endorses Howell In 82nd

Revenue From Increased Hunting, Licensing Fees Less Than Expected

Civil Rights Could Again Select Former Commissioner

House Panel Considering Regulation Of Charity Bins

Senate Ends Deadline To Petition For DNA Test, Trial

State Unemployment Rate Falls Below National Rate For First Time Since 2000

Bridge Authority Has 6 Potential Bidders

Committee Roundup

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Volume #54, Report #204 -- Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Tentative Deals Reached On State Employees Contracts

The state has reached tentative agreements with its bargaining units on new contracts for state employees.

Two unions - the Michigan Corrections Organization and the Michigan State Employees Association - confirmed Wednesday the major aspects of the tentative deals between the state and their unions: a one-year contract for wages and health care starting October 1, 2016, that provides a 1 percent base wage increase, and 1.5 percent lump sum payment for employees in October 2016.

Sources told Gongwer News Service the same provisions apply to tentative agreements between the state and other unions representing state employees.

The Service Employees International Union 517M also announced a tentative agreement but did not publicly offer details.

Officials with the United Auto Workers Local 6000, the state's largest employee union, did not return calls for comment.

"While this agreement isn't perfect, it maintains key pieces of our contract that members said were very important to them, such as their health care costs," MCO President Tom Tylutki said in a statement. "Our negotiations centered on the issues members told us were important. Health care is their number one concern."

The agreements are merely tentative and still require ratification from union members as well as approval from the Civil Service Commission.

But presuming union members ratify them, it will set one key piece of the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year budget.

Other portions of the contracts would last the traditional three years. However, the Office of State Employer pushed for a one-year deal on the wages and health care components out of concern about what will happen with the federal excise tax on premium health care plans, MCO said in a bulletin to its members.

That is the so-called Cadillac tax in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Under that law, starting with the 2018 tax year, if the aggregate cost of the health care coverage an employer provides exceeds a statutory dollar limit, then the excess is subject to a 40 percent excise tax.

The idea behind the tax was to reduce health care spending. But it is providing a rare point of agreement between Democratic supporters of the law and Republicans who have long called for the Affordable Care Act's repeal. Unions and Democrats have said the tax should be repealed, as have Republicans and business groups, but it is unclear what will happen.

A spokesperson for the Office of the State Employer declined to comment.

Meekhof Slams Schuette On Presumptive Parole; Snyder Also Jumps In

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } faced heat from Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } Wednesday regarding legislation pending in the Senate on presumptive parole, and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } also defended the legislation.

In the past week, Mr. Schuette has launched a campaign-style assault on the legislation, referring to it as "early" release, "catch and release" and "autopilot parole." Supporters of the bill have said he is just totally wrong in his characterization of the bills.

"He's been out there on a limb on this, throwing out a direct line and saying stuff like it's anti-cop, which was over the top, and he and I had that discussion yesterday," Mr. Meekhof (R-West Olive) said of Mr. Schuette. "He's certainly within his right to comment on public policy. (But) he doesn't make public policy, he just follows what we do."

Still, Mr. Schuette's fusillade against the legislation may be having an impact. Mr. Meekhof said his caucus is voicing considerable concern about it.

Mr. Schuette has been relentless on the issue. Last week, on WKAR's "Off the Record," he said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB413801" } was "elitist" because those who live in nicer areas would have fewer worries about criminals being released back into society (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542010105" }). And his Twitter account gives updates seemingly every hour or two about "autopilot parole" and examples of parolees re-offending once released.

"Public safety is the first responsibility of government. Autopilot release of violent offenders is bad for our neighborhoods, cities and small towns," he said Tuesday in a joint statement with Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton, his Democratic opponent in 2010 for attorney general. "We cannot build a better, stronger, safer Michigan if our public safety is threatened."

Mr. Schuette and Mr. Meekhof are also potential rivals for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 2018 when Mr. Snyder cannot seek re-election.

Asked if he told Mr. Schuette to keep his nose out of the matter, Mr. Meekhof responded, "I said it was probably not a wise idea to talk the way he talked about the caucus on the other side. He said he'd take that under advisement."

Mr. Meekhof said he was unsure whether Mr. Schuette had apologized to the House members who drafted and supported HB 4138, which passed the House earlier this month 67-39 and currently sits in the Senate Government Operations Committee chaired by Mr. Meekhof.

"But he probably ought to think about how he treats everybody in general, and if he really wants to get public policy done, the best effort would be to work with people," Mr. Meekhof said.

Schuette spokesperson Andrea Bitely declined to comment on Mr. Meekhof's comments.

In addition to comments by Mr. Meekhof, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } expressed support of the measure in prepared remarks. This came a day after House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant) also felt compelled to defend the legislation against Mr. Schuette's criticism.

"Michigan needs a smarter criminal justice system that doesn't simply punish people who commit crimes, but frees up resources that can instead be used on effective efforts to reduce criminal activity and make our communities safer," Mr. Snyder said. "House Bill 4138 creates consistency in parole decisions for low-risk offenders by ensuring that they are all subject to the same standards when being considered for parole."

Mr. Snyder also noted the long-term impact of the change could be housing about 3,600 fewer low-risk felons in state prisons a decade from now, freeing up some $80 million "that can be reinvested in preventing crime rather than continuing to keep low-risk offenders behind bars after they have served their minimum sentence."

HB 4138 currently awaits action in the Senate Government Operations Committee, chaired by Mr. Meekhof, who said he had a "healthy discussion" with his caucus on the matter on Wednesday.

"We're looking at this presumptive parole along with some other corrections reform. Senator Proos has some great ideas that we're probably going to combine with it and come up with a better package," he said.

But Mr. Meekhof also admitted that there was "a lot of concern" among his caucus members, especially since the issue has always started in the House, even last term.

"They needed a lot of information to even understand the terms that were being talked about because we really haven't studied this at all in our caucus," he said.

Given the expectation that { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=102801&locid=1" } (R-St. Joseph)

would lead on another package of corrections reform, Mr. Meekhof said it would be "a little while" before there would be any action on the issue in the Senate, though specifics beyond that were not discussed.

On Roads, Meekhof, Greimel Trade Barbs As Meeting Canceled

Wednesday was meant to be a cooling off day following Tuesday's impasse on talks to generate $1.2 billion in new funds for roads, but instead the disputes continued.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } (R-West Olive) said he was surprised at remarks by House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=268401&locid=1" } (D-Auburn Hills) on road funding talks and how a proposal that the Legislative Quadrant may have on the table is insufficient.

The problem continues to be whether and how to provide income tax relief as a sweetener to an expected gasoline tax increase (See { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=news.cfm&article_id=542030101" }).

"He sat in the same room, saw the same spreadsheets I did and understood that the way we're doing it by the redirection of revenue going a little bit at a time and tax rollback only when there is over-the-top revenue," Mr. Meekhof said midday Wednesday. "He saw that it worked, so I'm not quite sure where he's coming up with his assertion that it's cutting anything."

The quadrant meeting scheduled for noon was canceled. Snyder press secretary Sara Wurfel said it was too soon on the heels of Tuesday's meeting, after which Mr. Snyder declared the talks at an impasse. But Ms. Wurfel said Mr. Snyder would continue talking to leaders on the issue.

Mr. Meekhof said the rollback has been on the table the whole time, "and now at the 11th hour (Mr. Greimel) wants it removed," Mr. Meekhof said. "I'm not going to remove it."

The income tax rollback passed by the Senate helped to garner some Republican votes for the meat of the legislation that seeks, in part, a gas tax hike. The Senate plan is complicated, only allowing a reduction in the tax if revenues grow and putting no bottom on how far the income tax rate could fall.

"The only dispute is, is it the rate of inflation or a little bit more than the rate of inflation?" Mr. Meekhof said of the rollback likely to be included in a final deal on road funding. "But it's the same mechanics."

Asked if he felt as though Mr. Greimel's concerns were "coming out of nowhere," Mr. Meekhof said the first he had heard of such a concern came Tuesday. But he said the Senate stands ready and willing to work on a plan.

"We sent over a plan with an income tax rollback, specifically protecting the things we think are important, and dedicating money towards roads. I think that was a good plan," he said.

Mr. Meekhof said Mr. Greimel ought to "find a way to compromise with Speaker Cotter and get it done."

But Mr. Meekhof wouldn't go so far as to say that if a roads solution doesn't get done soon that it would be solely Mr. Greimel's fault. Pointing fingers, he said, doesn't solve the problem.

"We're trying to solve the problem, and throwing mud around isn't going to make it better or give us a better opportunity to do it," he said.

Greimel spokesperson Katie Carey said Mr. Greimel was disappointed when the governor canceled the quadrant meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday.

On Mr. Meekhof's comments, Ms. Carey said: "We respectfully disagree with the Senate majority leader. We were always concerned with the hit to the General Fund."

Ms. Carey noted public schools, safety and other Democratic priorities are funded through the General Fund.

She also said an income tax cut is going to help the wealthier residents of the state.

"It is not going to help low-income Michiganders," she said.

She also said the Democrats are trying to find a roads solution that focuses mostly on roads.

"We want something that is more concrete that will be a long-term financially sustainable solution to fix the roads," she said.

Cotter spokesperson Gideon D'Assandro said Mr. Cotter and Mr. Snyder met Wednesday and discussed goals on the issue moving forward. Mr. Cotter remains hopeful talks will resume, Mr. D'Assandro said.

House Approves Nearly $10M For Flint Water

The House unanimously voted Wednesday evening to approve $9.35 million to return Flint to the Detroit water system and pay for additional state staff in the city's schools to gauge exposure to lead, handle evaluation and protocols on drinking water and to assist with plumbing engineers.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB410201" } passed the House 105-0.

Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) said

in a statement he attended House session Wednesday and told them the importance of passing the legislation.

"The people of Flint have the same right to clean, safe drinking water as residents in every district," he said. "I appreciate my colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognizing this and moving swiftly to secure resources. This is an important step necessary to fix the current crisis, and once this is complete, it's important that our next priority is getting to the bottom of how this happened. We need to make sure this never happens again."

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } last week called for state funds to be used return to drawing water from the Detroit system and ending a disastrous move to pull water for the city from the Flint River and to pay for additional state staffers from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs working in the city.

The supplemental appropriations allocates $6 million to get the city back on Detroit's water system; $300,000 for DEQ's drinking water and environmental health services; $1 million for DEQ's laboratory services; $1 million for DHHS emergency services to purchase and distribute water to Flint residents; $850,000 for follow up services for children, including testing lead levels and care for those with abnormal levels; and $200,000 for plumbing inspections.

Of the $9.35 million allocated, $7.15 million is from the General Fund.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" }, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said he was pleased to see a unanimous vote for the bill.

"There is a time in this Legislature that we have to have statesmanship and stateswomanship and this was one of those times. This is a public health emergency in Flint," he said.

Mr. Pscholka said some members speculated whether the funds should come from the Budget Stabilization Fund, but said that was not necessary.

"We are in a fiscal position in order to handle something like this," he said.

Insufficient corrosion controls for water drawn from the river, which is inherently more corrosive than water drawn from Lake Huron, where the Detroit system draws its water, caused lead from the city's old service lines to leach into the water, leading to lead levels in the water exceeding the federal standard to trigger remediation and to elevated lead levels in the blood of some Flint children.

The $6 million will go toward a contract between the city and the Detroit system to pay for water service until next summer when a new regional pipeline to Lake Huron is expected to be completed. The Mott Foundation is putting up $4 million and the city of Flint the remaining $2 million.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: The House unanimously passed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB484301" } Wednesday, which would protect minors seeking medical treatment, or helping a minor seek medical treatment, for an overdose or other drug-related illness or injury from possession charges.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville) introduced the bill in response to the loss of Mason Mizwicki, a Watervliet teenager whose mother, Lori Mizwicki, has been an advocate for greater awareness of the prescription drug problem.

"Even taking up the legislation has helped to start much-needed conversations about the problem," he said in a statement. "It's not isolated to one town or one portion of the state. This can happen to any teen, anywhere. We have to keep a spotlight on the issue."

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Third Grade Reading Bill Delayed In House With Votes Short

The House spent nearly 7 hours Wednesday attempting to gather enough votes to pass a bill designed to get third grade students reading proficiently, but eventually called it quits with a positive outlook on the bill's chances Thursday.

"Very definitely," said { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=285601&locid=1" } (R-Park Township), sponsor of { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB482201" } when asked if she thought the bill would pass Thursday.

"We're working really hard and a lot of our members had questions today, so we are in the process of answering a lot of those tomorrow," she told reporters after the long session.

Indeed, Gideon D'Assandro, spokesperson for House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R-Mount Pleasant), had earlier told reporters the questions coming from members were overwhelming and needed more time to be properly answered.

Both Democratic and Republican House members were in and out of the chamber on Wednesday, clearly attempting to come to some kind of agreement on the bill.

At about 7:30 p.m. the Democrats went into caucus, when they returned to session the House voted on the Flint water fix and then adjourned shortly after.

Ms. Price said it is hard to say what kind of changes might be made to the bill before final passage.

She said members didn't understand how much interaction there would be with the child once they have been identified as having a reading deficiency.

Ms. Price also said some members were concerned because students who were making progress in reading should be promoted from third grade.

"But if you are in third grade and you're still reading at first grade level and you've made progress since the beginning of first grade, is that enough progress?" She said. "You still need to, when you get into fourth grade, be able to read to learn. And if you're not there yet, it's going to be more difficult."

Katie Carey, spokesperson for House Democrats, agreed that there are a lot of questions and concerns from members. She said she is hopeful the chamber can come up with the votes to pass the bill Thursday.

Ms. Carey said Democratic members are looking for some changes in the retention piece of the bill and parental involvement.

"In the end we all have the same goal for this legislation. It's just a matter of how do you get there and what those look like," she said.

The bill, as reported form committee, would retain some third-graders who are reading more than a grade level behind, but it also provides for many intervention services before the third grade assessment and outlines "good cause" exemptions.

Similar legislation was controversial last term and was never able to be voted on by the full House.

Kosowski Proposes Sports Gambling For Road Funding

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601&locid=1" } on Wednesday told the House Regulatory Reform Committee one way to get more funding for the state's roads and bridges is to legalize sports gambling and simulcasting horse races at casinos in the state.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB446901" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB447001" } would allow casinos to accept wagers on sporting events, remove the current prohibition on televising simulcast horse races at casinos and allow for wagers on the races as well.

Mr. Kosowski (D-Westland) said he would be open to expanding the bill to horse racing tracks in the state.

To actually become law, the bills have several obstacles to overcome. First, a two-thirds majority is needed from both chambers and would need voter approval during the general election. Additionally, a federal court found that New Jersey's efforts to legalize sports betting violated federal law.

But Mr. Kosowski said the court is going to re-hear the case and there is a chance the original decision would be overturned.

"There are bookies everywhere. We all know this. Why not regulate it?" Mr. Kosowski said.

Originally, Mr. Kosowski intended to use the legislation to get more road funding. But he said as he has done more research, he would like some of the revenue generated to go to the race tracks in the state, and some funds to go to gambling addiction treatment and prevention.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=219701&locid=1" } (R-Onekama), chair of the committee, asked Mr. Kosowski what kind of support he had for the bill, noting that he didn't have any co-sponsors. Mr. Kosowski said he doesn't ask for co-sponsors and he believes the support is there.

Joe Asher, CEO of William Hill U.S., a bookmaking company, told the committee regulating the business is best.

Mr. Asher said suspicious activity can be reported and investigated in real time. And, he said, since it is the company's money being used there is incentive to call and report such activity.

"Oversight and protection do not occur in Michigan, however, because the illegal operators ...exist, and are not regulated," he said.

Mr. Asher said if casinos outsource the bookmaking there is little risk to them because companies such as his often front the cost.

He also said there may be losing days or weeks in the business, but there are very few losing months.

George Kutlenios, president of the Michigan Horseman's Benevolent and Protective Association, told the committee in June 2014 that Michigan thoroughbred horses returned to the Hazel Park raceway and saw 10,000 fans. He said attendance on regular days has consistently averaged 6,000 people.

Mr. Kutlenios said he appreciates the bill but would like to see a provision creating a relationship between any venue wishing to simulcast thoroughbred racing and a licensed state track to "ensure sustainability and quality of Michigan thoroughbred racing, and the resulting support to the state's agricultural industry can continue."

MMA AND BOXING REGULATIONS: The committee did report { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15201" }

and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15401" } regulating professional boxing, professional or amateur mixed martial arts or similar "unarmed combat."

The responsibilities of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission are outlined in SB 152, and that commission, alongside the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, would have jurisdiction over all boxing or MMA contests. The legislation also revises and establishes new regulations concerning the conduct of the events, as well as revises fee amounts for licenses to have such events.

Among the regulations are ensuring a contestant has been drug tested and having an on-site inspector. Women would also be required to submit a negative pregnancy test before competitions.

Michigan Chamber, Which Backed Peabody In 2014, Endorses Howell In 82nd

The Michigan Chamber announced on Wednesday its endorsement of Republicans Mary Whiteford in the 80th House District and Gary Howell in the 82nd House District, where former Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser are running for re-election, respectively.

Mary Whiteford of Casco Township lost to Ms. Gamrat (R-Plainwell) in the 2014 Republican primary for the seat. Ms. Gamrat was expelled from the House last month but has said the voters deserve a voice in the process and is attempting to win her job back.

"Mary Whiteford will be a strong supporter of job creation and economic growth and we are pleased to endorse her in this special election," said Michigan Chamber President and CEO Rich Studley, in a statement. "The residents of Allegan County deserve better representation. We believe Whiteford possesses the experience and strength of character necessary to serve the 80th House District well."

Ms. Whiteford also has the endorsement of the Great Lakes Education Project and the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce political action committee.

Mr. Howell of North Branch is the Lapeer County Intermediate School District president and is taking on 11 other candidates in the 82nd District primary, including Mr. Courser (R-Lapeer), who resigned before he was able to be expelled from the House.

"Gary Howell understands the importance of pursuing policies based on individual freedom, incentive and opportunity to keep Michigan moving forward," said Jim Holcomb, senior vice president and general counsel for the Michigan Chamber, in a statement. "If elected, Howell will provide the residents of Lapeer County with the effective representation they deserve."

Endorsements in the 82nd District are split up more than in the 80th District. Former Rep. Kevin Daley has endorsed Chris Tuski of Lapeer, who is a farmer and volunteer firefighter. And GLEP has endorsed Jan Peabody of Lapeer, who lost in the 2014 primary to Mr. Courser.

In the 2014 Republican primary, the state Chamber endorsed Ms. Peabody. It did not endorse in the 80th.

The November 3 special election primary comes as Ms. Gamrat and Mr. Courser were participating in an extramarital affair together while serving in the House. An internal House Business Office investigation then found the two were misusing state resources to attempt personal and political gains.

Revenue From Increased Hunting, Licensing Fees Less Than Expected

Revenue generated from the increase in hunting and fishing license fees is about $5 million less than expected, Department of Natural Resources { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=302901&locid=1" } told the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday.

Mr. Creagh said the department expected $18 million from the change in fees in the 2014-15 fiscal year, but only saw $13 million. And in the 2013-14 fiscal year, which included seven months of the new fee structure, the department expected $11.8 million in new revenue, but only received $7.8 million.

Austin Scott, the House Fiscal Agency analyst for the DNR, said he expects to receive more revenue numbers for the fiscal year that ended two weeks ago.

Mr. Creagh said the changes in fees also changed buying patterns, as the licenses are shorter term rather than annual. He also said the increase in the out-of-state licenses has affected those hunters coming into the state.

A non-resident hunter must purchase a $150 base license and then purchase additional licenses for the species they wish to hunt, which range from $8 to $25. Out-of-state fishing licenses also increased from $42 to $67.

But, Mr. Creagh told the committee, the state is not out of line in its fees compared to neighboring states, and the fees are a bargain compared to states out west.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316901&locid=1" } (R-Bloomfield Hills) said many groups encouraged the increase in fees when the Legislature began considering them and noted it may simply take time for the increases to set in.

LANDFILL ODOR VIOLATIONS: The committee reported { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB478301" } , which would increase penalties under Michigan's waste management laws for first and second violations of the law from $10,000 and $25,000 each day, to $25,000 and $75,000, respectively.

The bill cleared the committee 25-0, with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322301&locid=1" } (D-East Lansing) and { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=248901&locid=1" } (D-Sterling Heights) abstaining.

Mr. Yanez said he abstained from voting because the Department of Environmental Quality is working on updating the waste management laws and an additional series of bills could come up.

And { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=281601&locid=1" } (R-Stevensville), chair of the committee, said he looks forward to working with Mr. Yanez on the issue, because he does not believe the bill increasing the fees will be the last piece of legislation on the issue.

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association was opposed to the bill, saying it would increase the fines for all firms and all violations, including compost facilities and municipal properties.

Mr. Pscholka, however, said the fines have not been increased since 1987.

"This is not out of the ordinary," he said. "This is something we should have been doing all along."

Mr. Pscholka introduced the bill in response to ongoing odor issues and a citation by the DEQ for inadequate daily cover by the Orchard Hill Landfill in Southwest Michigan.

"Let's go have a barbeque in one of these neighborhoods," he said in a statement. "You have to have a real sense of what it is like to have this in your backyard, for years. If you're not willing to put a little more pressure on these bad actors, you're saying you'd be willing to put a down payment on a house here."

Civil Rights Could Again Select Former Commissioner

The Department of Civil Rights could potentially have three of its four most recent directors also be members of the commission that heads it.

Among the three candidates to be interviewed to succeed retiring { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=350501&locid=1" } is Agustin Arbulu, who succeeded Mr. Wesaw on the commission in January 2013. He left the commission earlier this month and has yet to be replaced.

Mr. Arbulu is president of Metro Care Services, which provides health care and legal consulting in the Detroit area.

The other Michigan candidate is Portia Roberson, who is group executive for ethics and civil rights for the city of Detroit. Ms. Roberson was among those interviewed when Mr. Wesaw was hired and was discussed as a Democratic candidate for attorney general for the 2014 election.

And Akia Haynes is deputy director and general counsel for the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, where she has served since January 2013. She has also served as a deputy attorney general for the state, as well as a private practice attorney.

Mr. Wesaw had been a member of the commission, and so had been Kelvin Scott, who served as director from February 2009 to February 2010 when he died. Both had served as chair of the commission.

House Panel Considering Regulation Of Charity Bins

What { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=360301&locid=1" }, chair of the House Local Government Committee, had thought would be a brief discussion turned contentious as local government groups raised concerns over his legislation to regulate charity donation bins.

All agreed the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was clear that the bins could not be prohibited (the court found they were charity speech and so protected under the First Amendment), but locals wanted to retain the right to oversee their location and maintenance.

Mr. Chatfield (R-Levering) said the goal of his bills ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB486201" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB486301" }) is to unify regulation of the bins, which allow people to leave clothing, books and other materials for the charity listed on the side.

Local governments had tried to ban the bins, arguing, as some still did Wednesday, that they attract not only legitimate donations but also trash dumping.

Suzanne Schultz, managing director of design, development and community engagement for the city of Grand Rapids, brought pictures of bins overflowing with various materials.

Ms. Schultz said allowing cities to control the locations through zoning would help, but she said communities needed to be able to issue civil infractions for bins that become a nuisance.

"Courts are not going to take this up if it's misdemeanors," she said, echoing others who had argued the penalties as laid out in the legislation would be too costly to enforce.

But Judy Allen with the Michigan Townships Association said limiting the location regulation to zoning would limit townships' ability to regulate the locations because of their lesser planning powers, and it could potentially leave some bins unregulated.

"Everyone who has a bin, they would be grandfathered in and be a nonconforming use," she said.

She also joined others in urging against a cap on the annual licensing fee. The bill provides for no more than $75, but since local governments cannot charge more than their costs anyway, she said taxpayers would have to subsidize the system if costs rise above that cap.

Mr. Chatfield said his goal with the bill was to create a system and uniformity across the state. But he also said the bills would allow communities to do some of the things their representatives had asked.

"If the bill doesn't prohibit it, there will be more things locals will be able to do," he said.

Officials with Planet Aid, which had been the defendant in the federal lawsuit, said the bill would allow their operations but would help to weed out those not caring for their bins.

Kai Nelson said his group checks its bins once a week and has systems in place to allow response within 24 hours if there is a problem reported.

But he said local government groups' call for agreements between the charity and the property owner are not necessarily workable. He said in many cases the properties where the group places collection boxes have absentee or corporate owners and a local property manager is the right person to make the agreement.

Mr. Nelson said the company would be open to provisions that would require even its existing boxes to be licensed and, if they do not meet siting requirements, moved. He said the company has already done that in some locales that have adopted regulatory ordinances.

Mr. Chatfield said he would continue to work with all of the parties to meet their concerns in the legislation.

TAX CAPTURE: In what was intended to be the primary focus of the meeting, libraries said any changes to tax increment financing authority laws have to allow them more say in captured taxes.

And Eric Lupher with the Citizens Research Council said the state needs to place more limits on the authorities.

"Libraries are having to return for more millages in the future when their revenues are being captured by tax increment finance authorities," Lance Werner with the Kent District Library, speaking for the Michigan Library Association, said. "We're living within our means but our means are being siphoned away."

He noted, for instance, that the Litchfield library loses 47 percent of its funds to tax capture.

Mr. Werner said the libraries did not object to all tax capture authorities, but they should be given more power to choose which ones are appropriate to get library revenue. Current law, he said, allows them to accept all or reject all.

"We want to work with the tax captures ... so we can explain to our investors where our money is going," he said.

He said libraries should also be permitted to opt-in for all authorities. He said some provide for library revenue to automatically be captured and require the libraries to opt out.

Mr. Lupher said future authorities need to be given a limited time to operate. While courts have ruled that tax capture for economic development is constitutional, he said TIFAs have morphed into something that might not be.

"They're being used for police and fire; they're being used for street fairs," he said.

And he said they are being routinely renewed instead of expiring when an intended project is completed.

"There should be some finality to this," he said, adding that in many cases there is also less accountability for the funds.

"Those revenues have just been pushed off budget and you don't hear about it," he said.

Mr. Lupher, pointing to issues raised with recent millages to support the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Institute of Arts, said existing authorities also should be limited to capturing the taxes that are in existence when the authority is created. To capture any new taxes should require creation of a new authority, he said.

REWARDS: The committee also began discussions on { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB429201" } , which would allow county commissions to approve up to $20,000 for rewards leading to arrests for certain crimes.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=321001&locid=1" } (R-Mason), sponsor of the bill, said in a recent incident where an Ingham County sheriff deputy was killed during a chase, the county was limited to offering $2,000 for information on the suspect, who had fled.

He said that limit was set in 1948.

"This money falls more in line with what the value of money is today," Mr. Cochran said of the bill. "This is a little more enticing to have people come forward."

Mr. Chatfield questioned whether the bill, which addresses only counties, should be expanded to cover other local governments under the same theory.

Senate Ends Deadline To Petition For DNA Test, Trial

The Senate voted unanimously Wednesday to eliminate the deadline in the law for a defendant convicted of a felony at trial, serving prison for that felony, to petition the court for DNA testing of biological material identified during an investigation that led to his or her conviction.

Those convicted of felonies may also request a new trial based on the results of that testing under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB15101" }. Currently, such a petition must be filed by January 1, 2016.

Only Michigan and Louisiana currently have sunsets on such provisions.

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION: The Senate also approved { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB37201" }, which provides firefighter certification reciprocity with states that have the same certification as Michigan. The bill requires the state fire marshal to extend reciprocity certification to a firefighter from another state who seeks to work as a firefighter in Michigan as long as the individual was certified in another state after completing a program that meets or exceeds Michigan's standards.

"I have heard from many fire chiefs and local officials about how difficult and expensive it is to recruit and retain firemen in our local fire departments," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=276201&locid=1" } (R-Ida), sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "Part of the problem is that Michigan currently does not recognize out-of-state firefighter certification. This legislation will improve our local fire departments ability to protect families and staff their departments at appropriate levels."

State Unemployment Rate Falls Below National Rate For First Time Since 2000

News that Michigan's unemployment rate fell to 5 percent in September, putting it below the national unemployment rate for the first time in 15 years, brought plenty of cheers Wednesday.

The national unemployment rate in September was 5.1 percent.

"We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come. Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } said in a statement. "Today we are below the national average for the first time since August 2000. This means more people in Michigan are able to use their skills and are finding fulfilling jobs to support themselves and their families, making our cities and our communities stronger in a variety of ways."

Mr. Snyder posted a photo of him from 2000 on his Twitter feed with much less gray hair and a beard to commemorate the occasion.

Employment rose for the month by 10,000, and the labor force was up, too, by 3,000.

In the past year, the unemployment rate has fallen from 6.7 percent, and employment is up by 68,000.

"Since early 2015, several key labor market indicators have shown improvement in Michigan and in the nation," Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, said in a statement. "Monthly unemployment rates in the state and nation have been comparable, as have over-the-year payroll job growth rates."

Bridge Authority Has 6 Potential Bidders

The Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority announced Wednesday that six companies had responded to its request for qualifications to build the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

The authority is now submitting the qualifications to a review panel of authority members and experts to determine the three most qualified potential bidders.

"The private sector has shown a vibrant interest in working on the Gordie Howe International Bridge project, between this RFP, the responses we received to our recent RFP for early works, as well as the recently-held Industry Days," Mark McQueen, chair of the authority's board of directors, said in a statement. "Although site preparation has already begun for the eventual construction of the new Canadian Customs plaza, businesses and travelers on both sides of the border understand that the completion of the new bridge is dependent upon the successful conclusion of the pending RFP process."

Committee Roundup

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS: The Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday began taking testimony on reviewing boilerplate language that requires reports of agencies that spend more than $500,000 in new or expanded programs.

The first programs up for review were making Michigan a no-wait state for senior home-delivered meals and in-home services; child welfare performance-based funding; and the Ok2Say school safety hotline.

"This is harder work than passing budgets, is going back and checking and seeing if we're delivering on our promises," { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=277701&locid=1" } (R-Clarklake), whose idea it was to conduct such reviews, said in committee. "The intent of this is not necessarily to review why we did something. The intent is to review whether what we said we were going to accomplish is actually occurring."

By and large, Mr. Shirkey and other members of the committee requested more specific and detailed metrics, especially identifiable metrics like number comparisons, of all of the programs reviewed Wednesday. The committee expects to review another three programs next week, and chair { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=107701&locid=1" } (R-Lowell)

recommended that members consider the practice for their own subcommittees when and where possible.

Capital Notebook

DEADLINE THURSDAY FOR LOCALS TO APPLY FOR GRANTS PROGRAM: Municipalities have until 11:59 p.m. Thursday to apply for the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, and Townships grant program. Any city, village or township experiencing one or more conditions of "probable financial distress," under { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2011SB86501" }, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, is eligible to apply.

STATE CHRISTMAS TREE HAILS FROM WAKEFIELD: A 66-foot spruce from Wakefield in the Upper Peninsula will serve as the state's Christmas tree this year.

Florence Daniels is donating the tree to the state in memory of her husband, Jim Daniels, a former teacher and youth sports coach.

The tree will arrive October 31, and as per longtime tradition, be illuminated at the annual Silver Bells in the City celebration that Lansing holds to kick off the holiday season Friday, November 20.

MACMHB ANNOUNCES CEO: The executive board of the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards has announced Robert Sheehan will lead the organization as chief executive officer effective immediately. Prior to his new role, he served for 18 years at the CEO of the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties.

Mr. Sheehan replaces Michael Vizena as CEO of MACMHB. Mr. Vizena is retiring.

"Behavioral health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities affect so many of Michigan's residents, and are central to overall health, yet are often overlooked or stigmatized in the public eye," Mr. Sheehan said in a statement. "I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside the Association's members - hundreds of innovative provider and healthcare management organizations across the state - as they serve those in our communities with behavioral health issues and intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families."

LAND LEASES: The Department of Transportation will be leasing { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdot/Ag_Lease_Sealed-Bid_Sale_Brochure_11-4-2015_10-7-15_502352_7.pdf" \t "blank" } of land around the state for agricultural use only.

The lease sale is scheduled for November 4 at 10 a.m. (doors open at 9 a.m.) at the Office of Aeronautics Auditorium at Capital City Airport, 2700 Port Lansing Road in Lansing.

Those interested in bidding must attend and provide a sealed bid for each parcel.

CASINO REVENUE: Two of the three Detroit casinos saw revenue increase both for the month of September and for the third quarter, the Gaming Control Board announced Wednesday.

MotorCity Casino saw the most growth, with the $35.7 million it collected in September representing a 7.5 percent increase over the same month in 2014. For third quarter, its revenue was up 3.6 percent over the same period in 2014.

MGM Grand Detroit was up 4.6 percent in September to $45.2 million and up 0.5 percent for the quarter.

Greektown Casino saw revenue decline 0.1 percent for the month to $26.6 million and 2.4 percent for the quarter.

Appointments By The Governor

BOARD OF MECHANICAL RULES: Robert Fosburg of Caledonia, Christopher Freeman of South Lyon, Catherine Gay of Troy, Daniel Grafmiller of Fenton, Kenneth Misiewicz of Lake Odessa and Mark Riley of Berkley are reappointed for terms expiring October 1, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY: Jill Marlan of DeWitt succeeds Vijay Kumar, who resigned, to represent professionals for a term expiring December 31, 2016. The appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

IRON INDUSTRY MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD: Charles Swanson of Marquette and Bob Niemela of Ontonagon are reappointed for terms expiring October 4, 2019. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Elaine Didier of Plymouth succeeds Tara Fulton to represent librarians from a special library, and Judith Houser of Waterford is reappointed, both for terms expiring October 1, 2018. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" **}** of St. Clair is appointed to represent the Legislature, filling a vacancy, and Deana Strudwick of White Pigeon succeeds Sondra Stegenga, who resigned, to represent public or private providers of early intervention services. The appointments are for the remainder of terms expiring October 31, 2016. Barbara Corbin of Jenison, Judy Goth-Owens of East Lansing, Lauren Heilman of Cadillac and Prachi Shah of Ann Arbor are reappointed for terms expiring October 31, 2019. The appointments are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

MICHIGAN PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE: James "Jim" Matthews of Grand Haven succeeds Eleonora Huskey to represent pharmacists, and Margo Farber of Grosse Pointe Park, Steven Hadesman of Bingham Farms, Anthony Ognjan of Shelby Township

and Victoria Tutag Lehr of Birmingham are reappointed. The appointments are for terms expiring October 1, 2017, and are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

SKI AREA SAFETY BOARD: James Grundstrom of Negaunee succeeds Jim VanderSpoel to represent public members from the Upper Peninsula, and Steve Robinson of Birmingham succeeds Ron Edwards to represent engineers with ski experience. Mr. Grundstrom's appointment is for a term expiring June 8, 2018. Mr. Robinson's appointment is for a term expiring June 8, 2019. The appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Appointments By The Supreme Court

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: Robert Gardella is reappointed commissioner-at-large for a three-year term beginning upon adjournment of the 2015 annual meeting of the outgoing board. Brian Shekell and Krista Haroutunian are appointed commissioners-at-large for three-year terms beginning upon adjournment of the 2015 annual meeting of the outgoing board.

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Thursday, October 15

~~Canceled:~~ { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=88401&locid=1" }~~,~~{ HYPERLINK "http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee/elections.html" \t "blank" }~~), (Chr.~~ { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=54001&locid=1" }~~, 373-1721), Room 210, Farnum Building, 9 a.m.~~

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB4904 01" **PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=292001" }) Provides for the presidential primary election as a regular election date and clarifies filing deadlines for candidates for local office and for all local ballot question.

" }
{ AVIATION FEES ({ HYPERLINK
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Click the ☑ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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MacGregor Zeroes In On Planned Parenthood Funding

The newly formed Senate Oversight Committee could begin meeting next Thursday to discuss funding to Planned Parenthood and how it relates to the reception of federal money by Michigan, the committee's chair told Gongwer News Service in a recent interview.

The close look at Planned Parenthood comes after Republicans were in an uproar over the summer about secretly recorded videos of various officials affiliated with the organization speaking about the organization's practice of providing fetal tissue from its abortions for research.

Although the Michigan extension of Planned Parenthood continues to deny any of its offices partake in such practices, Mr. MacGregor (R-Rockford) and his committee will take a deeper dive into the issue.

"We're trying to answer, is this happening in Michigan? Could it happen? And how it could be prevented from happening," Mr. MacGregor said. "I've been meeting with all the different groups involved with Planned Parenthood and how it relates to Title 10 dollars, other dollars, how they fit into community health and the rest of our state.

"I'm trying to get all the puzzle pieces of who it affects and how it affects so if decisions are made down the road on the state's use of Planned Parenthood, I'm informed as best (as possible) on how that's going to affect our state," Mr. MacGregor said.

Mr. MacGregor is the majority vice chair on the Senate Appropriations Health and Human Services Subcommittee.

When Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151101&locid=1" } (R-West Olive) created the committee in mid-September, he pointed to Mr. MacGregor as the perfect choice to lead such a committee.

Asked about that, Mr. MacGregor said: "I think the Senate majority leader and others realize that a lot of times it's not what you know, it's how you listen, and I tend to pride myself on being a good listener. In the private sector, my motto is listen, commit and follow through, and I try and use that as a legislator.

"I'm going to do a lot of listening with the Oversight committee, and from there, we'll commit to our citizens that, if there needs to be some change or something has to have a spotlight on it, we'll do that," he said, though noting that may not always be solely his decision. Rather, a "team decision" on what he, his team and the majority leader agree could end up on the docket.

Although Mr. MacGregor told Gongwer the committee's purpose is to "be able to look at issues in front of the Legislature or state government (that) doesn't relate to any bill that's hanging out there," there has been several anti-abortion type bills sent to the committee so far.

Those bills are { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB56401" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB56501" }, related to abortion compensation; { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB57301" } requiring DHHS to specify a facility must be licensed as a freestanding surgical outpatient facility and prohibiting abortions from said facilities until it becomes licensed; and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB57501" }, which requires the state to "refrain from allocating funds to an entity that considers an elective abortion to be part of the continuum of health care for the purposes of family planning or comprehensive reproductive health services," as well as prohibits state or federal funds to an entity performing more than 120 abortions per year.

Mr. MacGregor said the committee's first hearing has been posted for the first Thursday the Legislature is back in session in December, December 3. Although the committee would typically meet at 8:30 a.m., it had not yet officially noticed for that date, so that is subject to change.

FLINT WATER CRISIS: Mr. MacGregor said he's had several colleagues give suggestions on what topics his Oversight Committee should look into, but he will not make those decisions in a vacuum, he said. "These decisions are made in conjunction with leadership."

"I will consider any topic that someone puts in front of me, but I'm not going to use the Oversight Committee to trump another Senate member," Mr. MacGregor said when asked if he would consider a suggestion recently by Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=106601&locid=1" } (D-Flint) to review what happened in Flint and how it came into its current water crisis where lead has found its way into the tap water.

And other priorities could inevitably come up, he said. Preference, of course, would be given to members of the committee, which include Senate { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=18801&locid=1" } (R-White Lake Township), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401&locid=1" } (R-Lawton), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=210301&locid=1" } (R-Midland) and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=209301&locid=1" } (D-Southfield) in addition to Mr. MacGregor.

"Sitting on Appropriations is also a concern, that we'll be getting in the budget cycle, so I want to give each topic the appropriate time and attention that's needed," Mr. MacGregor said. "It could be busy early winter here. We may reduce the time we're going to meet when the budget starts to come around, so timing is going to be key, because I don't want to shortchange any one of the issues that come up."

Singh Defends Refugee Vetting Process

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322301&locid=1" } on Monday called the country's vetting process for refugees extremely comprehensive and said he disagrees with { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }'s "pause" on working to bring Syrian refugees into the state following terrorism attacks in Paris.

"One of the areas that I have long agreed with Governor Snyder on is the need for Michigan to be a welcoming state that encourages immigration and cultural diversity," Mr. Singh said in an email to supporters. "That is why I was profoundly disappointed to hear Governor Snyder call for a 'pause' on bringing Syrian refugees to Michigan. Fear has overtaken cool-headed, rational thought."

Mr. Singh is a board member for the Refugee Development Center in Lansing. He said the vetting process in the United States is comprehensive and conducted by the United Nations and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The process takes between one year and three years and includes in-person interviews and multiple background checks, Mr. Singh wrote.

"As elected officials, we should be using our platform to educate people and make sound decisions based on facts rather than creating fear to move forward a political agenda," he said.

Mr. Snyder decided to suspend state efforts to bring more refugees from Syria to settle in the state in the wake of terrorist attacks in Paris and Lebanon. He has said it is a temporary move while the federal government reviews its vetting procedures.

Mr. Snyder has made a big point during his nearly five years in office of labeling himself the most pro-immigration governor in the country. And in the wake of the Syrian civil war, now raging for four years, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have fled the country as refugees, some 200,000 to Europe and another 4 million in other Middle East countries, according to the United Nations.

The governor's administration had been working with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan to intensify the state's efforts to place Syrian refugees, but those will now be put on hold as the governor awaits response from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to his request for a review of its procedures on vetting refugees to enter the country to determine whether strengthening is needed.

Snyder spokesperson Dave Murray did not say if Mr. Snyder has made a decision on what he thinks of the vetting process.

"Governor Snyder continues to be engaged in discussions with the departments of State and Homeland Security," Mr. Murray said. "Our priority is to keep Michiganders safe, and Governor Snyder continues to work to get answers to the questions and concerns expressed by Michigan residents."

Mr. Singh said as a member of the Refugee Development Center, he knows the refugees who come to Michigan are decent and hard-working people.

"These families come here often after fleeing unimaginable horrors that few of us could imagine," he wrote. "They come here to escape persecution, protect their loved ones and live without fear."

MSEA, AFSCME Ratify New Contract, Other Unions Still Voting

Two of the five major unions representing state government employees have ratified the proposed new contract.

The Michigan State Employees Association counted votes last Thursday and announced the results Friday.

"I would like to thank all the members who participated in the democratic process of voting on the tentative agreement," MSEA President Ken Moore said in a statement. "Participation is what makes us union strong."

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Council 25 members ratified the contract shortly after the announcement of a tentative agreement, said Nick Ciaramitaro, AFSCME director of legislation and public policy.

The other major unions are still voting. Ballots from members of the United Auto Workers Local 6000, the largest union of state employees, will be counted December 11. They are due December 10.

The ballots from the Service Employees International Union 517m are due December 2 and will be counted the same day.

Ballots for the Michigan Corrections Organization will be counted November 30.

Under the tentative agreement the state reached with unions in October, there would be a one-year contract for wages and health care starting October 1, 2016, that provides a 1 percent base wage increase, and 1.5 percent lump sum payment for employees in October 2016.

Other portions of the contracts would last the traditional three years. However, the Office of State Employer pushed for a one-year deal on the wages and health care components out of concern about what will happen with the federal excise tax on premium health care plans, MCO said in an October bulletin to its members.

That is the so-called Cadillac tax in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Under that law, starting with the 2018 tax year, if the aggregate cost of the health care coverage an employer provides exceeds a statutory dollar limit, then the excess is subject to a 40 percent excise tax.

State officials have said they will not comment on the new contract until the ratification process concludes.

Juvenile Justice Reforms Won't Be Reported Until 2016

The House Criminal Justice Committee is taking up a 20-bill package making various reforms to the juvenile justice system in the state - including ending the practice of automatically trying all 17 year-olds as adults - but the committee chair said the bills won't clear the committee until next year.

Michigan is one of only nine states to automatically consider juveniles who are 17 as adults for criminal offenses. Another bill in the package would prohibit the placement of youth under the age of 18 in adult jails and prisons and provide access to "age appropriate" rehabilitation.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001&locid=1" } (R-Plymouth Township), chair of the Criminal Justice Committee, said he will take testimony on the legislation at its December 1 meeting, and possibly the week after.

"I think that these are important bills, and it is something I certainly want to see happen," Mr. Heise said Monday. "I also think it is consistent with the governor's smart justice message. But I want to take our time on it; I want to do a good job and not rush it."

The bills were introduced in October and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) has helped lead the charge on the reforms. Recently he launched a website promoting the legislation: { HYPERLINK "http://www.raisetheagemi.org/" \t "blank" }.

The other bills in the package would:

- Increase the County Child Care Fund reimbursement rate for qualifying community-based services for youth by 25 percent;
- Omit bank or safe robbery, escape from a juvenile facility and drug possession or delivery of up to 1,000 grams from the list of specified juvenile offenses;
- Require equal consideration of all mitigating factors prior to waiving jurisdiction in traditional juvenile waiver cases;
- Require public monitoring and oversight of youth under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections who entered for an offense committed prior to turning 18 years old;

- Ensure age-appropriate programming and outdoor exercise for youth under 21 years old in administrative segregation in prison; and

- Establish a family advisory board within the Department of Corrections to ensure effective partnerships with families and victims.

The bill numbers are { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB494701" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB494801" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495001" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495101" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495201" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495301" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495401" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495501" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495601" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495701" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495801" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495901" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496001" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496101" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496201" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496301" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496401" } , { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496501" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496601" } .

The Criminal Justice Committee will take testimony on the legislation on at 9 a.m. December 1.

Conyers Announces Campaign For 27th Term

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=5601&locid=1" } announced Monday that he is seeking to hold his place as the longest-serving current member of Congress, and he already has a long list of supporters in that effort.

Mr. Conyers, 86, will face a fight for the Democratic nomination in the heavily Democratic seat from Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey, who announced in September that she would challenge Mr. Conyers in the 13th U.S. House District.

Still, other potentially strong challengers in recent years have made little dent in Mr. Conyers' support base. He has won renomination in landslides.

"I'm running for another term in Congress because there are fights yet to be won," Mr. Conyers (D-Detroit) said in a statement announcing his re-election bid. "Winning full employment, health care for all, and protection of the right to vote won't be easy, but I know the type of leadership that it will take to fight and win these battles."

Mr. Conyers touted both his work in Congress and his efforts in the community as reason to keep him in office.

In Congress, he said he continues work on jobs, including continuing to introduce the Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act to provide job training for all residents.

He said he was also a leading force behind recent revisions to surveillance policies.

In the community, he has continued to oppose emergency management in Detroit, and other communities, and has worked with community leaders to prevent water shut-offs, he said.

Mr. Conyers saw endorsements from the state elected officials in the district: { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=308601&locid=1" } (D-Dearborn Heights), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161801&locid=1" } (D-Highland Park), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=161201&locid=1" }I (D-Detroit), Rep. Brian Banks (D-Detroit), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=259701&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=189001&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=104001&locid=1" } (D-Detroit), { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501&locid=1" } (D-Detroit) and { HYPERLINK

"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=264501&locid=1" } (D-Allen Park).

He also saw support from Detroit City Councilmembers Janee Ayers and George Cushingberry, as well as Oakland County Commissioner Nancy Quarles.

Mr. Conyers' biggest problem in 2014 was a lackluster campaign operation that nearly botched his place on the ballot with insufficient valid signatures. He appears more organized this time around, having hired the Grassroots Midwest political consulting firm.

Juvenile Overdose Deaths Tripled In Michigan, Report Says

With federal and state officials working to better track drug overuse, a national report said drug overdose deaths among young people in Michigan had tripled in just over a decade.

The results from Michigan were among the worst, though not the worst, of findings from the states as the study looked at steps states are taking to help ensure young adults, teens and younger kids do not get access to drugs and alcohol.

The report said 35 states had seen the rate of deaths among young people more than double or more from 2001 to 2011-13. Michigan was one of 12 states where the death rate had tripled.

The { HYPERLINK "http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/TFAH-2015-TeenSubstAbuse%20FINAL.pdf" \t "blank" }, from the Trust for America's Health, said that from 1999 to 2001, not one state had a rate of overdose of deaths of more than 6.1 percent per 100,000 population of younger people.

Now, 33 states had had death rates that exceeded 6.1 percent per 100,000 of people aged between 12 and 25.

The report did not have any raw totals on the actual number of deaths in Michigan or nationally related to drug overdoses of young people.

However, a 2014 report from the then Department of Community Health - now the Department of Health and Human Services - said that in 2012 there were 941 deaths from drug overdoses of people of any age in Michigan.

In 1999, that same report said, there were 235 deaths from drug overdoses.

The report from Trust for America's Health said that in 1999-2001, drug overdose deaths of people aged 12 to 25 in Michigan was 2.1 percent for each 100,000 people in that age group.

By 2011 to 2103, the death rate for those young people from drug overdoses had had gone to 8.1 percent. For males it was 11 percent, and for females it was 5.1 percent.

The death rate involved all drugs, including illegal drugs such as heroin and prescription drug abuse.

Along with Michigan, the death rate tripled during that time frame in Arkansas, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Utah and West Virginia.

Overall, the Great Lakes did not do well in terms of low percentages of drug overdose deaths of young people. Minnesota had the lowest rate among them at 5.7 percent, followed by New York at 6.9 percent. Michigan was the third-lowest, followed by Illinois at 8.2 percent, Wisconsin at 8.8 percent, Ohio at 9.1 percent, Indiana at 9.6 percent and Pennsylvania at 11.8 percent.

Overall, North Dakota had the lowest rate at 2.2 percent. West Virginia had the highest at 12.6 percent.

Michigan also did not rank highly, according to the national group, in terms of steps it took to discourage young people from obtaining and using drugs and other substances. Out of 10 proposed actions the report proposed, the state uses five (Minnesota with the lowest rate in the Great Lakes states uses all 10).

According to the report, Michigan also did not have at least 80 percent of its high school students graduate; it did not have in place comprehensive laws to prevent bullying; it did not increase funding for mental health services; and it did not have in place billing codes in health insurance for screening and referral to programs, nor did it have in place yet immunity for good Samaritan actions.

Last month, a state task force did call for the state to take steps to update its Michigan Automated Prescription System to help track down potential prescription drug overuse.

Despite Job Growth, Report Says Michigan Is Low Prosperity State

After nearly a decade of struggling in a single-state recession, and then fighting with the rest of the United States through the Great Recession, Michigan has become a leader in terms of job growth. But its drop in overall per capita income and lower number of adults actually working, as well as a low number of persons with college degrees, means the state has become a low-prosperity state, a report issued by the organization Michigan Future Incorporated argued.

And the report said that continuing to improve the state toward higher-education attainment and a focus on the service sectors of the economy that rely on higher-skilled individuals is needed for the state to move into a knowledge-based economy that has a higher prosperity profile.

The report was prepared by Lou Glazer, president of Michigan Future, and Don Grimes at the Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy at the University of Michigan. The report was funded by the Hudson-Webber Foundation.

Mr. Glazer, a former state official, has long urged the state put a greater focus on improving educational outcomes and increasing the number of residents with college degrees.

The { HYPERLINK "http://michiganfuture.org/cms/assets/uploads/2015/11/Michigan-Future_2015-Report.pdf" \t "blank" } acknowledges Michigan has in the last five years been a national leader in terms of overall job growth.

And a forecast issued last week by the Research Seminar for Quantitative Economics at U-M said job growth for the state should continue over the next two years.

But the report also said growth in the auto industry, which once fueled greater prosperity in the state, is no longer enough.

States that are considered high prosperity tend to have a large number of knowledge-based service sector jobs in insurance, finance, health care, education, information and corporate management, as well as a large number of residents with at least a four-year degree.

However, Michigan ranks 34th in the nation with the number of individuals with four-year degrees. It also ranks 26th in terms of total wages stemming from high-knowledge industries.

The two largest regions in the state also lag the nation in terms of higher education attainment, the report said.

Metro Detroit stood 42nd in terms of population with four-year degrees and 33rd in proportion of wages earned in knowledge-based industries.

Grand Rapids was 34th in terms of those with four-year degrees and 52nd in terms of wages earned in knowledge companies.

The state has also lagged other states in terms of income growth. At the beginning of the 21st Century Michigan, was 17th in terms of overall per capita income. By 2013, the state had fallen to 37th in terms of per capita income.

And while the state's unemployment rate is down, Michigan ranks low in terms of the total percentage of adults between the ages of 25 and 64 who are working. Michigan now ranks 42nd in terms of total adults with a job, the report indicated.

Audit Cites Veterans Affairs For Maintenance Program

While the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' maintenance program is at least moderately effective, Auditor General Doug Ringler said in a report issued Monday, the lack of central records left both building condition and overall preparedness in question.

The { HYPERLINK "http://www.audgen.michigan.gov/finalpdfs/15_16/r511020015.pdf" \t "blank" }, for the period October 1, 2012, through May 31, 2015, of the Construction and

Facilities Management Office found that its efforts to maintain facilities was only moderately effective because it lacked a central maintenance record.

Auditors noted that inspections in 2014 found a number of maintenance issues that could have been prevented with earlier work.

Officials said they were working to develop a centralized maintenance tracking system, but were hampered by lack of resources.

Auditors also cited the office for not properly tracking installation status reports, which indicate the readiness state of each of the state's 43 armories. Auditors reviewed 16 of the 90 reports filed for fiscal years 2012-13 and 2013-14, and found half did not include supporting documentation.

In six of the reports, the rating in the final report did not match the scores in the supporting documents, with two of those being typing errors.

The office said it met National Guard Bureau reporting requirements, but would develop a better system for storing the reports and related documentation.

The report said the office was effective at administering construction and maintenance projects, particularly noting its ongoing five-year capital outlay budget to keep projects prioritized.

But auditors, in reviewing 15 sample projects, found the office had not kept copies of 54 of the 127 documents tied to those projects showing contractors were complying with requirements. The office also had not documented on-site inspections for six of the 15 projects.

The office said it was developing processes to better collect and track the reports.

HP Turns Over Source Code To State

Hewlett Packard met a judge-imposed deadline of 5 p.m. Friday to turn over the source code for information technology projects it had been pursuing for the Department of State, a department spokesperson said Monday.

A week ago, a Kent Circuit judge ordered HP Enterprise Services to turn over the source code for the ExpressSOS website, the Penske application and current data migration code, saying it was clear the code belonged to the state. The department cancelled HP's contract for the Business Application Modernization project after years of delays and problems.

The department warned that without the state having the source code, the entire online system, which thousands of residents use to renew license plates and conduct other business, was at risk of crashing.

Capital Notebook

MANISTEE CHILD CARE SUSPENSION: The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, has summarily suspended and issued a notice of intent to revoke the license of a Manistee County child care center provider, Suzanne Hamilton, of the Manistee Historic Red School House CDC child care center.

Ms. Hamilton has held a license to operate a child care center since January 2013 for 60 children, but effective immediately, she may no longer operate her child care center at 284 First Street or at any other location. She may no longer accept children for care after that date and must inform all of the parents of children in her care that her license has been suspended and she can no longer provide care.

LARA did not indicate why her license will be revoked, only saying the action came as a result of a recent investigation of a complaint into the child care center she operates.

DTE GAS CUSTOMER INCREASE: Residential natural gas customers of DTE Gas Company will see an increase of 19 cents on their monthly bills effective July 2016 as a result of an approved expansion of the company's gas main replacement program by the Public Service Commission.

The expansion is to enable the utility to replace more miles of gas main and will result in an increase in spending in 2016 and 2017, the PSC said in a statement (Case U-17701).

"Replacing higher risk and poorer performing gas mains will continue the MPSC's focus on enhancing safety and reliability for customers and reduce the risk of failures or leaks," said PSC Chair John Quackenbush.

DEQ WEBSITE: The Department of Environmental Quality has redesigned its { HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/deq" \t "blank" } to be more user-friendly.

The site includes scrolling highlights, links to recent news releases and buttons for each of its divisions.

The home page also includes a link to environmental emergency reporting processes.

WOLF POACHING: The Department of Natural Resources announced Monday it is offering a reward for information leading to the conviction of the person who shot a wolf in Houghton County over the weekend. Officials said the poacher likely shot from a vehicle parked along M-26 south of Twin Lakes on Saturday.

Conviction for the poaching is a misdemeanor carrying up to 90 days in jail, $1,000 in fines and $1,500 in restitution to the state.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, November 24

Board of Social Work, Conference Room 4, Upper Parking Level, Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing, 9:30 a.m. ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/2015_11-24_Agenda_Social_Work_Full_505693_7.pdf" \t "blank" }; Disciplinary Subcommittee immediately following ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/2015_11-24_Agenda_Social_Work_DSC_505692_7.pdf" \t "blank" }))

Wednesday, November 25

Canceled: ~~Board of Mechanical Rules, Conference Room 3, First Floor, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, 9 a.m.~~

Supplemental Notice Of Legislative Committees

Tuesday, December 1

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92501&locid=1" } (**{ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=327" \t "blank" }**), **(Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001&locid=1" }, 373-5795), Room 327, House Office Building, 9 a.m.**

{ JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=351701" }) Modifies age of juvenile court jurisdiction and location of juvenile detention in some instances. **"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB494701" }**

{ JUVENILE SENTENCING ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=317301" }) Revises code of criminal procedure to reflect increase in age limit and factors for consideration when sentencing juveniles prosecuted in the same manner as adults.

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{ HYPER LINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=323601" } **JUVENILE COURT AGE** Modifies age of juvenile court jurisdiction in juvenile diversion act.
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{ HYPER LINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=104001" } **JUVENILE COURT AGE** Modifies age of juvenile jurisdiction in youth rehabilitation services act.
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{ **JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266801" }) Modifies age of juvenile in disposition of persons found not guilty by reason of insanity.

{ **JUVENILE SENTENCING** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=359101" }) Revises the code of criminal procedure to reflect increase in age limit and factors for consideration when sentencing juvenile prosecuted in the same manner as adults.

{ **DEFINITION OF ADULT** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355701" }) Modifies definition of adult in Michigan indigent defense commission act.

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{ **JUVENILE COURT AGE** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501" }) Revises the
RLIN code of criminal procedure to reflect an increase in age limit and factors of consideration
K when sentencing juveniles prosecuted in the same manner as adults.
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{ **JUVENILE COURT AGE** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=263501" }) Revises the
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" }
{ **JUVENILE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE** ({ HYPERLINK

HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=367901" }) Modifies factors to consider when determining jurisdiction over juveniles in certain circumstances.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495601" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001" } JUVENILE DETENTION Modifies detention of juveniles in certain circumstances.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB495701" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001" } JUVENILE SENTENCING Revises the code of criminal procedure to reflect increase in age limit and factors for consideration when sentencing juveniles prosecuted in the same manner as adults.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm

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{ **JUVENILE DETENTION WITH ADULTS** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=266001" }) Prohibits
RLINK placement of youth under 18 with adults during confinement, trial or transport.
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}
{ **SPECIFIED JUVENILE OFFENSES** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701" }) Eliminates
RLIN certain offenses that do not require adult sentencing from the list of specified juvenile
K offenses in code of criminal procedure.
"http:/
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{ **JUVENILE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPER"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701" }) Modifies
LINK specified juvenile violation definition in the revised judicature act.
"http://
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ngwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496101"
}
{ JUVENILE VIOLATIONS ({ HYPERLINK **"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601" }**) Modifies specified juvenile violation definition in probate code of 1939.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496201" }
{ JUVENILE CORRECTIONS ({ HYPERLINK **"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=312601" }**) Requires monitoring and oversight of juveniles under the age od 18 placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections and provides for certain reporting.
"http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496301" }

{ **COUNTY CHILD CARE FUND** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=203301" }) Increases county child care fund reimbursement rate.
HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496401" }

{ **FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=358301" }) Established family advisory board.
HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496501" }

{ **JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=317301" }) Develop policies to limit rime confined in cells for incarcerated individuals under 21 years of age.
HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015HB496601" }

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=99801&locid=1" }

({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=393&sub=True" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355701&locid=1" }, 373-8080), House Appropriations, Capitol, 10:30 a.m.

- **Presentation by the Medical Services Administration within the Department of Health and Human Services**

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=committee.cfm&committee=92901&locid=1" }
({ HYPERLINK "http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=339" \t "blank" }), (Chr. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701&locid=1" }, 373-5176), Room 521, House Office Building, 12 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB17601" } **IGNITION INTERLOCK SERVICING CENTERS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" }) Provides for department of state oversight of ignition interlock servicing centers.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=legislation_billdetail.cfm&billid=2015SB17601" } **ALCOHOL IGNITION INTERLOCK MECHANICS** ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=83401" }) Includes breath alcohol ignition interlock mechanics and servicers in motor vehicle service and repair act.

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{ WILLS AND ESTATES ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322001" **})** Allows
RLINK designation of funeral representative to make disposition arrangements for decedent.
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tion_bil
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{ PISTOLS ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=360301" **})** Prohibits local
RLIN ordinances dealing with pistols and other firearms and provides penalties. (For referral to
K the Local Government Committee)
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{ **JURY DUTY** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPER "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322001" }) Exempts
LINK physicians from jury duty under certain circumstances. (Testimony only)
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}
{ **CRIMINAL PROCEDURE** ({ HYPERLINK
HYPE "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=316701" }) Revises
RLIN guidelines for crime of knowingly providing false information concerning an ignition
K interlock device.
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Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service <gongwerreports@gongwer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 8:32 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For November 10, 2015

News

A bill aims to more fairly split purses at state's last two racetracks (Bridge Magazine, 11/10/2015)

State rolls dice on bills that would expand sports betting (Bridge Magazine, 11/10/2015)

New virtual tour of Michigan Capitol building unveiled (Crain's Detroit Business, 11/10/2015)

Keep guns out of Michigan schools, poll respondents say (Detroit Free Press, 11/10/2015)

Snyder to sign road funding package Tuesday (Detroit Free Press, 11/10/2015)

State Sen. Tom Casperson announces congressional run (Detroit Free Press, 11/10/2015)

Flint students can be tested for lead after toxic levels found in schools (Flint Journal, 11/10/2015)

Stamas, Pettalia welcome Miss Michigan to Capitol (Midland Daily News, 11/10/2015)

How much does it cost to demolish a house? Here's a look at the price tag in five Michigan cities (MLive, 11/10/2015)

Jeb Bush to visit Grand Rapids for town hall Thursday (MLive, 11/10/2015)

Utility influence in Michigan energy debate includes $500,000 in political donations, 69 lobbyists (MLive, 11/10/2015)

What Mayor Mike Duggan called 'No. 1 risk to Detroit's recovery' (MLive, 11/10/2015)

Michigan backers plan fundraiser for Kasich (The Detroit News, 11/10/2015)

Michigan's public disclosure laws slammed (The Detroit News, 11/10/2015)

Rick Santorum goes speechless in Michigan (The Detroit News, 11/10/2015)

Editorials

Michigan Legislature, heal thyself (Detroit Free Press, 11/10/2015)

Stephen Henderson: Through the doors of 7124 Tuxedo (Detroit Free Press, 11/10/2015)

Kelly: Getting state money should include real change (Lansing State Journal, 11/10/2015)

Robbins: Michigan forests don't take care of themselves (Lansing State Journal, 11/10/2015)

Don't let politicians eliminate clean energy standards (Livingston Daily Press and Argus, 11/10/2015)

Our view: A long time coming (Midland Daily News, 11/10/2015)

M-STEP scores may shock, but don't shoot the messenger (MLive, 11/10/2015)

Michigan dead last on integrity report card (Port Huron Times Herald, 11/10/2015)

Bensten: Why the Common Core tests are collapsing (The Detroit News, 11/10/2015)

Our Editorial: Keep momentum on rape kit testing (The Detroit News, 11/10/2015)

Blogs

Bloomberg PAC Ad Against Schuette Feels Like First 2018 Shot (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 11/9/2015)

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From: The Washington Post <email@e.washingtonpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 5:02 PM
To: Jones, Arlene (DTMB)
Subject: Evening Edition: Threat that closed Los Angeles schools being investigated as hoax

The day's most important stories

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Threat that closed Los Angeles schools being investigated as hoax

The abrupt closure of the second-largest school district in the country occurred after a threat was made late Monday via emails to several school board members, which mentioned an attack by "explosive devices" as well as "assault rifles and machine pistols," L.A. Police Department Chief Charlie Beck said.

By Diana Crandall, Emma Brown and Mark Berman • Read more »

Flint, Mich., declares state of emergency over lead in children's blood

The proportion of infants and children with above-

average levels of lead in their blood has nearly doubled since the city switched from the Detroit water system to using the Flint River as its water source.

By Yanan Wang • Read more »

For many at Liberty University, guns and God go hand in hand

President Jerry Falwell Jr.'s call for students to arm themselves to deter terrorists placed the spotlight on a university that's becoming a platform for politicians to reach evangelical Christians.

By Nick Anderson • Read more »

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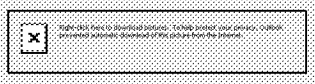
How India is attracting defense investors



The country is looking to expand its defense industry and other important sectors through budget, tax, state and export i

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Who really supports the top GOP candidates — in 5 charts

This breakdown of demographics may help to make clear why a candidate answers a question a particular way during tonight's debate.

By Janell Ross • Read more »

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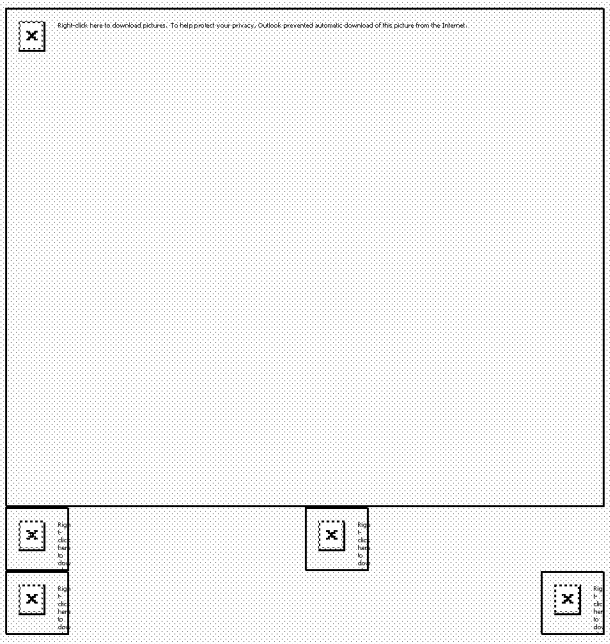

Trump's support among Republicans surges

Criticism of his proposal to bar Muslims from entering the country hasn't hurt his standing, as his lead over other GOP presidential candidates increased to its largest margin yet, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll.

By Dan Balz and Scott Clement • Read more »

Did Bowe Bergdahl appearing on 'Serial' alter his criminal case?

The Army's decision to pursue a more serious general court-martial against the soldier who went missing in Afghanistan came just after the start of the podcast's second season, which focuses on the case.

By Dan Lamothe • Read more »

Shrimp peeled by Thai slaves found in U.S. grocery stores

Two years after an investigation into abuses in the Thai shrimp industry, a new report finds that major markets, especially the U.S., are doing a poor job of keeping slave-peeled shrimp out of their food system.

By Roberto A. Ferdman • Read more »

For a second straight year, the Arctic was the fastest-warming place on Earth

Air temperatures in the Arctic have risen more than 5 degrees since the start of the last century, helping to trigger fish migrations and declines in walrus populations and sea ice.

By Darryl Fears • Read more »

Obama warns Americans not to forget their immigrant history

The president used his appearance at a naturalization ceremony to chastise Republican presidential candidates for their anti-immigration rhetoric.

By Steven Mufson • Read more »

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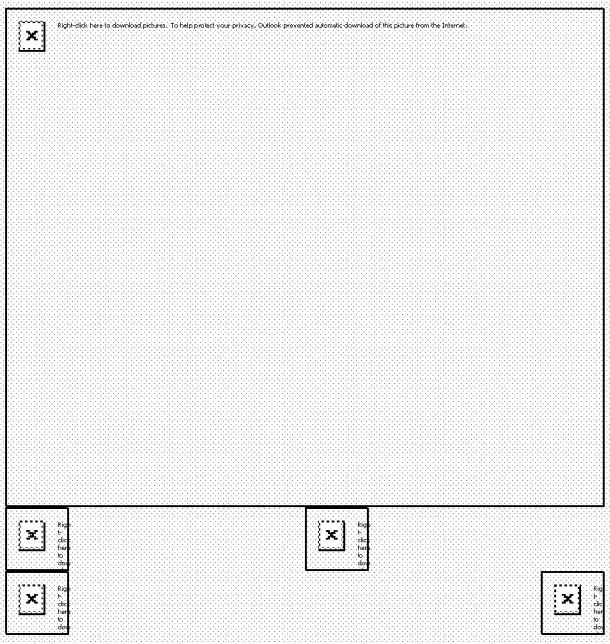

Former national security officials urge government to embrace rise of encryption

The FBI disagrees, arguing it needs “back doors” to access encrypted communications with a warrant so that critical evidence of potential terrorist plots isn’t missed.

By Ellen Nakashima • Read more »

Beware the ‘toxic worker,’ Harvard study warns

Employees who insist that every rule be followed can drive away colleagues and are, ironically, the most likely to be fired for breaking rules, researchers found.

By Ariana Eunjung Cha • Read more »

Before I knew my daughter was gay, I let her girlfriend spend the night

This mother faced a dilemma: She would never give permission for her daughter to have a sleepover with a boyfriend. Is there a difference with a girlfriend?

By Mary Novaria • Read more »

Fiorina's exaggerated claims about Americans' views on Planned Parenthood

The Republican candidate's claim about the "vast majority" of the country's views on the organization and abortion is also vastly overstated.

By Michelle Ye Hee Lee • Read more »

The 10 most liberal and conservative cities in the U.S. — as judged by campaign donors

A new database of political donations reveals just how politically segregated the United States is.

By Amber Phillips • Read more »

NBA star Jeremy Lin grapples with academic pressure, teen suicides in personal Facebook post

"My daily thought process was that every homework assignment, every project, every test could be the difference," Lin wrote of his high school experience.

By Yanan Wang • Read more »

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From: McGroarty, Michael (CEPI)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 4:32 PM
To: Howell, Thomas (CEPI);Bernosky, Roderick (CEPI);Jones, Carol (CEPI);Handley, Heather (CEPI)
Cc: Anderson, Trina (CEPI)
Subject: RE: Time sensitive-Flint Schools Data
Attachments: Active Flint Schools.xlsx

Tom,

Attached is the file you requested.

Mike

From: Howell, Thomas (CEPI)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 12:39 PM
To: Bernosky, Roderick (CEPI) ; McGroarty, Michael (CEPI) ; Jones, Carol (CEPI) ; Handley, Heather (CEPI)
Subject: FW: Time sensitive-Flint Schools Data
Importance: High

Hello. I need a data file ASAP for the governor's office. I pulled what I need from EEM, but the format is horrendous and I would be structuring for hours (manually).

The attached item from CS is not what they want, but a good attempt. I think they want the following:

All ISD, LEA, PSA and Nonpublic Schools and Programs ACTIVE in Flint (physical entities, not the district, but the schools and ancillary facilities). I need the name of the entity, the physical address, the grades and programs in operation (so they can prioritize using this info). An XML file is attached that I think gets close, but parses out the info I queried line by line. Would take hours to physically manipulate.

From: Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Jameson, Robbie (DTMB) <jamesonr@michigan.gov>; Howell, Thomas (CEPI) <HowellT@michigan.gov>
Subject: Time sensitive-Flint Schools Data

Hi Tom,

I believe Maggie from DEQ left you a voicemail on this, but the Governors office needs some data CEPI provided on Flint Schools broken down in greater detail. This is time-sensitive and related to discussions involving the Flint water situation that are happening at a fast pace. Can you please assist?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
> **Date:** October 7, 2015 at 11:28:53 AM EDT

To: "Starr, Scott (DTMB)" <Starr51@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: Flint Area Schools Request

Scott-
Here is what I received through MDE last week.

Thanks,
Maggie

From: Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2015 12:04 PM
To: Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) <WurfelB@michigan.gov>; Wurfel, Sara (GOV) <WurfelS@michigan.gov>; Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ) <TommasuloK@michigan.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Flint Area Schools Request

According to CEPI there are 243 (please open file and double check that number) that would qualify- from preschools to u's.

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Liethen, Caroline (MDE)" <LiethenC@michigan.gov>
> **Date:** September 30, 2015 at 10:31:10 AM EDT
> **To:** "Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)" <PalloneM@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: FW: Flint Area Schools Request**
>
> See attached for a list of schools w/ addresses in the City of Flint. Let me know if you need anything else.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Caroline Liethen
> Legislative Analyst
> Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
> Michigan Department of Education
> Office: (517) 373-1948
>
> *Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education -- helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.*
>
> ---
>
> **From:** CEPI
> **Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 10:29 AM
> **To:** Liethen, Caroline (MDE) <LiethenC@michigan.gov>
> **Cc:** Morse, Connie (CEPI) <MorseC1@michigan.gov>
> **Subject:** RE: Flint Area Schools Request
>
> Hi Caroline,
>
> Attached is a list of all schools in Flint with both mailing and physical addresses. This information can be accessed in the EEM by following the instructions below:

1. Go to https://cepi.state.mi.us/eem/
2. On the left-hand side of the screen, click "Search"
3. Click "Detailed"
4. Set the Status field to "Open-Active"
5. Set the Characteristic field to "Physical Address City" (Under the addresses section)
6. Set the Operator field to "Equals"
7. In the Value field, enter the word "Flint"
8. Click "Add Criterion"
9. Click "Search"
10. Near the bottom of the page, click "Download Entity Data"
11. You will see a list of characteristics sorted by Entity Type
12. Put a check in the "Entity Code" and "Official Name of Entity" for each type of entity you are interested in
13. Check the "Include Address Types" box
14. Click "Start Download"
15. The file will be generated in xml format
16. Save the file somewhere on your computer
17. Go to Excel, and open a new spreadsheet
18. Within Excel, click File then Open
19. Locate the saved xml file and open
20. The file will open in Excel with all requested data

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Thank you for your inquiry,

Helena
CEPI customer support

Avoid sending personally identifiable information by email. While you can send PIC or UIC numbers when necessary, do not include or attach student names, social security numbers, or other confidential information.

Please let us know how we're doing by completing a quick, anonymous survey about your experience with CEPI support, at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLBSJ7N.

The CEPI website includes links to security forms, application deadlines and other resources. If you have further questions, please email cepi@michigan.gov or call 517-335-0505 x3.

From: Liethen, Caroline (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:33 AM
To: CEPI <CEPI@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Flint Area Schools Request

Schools in the city of Flint. Thank you!

Caroline Liethen
Legislative Analyst

Office of Public and Governmental Affairs
Michigan Department of Education
Office: (517) 373-1948

Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education -- helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.

From: CEPI
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:15 AM
To: Liethen, Caroline (MDE) <LiethenC@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Flint Area Schools Request

Hi Caroline,

We can pull a mailing list for you with this information. Could you please specify what is meant by "Flint area"? We can search by county, city, or zip code, and we would need to know exactly which regions should be included in the search.

Thank you,

Helena
CEPI customer support

Avoid sending personally identifiable information by email. While you can send PIC or UIC numbers when necessary, do not include or attach student names, social security numbers, or other confidential information.

Please let us know how we're doing by completing a quick, anonymous survey about your experience with CEPI support, at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLB8J7N.

The CEPI website includes links to security forms, application deadlines and other resources. If you have further questions, please email cepi@michigan.gov or call 517-335-0505 x3.

From: Liethen, Caroline (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 3:49 PM
To: CEPI <CEPI@michigan.gov>
Subject: Flint Area Schools Request

Good Afternoon,

The Governor's office has requested a list of all schools in the Flint area including traditional public schools, public school academies, private, and parochial schools w/ addresses. Are you able to compile this list, please?

Thank you for your assistance!

Sincerely,

Caroline Liethen
Legislative Analyst
Office of Public and Governmental Affairs

Michigan Department of Education
Office: (517) 373-1948

Customer Service is a priority at the Michigan Department of Education – helping Michigan schools, families, and communities improve the achievement and well-being of ALL our children.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	StatusName	EntityTypeName	OriginalEntityCode	EntityOfficialName	ActualGradeList
2	Open-Active	PSA School	08721	Northridge Academy	KG, 1-8
3	Open-Active	PSA School	08732	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	KG,1-12
4	Open-Active	PSA School	08739	Linden Charter Academy	KG, 1-8
5	Open-Active	ISD Unique Education Provider	02658	Special Education Services-South	DevK, DevK-Part, KG, KG-Part, 1-5
6	Open-Active	ISD School	06156	Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center	DevK, DevK-Part, KG, KG-Part, 1-12
7	Open-Active	LEA School	07576	Mott Middle College High School	9-12
8	Open-Active	LEA School	05950	Accelerated Learning Academy	7-12
9	Open-Active	LEA School	03554	Southwestern Classical Academy	7-12
10	Open-Active	LEA School	02777	Northwestern High School	9-12
11	Open-Active	LEA School	03033	Pierce School	KG, KG-Part, 1-6
12	Open-Active	LEA School	03129	Doyle/Ryder School	KG-Part, 1-6
13	Open-Active	LEA School	03108	Potter School	KG,KG-Part,1-7
14	Open-Active	LEA School	02670	Neithercut Elementary School	KG-Part, 1-6
15	Open-Active	LEA School	01320	Freeman School	KG, KG-Part, 1-6
16	Open-Active	LEA School	01098	Eisenhower School	KG, KG-Part, 1-6
17	Open-Active	LEA School	00974	Durant Tuuri Mott School	KG-Part,1-7
18	Open-Active	LEA School	07710	Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth Alternative Education	6-12
19	Open-Active	LEA School	00980	Dye Elementary School	KG, KG-Part, 1-5
20	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	01220	The Learning Community	
21	Open-Active	LEA School	00031	Carman-Ainsworth Middle School	6-8
22	Open-Active	LEA School	03147	Randels Elementary School	KG, KG-Part, 1-5
23	Open-Active	LEA School	05009	Carman-Ainsworth High School	8-12
24	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	09054	Stalker Elementary	
25	Open-Active	LEA School	00949	Kate Dowdall Elementary School	KG,1-3
26	Open-Active	LEA School	01230	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	1, 4-5
27	Open-Active	LEA School	01993	Kearsley High School	9-12
28	Open-Active	LEA School	06282	Armstrong Middle School	6-8
29	Open-Active	LEA School	01543	Hamady Middle School	7-8
30	Open-Active	LEA School	06235	Hamady Community High School	9-12
31	Open-Active	LEA School	05928	Colonel Donald McMonagle Elementary School	KG,1-6
32	Open-Active	LEA Non-Instructional Ancillary Facility	09053	Carman-Ainsworth Service Center	
33	Open-Active	LEA Non-Instructional Ancillary Facility	09052	Carman-Ainsworth Transportation Building	
34	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	03956	St. Paul Lutheran School	KG-Part, 1-8
35	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	06022	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	9-12
36	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	06217	St. John Vianney School	KG-Part, 1-8
37	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	06603	First Flint SDA School	1-2,4-6,8
38	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	03991	St. Pius X School	KG-Part, 1-8
39	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	01737	Holy Rosary School	KG-Part, 1-8
40	Open-Active	Nonpublic School	05098	Fairhaven SDA School	1-2,4-8
41	Open-Active	State School	02548	Michigan School for the Deaf	KG, 1-12
42	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	08935	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	
43	Open-Active	PSA School	09305	Richfield Public School Academy	3-8
44	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	09347	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	KG
45	Open-Active	PSA School	09450	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	KG-Part,1-8

	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	ActualEducationalSettings	PhysicalAddress1	PhysicalAddress2	PhysicalCity	PhysicalState	PhysicalZip
2	Alt, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	530 W Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	485053114
3	GenEd,SpecEd	2820 SOUTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485035708
4	GenEd,SpecEd	3244 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485041753
5	PK,SpecEd,SpecEdCtPr	5089 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909
6	SpecEd,SpecEdCtPr	1493 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613
7	Alt, GenEd	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208
8	AdultEd, Alt	G2138 W. Carpenter Road		Flint	MI	485051977
9	Alt, GenEd	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425
10	21CCL, Alt, GenEd, SpecEd	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977
11	21CCL, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840
12	GenEd, PK, SpecEd	1040 NORTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485031736
13	21CCL, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010
14	21CCL, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507
15	21CCL, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	4001 OGEMA AVE		FLINT	MI	485072887
16	21CCL, Alt, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	1235 PERSHING ST		FLINT	MI	485033533
17	21CCL, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	1518 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046208
18	AdultEd, Alt	3493 Beveridge Rd # G		Flint	MI	48532
19	GenEd,SpecEd	1174 SOUTH GRAHAM RD		FLINT	MI	485323533
20	PK,SpecEd	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615
21	Alt, GenEd, SpecEd	1409 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613
22	GenEd,SpecEd	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006
23	Alt, GenEd, SpecEd	1300 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485322341
24	PK	3329 BURNELL AVE		FLINT	MI	485044303
25	GenEd,Alt	3333 SHILLELAGH DR		FLINT	MI	485062246
26	GenEd,Alt	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	485061714
27	GenEd,Alt	4302 UNDERHILL DR # G		FLINT	MI	485061534
28	Alt, GenEd	6161 HOPKINS RD # G		FLINT	MI	485061657
29	Alt, GenEd, SpecEd	3223 WEST CARPENTER RD # G		FLINT	MI	485041247
30	Alt, GenEd, SpecEd	3223 WEST CARPENTER RD # G		FLINT	MI	485041247
31	Alt, GenEd, PK, SpecEd	3484 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757
32		G3475 WEST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485324742
33		1409 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613
34	GenEd, PK	402 SOUTH BALLENGER HWY		FLINT	MI	485323637
35	GenEd	1505 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035002
36	GenEd, PK	2319 BAGLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485044613
37	GenEd	G4285 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	485322711
38	GenEd, PK	G3139 HOGARTH AVE		FLINT	MI	485325132
39	GenEd	5191 RICHFIELD RD		FLINT	MI	485062114
40	GenEd	G-1379 WEST LOUIS AVE		FLINT	MI	48505
41	PK, SpecEd	1235 W. COURT ST.		FLINT	MI	485035015
42	PK	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530
43	GenEd, PK, SpecEd	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642
44	GenEd, PK	G2138 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	485051977
45	Alt, GenEd, SpecEd	6170 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075954

	A	B	C	D	E
46	Open-Active	LEA Non-Instructional Ancillary Facility	09513	Coates Administration Center	
47	Open-Active	ISD School	09725	Special Services - North	KG,KG-Part,1-12
48	Open-Active	ISD Unique Education Provider	09765	Genesee ISD Transition Center	
49	Open-Active	LEA School	09774	Genesee Early College	9-12
50	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000041	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	
51	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000072	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	
52	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	82SC07500	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	
53	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000066	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	
54	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SPX0011	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	
55	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000018	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	
56	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SPX0006	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	
57	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000001	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	
58	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000038	MARY MCGEE	
59	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000060	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	
60	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	253300000	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	
61	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000016	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	
62	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SPX0003	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	
63	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250000058	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	
64	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SC04500	TALL PINE COUNCIL	
65	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	810000039	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	
66	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SPX0014	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	
67	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SPX0022	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	
68	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000070	Connexion, Incorporated	
69	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250008005	Genesee Valley Regional Center	
70	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250008002	Whaley Children's Center	
71	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000089	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	
72	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	25SPX0025	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	
73	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000160	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	
74	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	250005113	Flint Institute of Music	
75	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000204	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	
76	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000208	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	
77	Open-Active	PSA School	09947	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	KG,1-2
78	Open-Active	ISD Unique Education Provider	00055	Health, Safety and Nutrition Services	
79	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000250	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	
80	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000653	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	
81	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000662	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	
82	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990000918	Motherly Intercession	
83	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001001	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	
84	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001106	Positive Start Child and Development Center	
85	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001202	T-Care's Daycare	
86	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001218	Mott Community College	
87	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001417	village childcare Academy	
88	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001939	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	
89	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990001945	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	
90	Open-Active	PSA School	01402	The New Standard Academy	KG,1-8

	F	G	H	I	J	K
46		G5285 SUMMIT ST		FLINT	MI	485051328
47	SpecEd,SpecEdCtPr	2413 W Maple Ave		Flint	MI	485073429
48	SpecEd,SpecEdCtPr	3136 SOUTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485073004
49	Alt, GenEd, SchlChoice	2413 W Maple Ave		Flint	MI	48507
50		KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507
51		BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504
52		507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	485072404
53		2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221
54		ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507
55		MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532
56		5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521
57		930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519
58		MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505
59		3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184
60		1235 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035015
61		719 HARRISON ST		FLINT	MI	485021613
62		924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	485033620
63		DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	485070008
64		BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507
65		509 Harrison St		Flint	MI	485021715
66		4406 Lennon Rd		Flint	MI	485071029
67		6103 Eagle Ridge Ln		Flint	MI	485056740
68		1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923
69		4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342
70		1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312
71		925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701
72		817 EAST KEARSLEY ST	SUITE 3C	FLINT	MI	485032076
73		1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630
74		1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922
75		1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217
76		2015 Gold Ave		Flint	MI	485032133
77	BSAS, GenEd, PK, SchlChoice, SpecEd	4358 Richfield Rd		Flint	MI	485062016
78	BSAS, FamResCtr, PK	5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909
79		2400 N. Saginaw St.		Flint	MI	48505
80		2001 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	50479
81		642 E Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	51900
82		817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076
83		G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	485041894
84		3500 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042353
85		5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	485045002
86		1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089
87		G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532
88		6436 Bray Rd		Flint	MI	485051813
89		1185 E Foss Ave		Flint	MI	485052324
90	GenEd, PK, SpecEd	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505

	A	B	C	D	E
91	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990002480	Alpha Montessori School	
92	Open-Active	LEA School	01795	Gateway to College-Mott Community College	9-12
93	Open-Active	ISD Unique Education Provider	01804	Early On	
94	Open-Active	ISD Unique Education Provider	01810	Early On / Special Education	
95	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990002690	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	
96	Open-Active	PSA School	01751	Greater Heights Academy	KG,1-6
97	Open-Active	LEA School	01915	Academy West Alternative Education	6-12
98	Open-Active	LEA School	01916	Brownell STEM Academy	KG,1-2
99	Open-Active	LEA School	01917	Holmes STEM Academy	3-7
100	Open-Active	PSA School	01882	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	7-12
101	Open-Active	PSA School	02031	Genesee STEM Academy	KG,1-7
102	Open-Active	ISD Unique Education Provider	02258	Genesee Career Institute	11-12
103	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990004408	Eagles Nest Academy	
104	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990004592	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	
105	Open-Active	PSA School	02434	Eagle's Nest Academy	KG,1-4
106	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	02564	Genesee County Jail	9-12
107	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	02565	Genesee Valley Regional Center	5-12
108	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990004905	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	
109	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990005147	uniquely created children's center Llc	
110	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990005280	Genesee ISD Head Start	
111	Open-Active	Other Non-School Recipient	990005379	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	
112	Open-Active	LEA School	02745	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	5-8
113	Open-Active	LEA Unique Education Provider	02746	Beecher Adult Education Center	
114	Open-Active	LEA School	02790	Carman Park-Baker Career Academy	9-12
115	Open-Active	PSA Unique Education Provider	02801	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	DevK

	F	G	H	I	J	K
91		310 E 3rd St		Flint	MI	485021711
92	Alt,AdultEd	1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089
93	PK,SpecEd,SpecEdCtPr	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909
94	PK,SpecEd,SpecEdCtPr	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909
95		1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	485072211
96	GenEd, SpecEd	3196 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042330
97	AdultEd, Alt	3400 N Jennings Rd		Flint	MI	485041757
98	GenEd,PK	6302 Oxley Dr		Flint	MI	485041698
99	GenEd,PK	6602 Oxley Dr		Flint	MI	485041674
100	Alt	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076
101	GenEd, PK, SpecEd	310 W Oakley St		Flint	MI	485033915
102	GenEd	5081 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075999
103		5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084
104		519 S Saginaw St		Flint	MI	485021815
105	GenEd, SpecEd	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084
106	AdultEd, Alt, Locked	1002 S. Saginaw		Flint	MI	485021499
107	Alt,JuvDtn	4287 W. Pasadena Ave.		Flint	MI	485042342
108		915 S Dort Hwy		Flint	MI	485032800
109		2040 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	485051908
110		5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909
111		507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	48507
112	GenEd	G5159 Summit Street		Flint	MI	485051429
113	AdultEd	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485054831
114	GenEd	3375 Van Campen Rd		Flint	MI	48507
115	GenEd, PK, SpecEd	6103 Eagle Ridge Lane		Flint	MI	48505

From: Weiler, Bryan (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB);Karns, April (DTMB)
Subject: RE: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

No problem on the heat map. The OAG is currently doing an audit there and I believe have included Flint in their sample to test. I will double check.

From: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Weiler, Bryan (DTMB) <weilerb@michigan.gov>; Karns, April (DTMB) <KarnsA@michigan.gov>
Subject: Fwd: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.

I am thinking we should move this from the yellow into the red on our heat map for DEQ - just slightly up. (Reviewing that now)

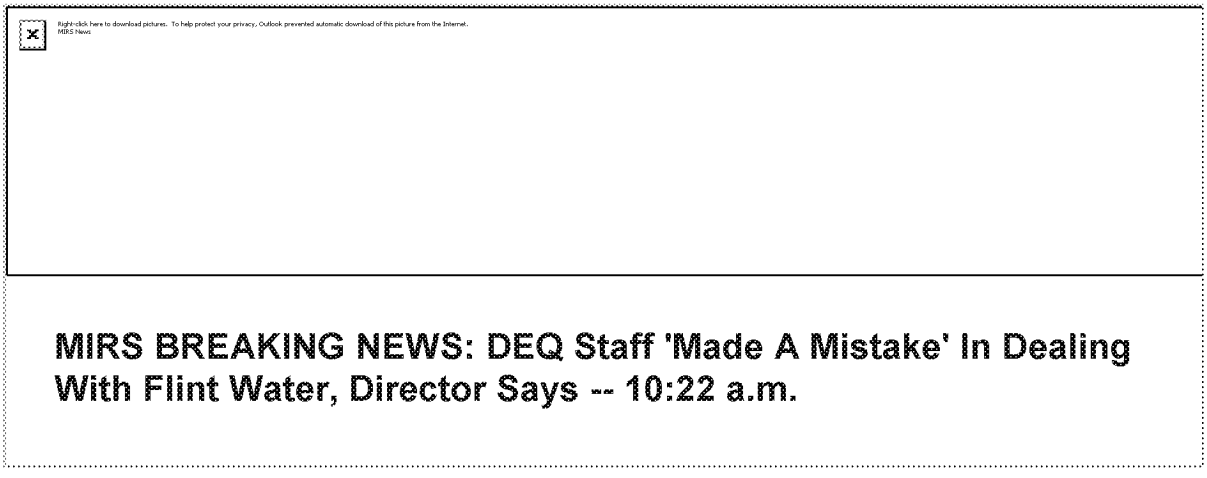
The positive is we categorized it correctly and addressed on the heat map as number 1.

Bryan - I think Doug indicated they may be doing something or will be doing - we have an OAG check mark (may be in process) or something will start - may be worth a quick call to see what they have planned so we can have an answer when asked.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
> **Date:** October 19, 2015 at 10:38:03 AM EDT
> **To:** <bankowskij@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: MIRS BREAKING NEWS: DEQ Staff 'Made A Mistake' In Dealing With Flint Water, Director Says -- 10:22 a.m.**



http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2112

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Dan **WYANT** today admitted staffers in his department mishandled the city of Flint's water situation, pointing to departmental issues with experience and protocol in corrosion control efforts.

Wyant said in a statement that staff used a federal protocol they believed was appropriate. Those testing steps "would have been correct for a city less than 50,000 people, but not for a city of nearly 100,000," he said.

In response to that finding, DEQ Chief Deputy Jim **SYGO** was named the interim chief of the department's Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance.

Wyant said he was convinced the staff involved in the program believed they were doing their job right, and that the state took appropriate steps once it became clear there could be a health threat to Flint residents.

"We are now embarked on an unprecedented effort to safeguard Flint residents and families with near-term, intermediate and long-term actions to protect and educate city residents," he said. "We will learn from this. We will make necessary changes to see to it that our program becomes a national leader in public health protection."

In addition to the staffing change, Gov. Rick **SNYDER** has reportedly called for an independent, third party after-action review. The department is also working with the federal government and is "committed to being part of the U.S. EPA's effort to strengthen its Lead and Copper Rule," Wyant said.

"All who brought this issue to the department deserve credit for bringing it forward," he added. "Lead is a serious issue, particularly for young people, and we take it seriously."

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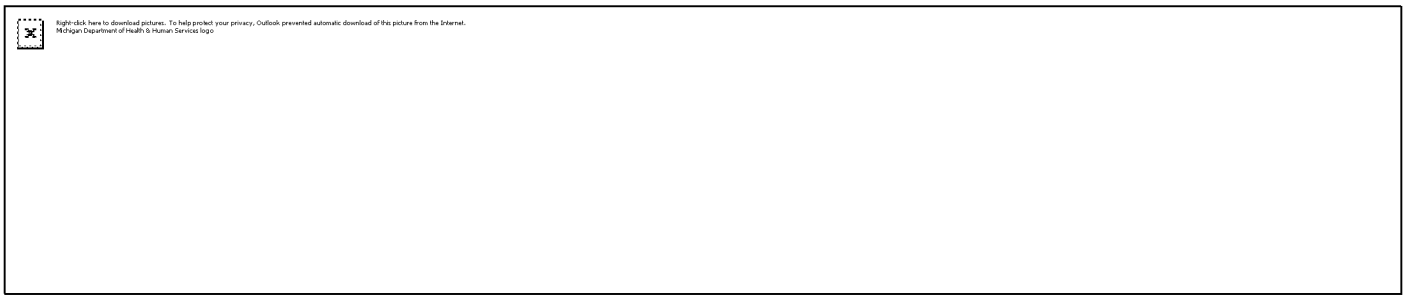
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 03, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Karns, April (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint; Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 3, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest data outlining blood lead levels in Flint

Follow-up care, case management resources continue for families

LANSING, Mich. – Preliminary data indicates that 30 of 1,361 adults and children tested in Flint since October 1 had elevated blood lead levels, according to a report issued today by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

This marks the first summary report on lead testing called for in the state's action plan related to health concerns about Flint's water infrastructure.

"Our goal is to help families reduce their exposure to lead sources," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We have made progress in testing and identifying those with elevated blood lead levels, and the department will continue to work closely with the Genesee County Health Department to reach these families. We will remain diligent in our ongoing outreach and education efforts."

Information comes from tests administered citywide to 1,361 children and adults since October 1. Tests showed that 21 of 969 children age 17 or younger and 9 of 392 adults over the age 18 were identified with elevated blood lead levels.

The report covers test results reported to MDHHS since the state action plan was put in place Oct. 2. It includes the number of tests and number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter, and captures both capillary and venous blood tests that have been

reported to MDHHS since the beginning of October. People who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Five micrograms per deciliter is the level that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers elevated and triggers health care professional follow up with families.

The full report is posted online at www.michigan.gov/flintwater and will be updated as more data becomes available.

When reviewing historical trend data, the risk of lead exposure is highest during the third quarter of each year – July through September. Seasonal variation is the result of a number of factors including increased exposure to lead in dust and soil in the summer months.

In the third quarter of 2010, 8.3 percent of Flint children 6 and under showed elevated blood lead levels. The figure gradually decreased to 4.1 percent in the third quarter of 2013. During the same months in 2014, the figure increased to 7.5 percent and decreased to 6.4 percent in the third quarter of 2015.

Last month, MDHHS collaborated with the county health department and local partners to distribute educational resources and informational letters to Flint parents regarding lead testing. The state is providing funding for GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level has been detected. During these follow-up visits, nurses coordinate with environmental health investigators to meet with families in their homes to identify lead exposures, address questions and provide water filters. People can be exposed to lead from paint, soil, plumbing and other sources.

MDHHS continues to provide free water filters and replacement cartridges to Flint residents at four locations, including the MDHHS Flint offices and the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

- Flint Blood Lead Level Summary Report December.pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release.pdf

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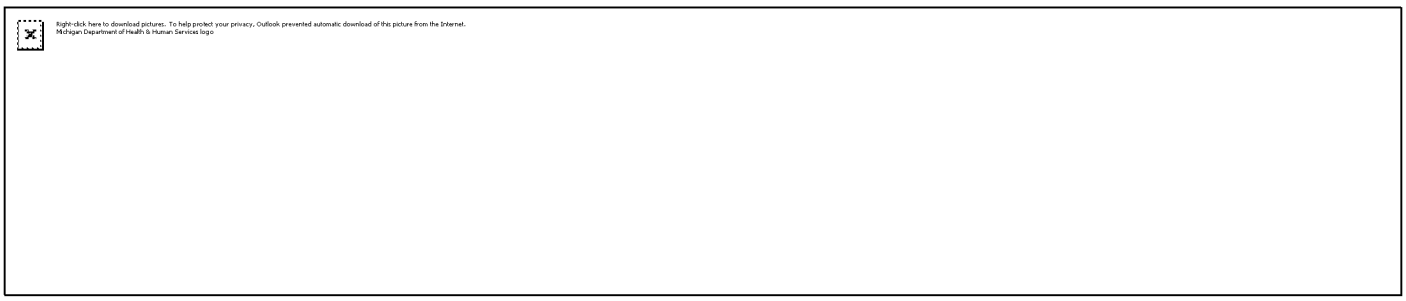
This email was sent to karnsa@michigan.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Michigan Dept of Health & Human Services · 235 S. Grand Ave W. · Lansing, MI 48909 · 1-855-275-6424

From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:02 PM
To: Karns, April (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 11, 2015

CONTACT: Jennifer Eisner, (517) 241-2112

MDHHS releases latest round of Flint blood lead level data

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its newest summary report on lead testing in Flint. According to preliminary data, 39 of 1,836 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"As testing continues, our focus remains on helping families reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "We are working closely with the Genesee County Health Department to provide information and offer tools in the community, and encourage families to explore the resources that are available to them."

Both capillary and venous blood tests are included in the report, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter.

MDHHS is working closely with local partners to offer resources and distribute important lead testing and prevention information. Additional state funding has allowed for Genesee County Health Department (GCHD) nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected. These families can also choose to have the nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other

sources.

To support these efforts, the state is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities on enhanced screening and testing. In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS has recommended blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are still available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

- Flint EBL Data Press Release Dec 11.pdf
- Flint Blood Testing Report December 11.pdf

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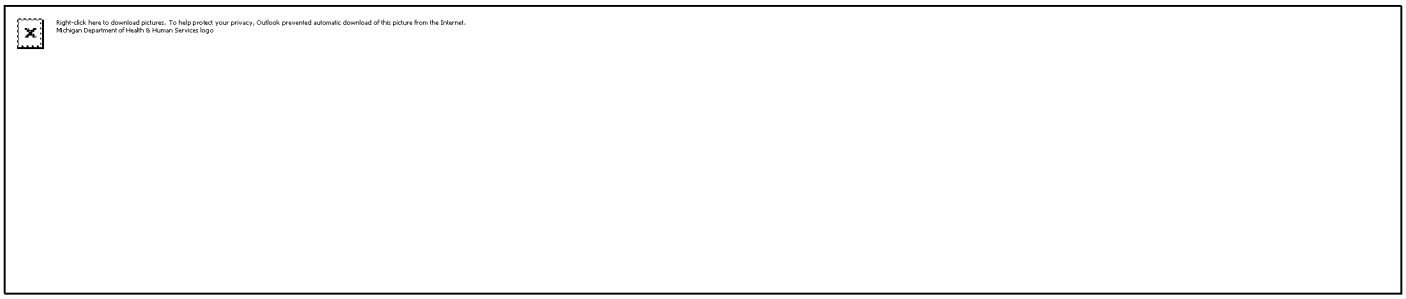
From: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services <MDHHS@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 3:01 PM
To: Karns, April (DTMB)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available



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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 23, 2015

CONTACT: Angela Minicuci, 517-241-2112

Updated summary report on Flint blood lead level data now available

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today issued its bi-weekly summary report on lead testing in Flint. Preliminary data indicate that 43 of 2,182 adults and children tested had elevated blood lead levels since Oct. 1.

"In partnership with the Genesee County Health Department, we are working to engage and provide resources to residents to reduce all potential exposures to lead," said Dr. Eden Wells, MDHHS chief medical executive. "Case management and home lead analysis are available for families in which an elevated blood lead level has been detected."

The first MDHHS summary report on blood lead levels in Flint was issued Dec. 3, 2015. Updated reports are posted on a bi-weekly basis on the www.michigan.gov/flintwater website. After refining our methods to identify age, some people are now counted in a different age group than on previous reports. The total counts for each year have not changed.

The report includes both capillary and venous blood tests, and people who have had multiple tests are counted only once. Tests and their results cover the time since the state action plan was put in place on Oct. 2, and capture the number of elevated blood lead levels greater than 5 micrograms

per deciliter.

MDHHS, together with the Genesee County Health Department (GCHD), is working with local partners to distribute educational information around lead testing and prevention. Supplemental state dollars are funding GCHD nurses to work with families when an elevated blood lead level is detected.

Families with an elevated blood lead level can also choose to have a nurse coordinate an environmental health investigation in their home to help identify lead exposures, which could be lead from paint, soil, plumbing, and other sources. Families with questions about their blood lead levels or test results are also encouraged to contact their primary care physician or local health department.

In addition to mandated testing at ages one and two for the Medicaid population, MDHHS is coordinating with its Medicaid health plans and provider communities to recommend blood lead testing for any child younger than six years of age in Flint who has not previously been tested. The state, in coordination with GCHD, developed and issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) notification for local providers to help ensure consistent messaging and protocols among primary care providers.

Free water filters and replacement cartridges are available to Flint residents. For a full list of locations and hours of distribution, or to view the full blood lead level report, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater. The summary will be updated as more data becomes available.

To help residents properly install water filters, and to demonstrate how to replace the original when it expires, MDHHS has created an instructional video on its YouTube channel. For this and other updates, visit www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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- Flint Blood Testing Report 23Dec15 .pdf
- Flint EBL Data Press Release 122315.pdf

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Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 8:42 AM

Phelps Bill Would Make Manipulating Data A Felony State employees who are caught manipulating data could be convicted of a felony under legislation Rep. Phil Phelps plans to introduce, he announced Monday.
Mr. Phelps (D-Flushing) said in a statement the legislation prevents government corruption by making it a felony for any state employee to knowingly manipulate data that would change the outcome of an official report. The felony would be punishable by up to five years in prison.
"As we began to comb through all of the facts surrounding Flint's water crisis it was frightening to learn that there were very few laws on our books that protect the public from potential government abuse such as data manipulation," Mr. Phelps said. "I am not sure if anyone involved in the Flint water crisis deliberately changed or removed critical data in state reports, but I am absolutely certain that it should be a crime if it did happen."
Mr. Phelps said he plans on introducing the legislation when the House resumes session next week.
"Protecting Michigan residents should be our highest priority, yet the Auditor General recently noted that potential bad actors in our government merely stand to lose their jobs, even if they put innocent lives in jeopardy," he said. "As elected leaders we must send out a signal to everyone letting them know that we will not tolerate this form of injustice."

April Karns, MPA
Audit Specialist
State Budget Office
Office of Internal Audit Services
(517) 241-1616
Karnsa@michigan.gov

From: The Center for Michigan <ajones@thecenterformichigan.ccsend.com> on behalf of The Center for Michigan <info@thecenterformichigan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 8:22 AM
To: Keller, Cindy (MDE)
Subject: Bridge: Pick right side of this county line and live six more years

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Issue #157 April 23, 2013

Divided by health

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Wayne and Washtenaw counties both have world-class medical facilities, yet the health gap between residents is the widest in the state, with a six-year-difference in life expectancy for men. A new study looks at health disparities across Michigan, and highlights the sometimes tenuous connection between health and health care.

Faces of Michigan

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At age 88, Avern Cohn could be living a slower pace. Instead, he still presides in a federal courtroom in Detroit with an irascibility and impatience for poor performance that he tries to temper with little sticky notes that remind him to let the occasional lawyer have the last word.

Can voting be cool?

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A citizens' group has formed in Detroit to convince more of its residents to register inside the city and vote in municipal elections despite high auto insurance rates and other barriers to civic participation.

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TO THE EDITOR:

"Bridge is a thoughtful and reputable publication from The Center for Michigan. They do exceptional work, especially on early childhood issues."

Mike Flanagan
State Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education

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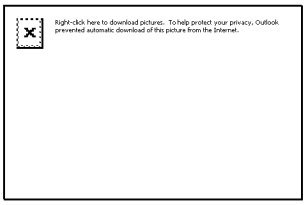
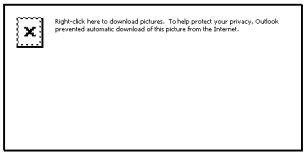
FOLLOW BRIDGE

Agema speaks GOP truth



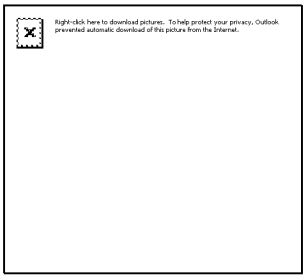
Michigan Republicans trying to silence Dave Agema's talk about the "filthy" homosexual lifestyle have sure changed their tune, notes Bridge columnist Peter Luke. Just a couple of years ago, they were lining up to back an Agema bill to codify anti-gay discrimination; a bill that's now Michigan law.

Land O Links



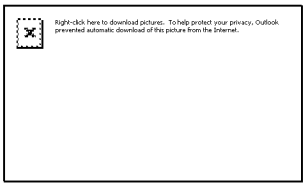
An answer to the question: Does Michigan own too much land? More people are discovering Michigan's charms. Is Florida's present a guide to Michigan's future on high school graduation rules?

Answers first, please



The Legislature is trying to expand the Education Achievement Authority even though that agency has rebuffed basic questions about its finances, argues Rep. Ellen Lipton in a Bridge guest commentary.

Nonprofits to rescue



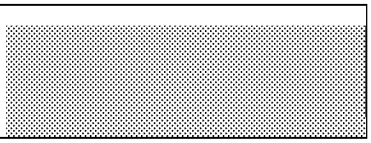
In Detroit and Flint, emergency managers trying to clean up the messes left by local politicians have the good fortune to find numerous allies in Michigan's nonprofit and philanthropic communities, writes CFM founder Phil Power in his weekly column.

Coming Thursday

Michigan's (un)chastity belt

A straight line of counties stretching across Michigan seek to [illegible]

ranks highly for sexually transmitted disease infections. Find out where Michigan's "(un)chastity belt" is and why experts say it exists.



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From: Morford, Sandy (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 9:51 AM
To: Boone, Philip (MDE);Rader, Glenda (MDE);Brooks, John (MDE);Suggitt, Gloria (MDE);Kolb, Jeff (MDE);Ciloski, Brian (MDE);Hayner, John (MDE);Urchike, Chad (MDE);May, Christopher (MDE);Keller, Cindy (DTMB)
Subject: FW: News to Know Today, 12-17-13

From: Head, David (MDE)
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 9:50:41 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Head, David (MDE)
Subject: News to Know Today, 12-17-13

GONGWER

Flanagan Hopes To Expand Reform Beyond EAA

Sometime after the first of the year, some schools will be moved from the authority of their home district to a reform entity, but where is still in some flux, Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan told Gongwer News Service in a recent interview.

Mr. Flanagan said he is still on track to move some schools that had "flatlined" out of their home district. He had hoped initially to keep that group to less than 10 schools, but now he said it will likely be something more than that, though he was not ready to disclose how many.

He acknowledged those who saw more than 10 as a substantial number, but said it is relative.

"It's only a handful out of 4,000," he said. "For the kids in that handful, it's serious."

And right now, those schools will likely go to the Education Achievement Authority.

"For now, the EAA is the only operating entity," he said. "I'd like to have ISDs and possibly school districts themselves and possibly some others."

Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan

He said he was disappointed that the House failed to concur in legislation (HB 4369*) that could have confirmed his authority both to look to the EAA to operate those schools and possibly to other entities, so he is now working to find the limits of current law.

Mr. Flanagan said he is consulting with the Department of Attorney General to determine if he has the authority to pass buildings through the School Reform/Redesign District to intermediate school districts or if the EAA is the only option.

To those who see the EAA as untested, Mr. Flanagan also agreed. "I get the common sense that (it is) not proven yet," he said.

But he also said much of the territory of trying to turn schools around is untested, including the ISDs where he would like to be able to send those schools.

"They're proven as ISDs, but they're not necessarily proven as turnaround agents," he said.

"On the other hand, these kids have been in schools for decades that there's no performance gains," he said. "The part that's proven where they are isn't working."

Mr. Flanagan said the state would have some additional data on the EAA and some observations on its effectiveness as early as the end of this school year.

He said there was much additional research to do. For instance, he agreed with opponents that the EAA has lost students since last school year. And he agreed with opponents that the loss could be the result of the EAA's program, though maybe a different part.

Opponents have in recent days hit the EAA for losing some 25 percent of its students (a charge EAA officials dispute), quoting parents who moved their students because the program in the schools was not effective.

Mr. Flanagan said he had heard instances where students moved because they did not want to be in school the number of days the EAA operates.

There is also still some fleshing out needed on the process of transferring schools, Mr. Flanagan said. "I definitely want this piece to be fair to the districts," he said.

A key missing piece, he said, is returning schools back to their home district. "I want to have a sense of how they would go back to their district, through law or if we have some way to do that," he said.

Mr. Flanagan also bristled at those who said he was playing politics with his announcement on moving schools to the reform district. The law, he said, required three years of data.

While technically the law would allow some schools to be transferred to the reform district now, Mr. Flanagan said he is waiting until next year to give a little more time to vet those that appear eligible.

"We want to get this right," he said. "This is very serious."

Though any school in the bottom 5 percent could be eligible, he said he is targeting the effort to those that have "flatlined". That will be more than 10 schools statewide, but he declined to put a number on it.

Districts should expect at some point to get those schools back, Mr. Flanagan said, but none involved should expect it to be a quick process. He noted that the auto industry started flagging in the 1970s. "How long did it take them to turn around?" he said. "They didn't have quality cars for at least a decade."

He also cautioned on making comparisons. "If we're 17th in math, we have to do better," he said of international score comparisons.

But some of those scores are the result of cultural advantages, he said. "Korean parents, it's just shown, are very much into outside tutoring," he said. "So how much of their gains is based on their system?"

And Mr. Flanagan said the state has been improving.

"I think we're in the right direction," he said. "ACT scores are going up; percent reading at grade level is going up. I mean this is incremental work, but it is going in the right direction."

Too many unfair comparisons, he said, can be demoralizing to the point that the best and brightest choose not to be teachers, he said.

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR: Mr. Flanagan also plans to next year work with others in the administration on a "Marshall Plan" for struggling schools.

"I do think it's about resources, targeted, not across the board, to schools that need them the most," he said.

Where those resources will be targeted is still under discussion, he said, with a schedule to announce the plan mid-year.

Some of the effort will be for deficit districts, helping them to get their budgets in balance.

Mr. Flanagan acknowledged a recent Citizens Research Council of Michigan report showing some of the state's efforts on deficit districts were essentially shifting that debt across the state. "I do know that's the math," he said, adding he was not entirely familiar with the issue.

Once the plan is ready, Mr. Flanagan said it will take selling both the Legislature, to put in additional funds, and the school community, to accept those funds.

He said state revenues are improving so there should be money available, and he is hoping for the same reception as he saw for the early childhood funding increases. There would definitely be sufficient resources if it adopted a sales tax on services as it should, he said.

But he said school districts would also have to be willing to accept funds with some substantial strings attached.

"Some say it should be across the board," he said of any funding increases. "We're not going to make the progress in the toughest schools if we do that.

"It's an issue of what's fair," he said, noting studies showing substantial numbers of students in some districts coming into kindergarten not knowing their letters and numbers. "You can't say to get those kids reading by third grade is the same foundation amount that it would be for a district where the kids come in having been read to."

The early childhood programs will help to resolve some of that, he said, but the program currently does not offer enough slots to fully resolve the issue.

Among the targets for the funds could be teacher salaries, he suggested. "I do think long term we need to think about supplementary compensation for teachers in the hardest places to teach," he said.

Mr. Flanagan said he still holds that teacher pay needs to be on par with engineers and other highly-educated, high-wage professions. While some districts have the funds to push those wages into six figures, he said many of the districts struggling most academically and financially do not.

As to overall increases in education spending, he said, "I'm just reluctant to jump on the resources bandwagon."

There is still room for districts to consolidate to save money, he said, pointing to Willow Run and Ypsilanti as a successful example. "It does take community thought," he said.

"If I was given the authority to draw the lines, there would be many fewer," he said.

The goal of consolidation, he said, is not necessarily closing schools, but is reducing administrative overhead.

He noted, for instance, Barry County has two school districts with about 4,000 total students. Those districts, he said, could be blended into districts in neighboring Kent and Calhoun counties, cutting administrative costs both at the district and ISD level.

On the other side, he pointed to the district around Tahquamenon Falls that has few students but is already geographically large.

The department will also be, over the next year, continuing its work on improving teacher training.

But he said professional development for those already in the field should be left to the ISDs, which he said are already doing that job well. He pointed particularly to Wayne Regional Educational Services Agency. "They've got a good system to get teachers up to speed," he said.

For those ISDs struggling in that area: "If they don't, they should consolidate."

Mr. Flanagan is also preparing to wind down his time as superintendent, expecting to retire from the post in July 2015.

That, he said, leaves the next year to push for some final initiatives, like the Marshall Plan, and six months in 2015 to tie up any loose ends.

He is also, though, hedging that he might have some new initiatives in those final months, though not of his own volition. "So who knows what's going to be handed to me," he said. "That's a new part of this job I didn't have the first couple of years, which is what's the New Year's surprise?"

He noted, for instance, that dissolving school districts was not one of his planned initiatives for the past year. Rather, it was an effort given to him by the Legislature.

READING: Mr. Flanagan also announced an effort to generate private donations to help with reading development.

"There are too many people, including children and adults, who cannot read," he said. "We need to change that. To help build a culture of reading in Michigan, we need to get books in their hands and in their homes."

The proposal would create a single system that would consolidate various donations toward providing children's books for low-income families.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan to coordinate donations to support reading

Education officials in Michigan are planning an effort to coordinate private donations to help build a culture of reading in the state.

The announcement comes from state Superintendent Mike Flanagan. He is embarking on an effort to coordinate a single system for individuals; businesses; and groups, clubs and civic organizations to contribute any amount for providing children's books to young readers in low-income homes.

Flanagan said in a statement that: "Building a reading culture in every corner of this state will build a stronger Michigan for generations."

Flanagan said the effort will help Michigan attain a goal of having all children proficient in reading by the end of the third grade.

FLINT JOURNAL

Gov. Rick Snyder answers questions about Flint's emergency manager, police, school deficits

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder sat down with The Flint Journal Editorial Board and reporters while he was in town for a major General Motors announcement Monday, Dec. 16.

Question: What can we expect from the state budget?

Gov: Snyder will have an announcement in early February about the state's budget to explain more in detail.

"I wouldn't expect to see any major reductions," he said.

Question: 50 Michigan school districts ended 2012-2013 fiscal year in deficit. Flint has a $10 million deficit. What are the plans moving forward with addressing those deficits? Will there be a state takeover in Flint schools"?

Governor: "(A state takeover is) a very objective process. ... There are districts that come on and off that list. The goal here is as the economy continues improving we'll see that reduced.

One of the things we want to do is work with the school districts more on tools that help them do good financial management before they get into the environment of potentially even needing an emergency manager. I think one thing you can see is that we might try and get enhanced resources either in education or treasury or both to say how can they work with a better early warning system better management system to give feedback to district to solve these issues now."

MLIVE.COM

Average Michigan teaching salary down over last 13 years after inflation

Brian Smith
The average salary for a public school teacher in Michigan has fallen by 8 percent when compared to salaries in 1999-2000, while the national average has fallen 1.5 percent over the same period.

The information comes from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, which tracked average teacher salaries across the country from as far back as the 1969-70 school year.

When converted to 2013 dollars, Michigan teachers were earning an average $67,148 in 1999-2000, compared to an actual average for 2012-2013 of $61,560.

The national average declined from $57,240 in 2013 dollars to $56,383 for the 2012-2013 school year, federal researchers said.

New York had the highest average salary at more than $75,000, while teachers in South Dakota were paid the least at $39.580.

The researcher who broke down the data, Jon Boeckenstedt of DePaul University in Chicago, has an interactive map on his website detailing the salary data.

BRIDGE MAGAZINE
OP-ED

Supporting Michigan's teachers and students

Sarah Lenhoff and Amber Arellano/Education Trust-Midwest in Royal Oak
Michigan's students have lost substantial ground over the last decade. Michigan has among the worst achievement gaps in the nation, and our state is not keeping up with the rest of the country – in achievement or improvement – according to new 2013 national assessment data. Indeed, that assessment found an astonishing 69 percent of Michigan's fourth graders cannot read on grade level.

Legislation being debated now in Lansing offers one possible solution to our state's tragically low performance: retain all third graders who are not proficient in reading and require them to repeat the grade.

An effort to boost early reading is noble – and needed. Students need to read proficiently in the fourth grade, when they begin to read to learn other subjects, such as math, science and social studies.

The question is: How do we do it to achieve the results that we want? We know from leading states around the country that a coherent, multifaceted strategy and investment are needed to meet the goal.

Florida is an important case in point. In 2002, Florida leaders passed legislation that would retain third graders who weren't proficient in reading, but they did so as they made investments and implemented a comprehensive strategy to improve learning. For example, by 2006, the state trained 56,000 teachers in research – based reading instruction in grades K-5. The state also placed retained students with high-performing teachers and built systems to identify those teachers, to ensure retained students actually got better teaching to help them catch up.

Florida also reprioritized around $80 million in state and federal funds to pay for this teacher training, plus reading diagnostic tests and summer literacy camps. Over time, it also has raised academic standards, installed a statewide educator support and evaluation system, and trained teachers on how to teach more rigorous, complex content.

Thankfully, Michigan is on track to implement two of the most proven, transformative strategies to raise achievement: the Common Core standards and an educator support and evaluation system. These new efforts are our state's best opportunity to raise not only third-grade reading levels but learning across grades.

We applaud the state leaders that have provided the leadership and commitment to see to it that Michigan implements these mutually reinforcing strategies. Now we encourage our state leaders to invest in this work.

Our new report highlights how Michigan can best do that over multiple years, given how budget-strapped the state is. It also provides a common-sense road map for implementing these strategies so that all teachers and students benefit, including in early grades.

Rigorous standards, aligned to the high-level skills required in college and in the 21st-century workplace, are new to Michigan teachers. They require dramatic shifts in instructional practices in the classroom. Teachers will need intensive support and training to meet them.

We also must commit to providing the training, data systems, and technical support that districts say they need to evaluate teachers accurately – and give educators the feedback and support they need to improve their practice.

Implementing these strategies first in the early grades makes good sense, and would build upon the preschool investment happening in Michigan. This strategy also would provide the proven, research-based support needed to raise third-grade proficiency rates.

Tennessee is among the states showing how these strategies, done right, can dramatically raise student learning. According to the new national assessment, Tennessee's students are seeing some of the highest growth nationwide.

That's remarkable, given how much Tennessee has struggled educationally in the past. How has Tennessee done it? It has invested in resources to train more than 35,000 educators and built an admirable teacher data, support and evaluation system to support educators on the higher standards.

The Michigan Department of Education is working to transform our teaching profession by raising the bar for teacher preparation programs and certification. While that is a worthwhile strategy, it's also a long-term one. Today's first-graders in Michigan will be in high school – or even raising children of their own – before such a strategy will pay dramatic dividends in learning. We need to improve both the preparation of future teachers and the practice of current teachers in Michigan's classrooms.

Now is the time to invest in our teachers – and ensure no Michigan teacher is left behind in the transition to tougher standards. In the coming weeks, we have an opportunity to begin making the investments and approve legislation that will put us on a responsible path toward educational improvement in our state.

Our students – and our teachers – deserve it, and desperately need it.

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

For career success, higher degree means higher earnings

Mike Wilkinson
The charts don't lie: If you want to have a decent shot at a decent living in Michigan, you must be prepared to sit in a classroom – virtual or otherwise – the rest of your life.

Standing still means falling behind – or just plain falling.

"All of my kids realize they have to be lifelong learners," said Allen Park High School counselor Stephanie Wollard.

The truth of that statement is in the numbers: The average pay for the most common jobs available to a Michigan high school graduate over the next decade is just $23,367. That's below the poverty line for a family of four.

But get a little more education and the picture improves markedly: a post-high school training certificate, like those given to welders and hairdressers, bumps pay to $31,212; for a two-year associate's degree, average pay in Michigan nearly doubles to $59,391. And if you have what it takes for a four-year degree, pay can zoom past $80,000.

It's not just about money: the risk of unemployment falls by nearly half for the college graduate compared with a high school graduate.

"The single most important thing is to get more educated," said Lou Glazer, President of Michigan Future Inc., an Ann Arbor-based nonprofit working to improve the state's economy.

Glazer is talking about what needs to happen in the state overall – increasing its college-educated talent supply. But he said it applies to the individual as well: Learn a skill, then learn some more. And be prepared to keep on learning.

"Either we get younger and better-educated or we get poorer," Glazer said. "That's the debate the state should be having."

Michigan falling short

But trouble looms, according to jobs projection data analyzed for Bridge. For every computer-related job in 2023, there will be seven others at the mall and the local diner. The state will remain dominated, numbers-wise, by low-paying retail and restaurant work.

Like Michigan, low-wage jobs in Minnesota are growing, said Glazer, who recently compared the two states and found Michigan trailing badly in important economic areas.

"But they're getting the high-wage job growth too and that's what Michigan needs," he said.

That's not to say there aren't good Michigan-based jobs: There will be an estimated 1,500 annual openings in computer fields through 2023. Yet Michigan's 15 public universities are producing just over 800 degree-holding computer nerds a year, though two-year programs help fill that gap.

In other fields, it's worse: There are, for instance, thousands of would-be journalists produced by state universities a year fighting for an estimated 350 jobs annually.

But if you want to become a personal financial manager, you're in luck: It's expected the state will need 2,400 of those every year yet only 1,500 are graduating from Michigan's public universities each spring.

"There are a number of mismatches," said James Jacobs, president of Macomb Community College and a national authority on tackling the jobs-education gap.

Macomb is working with the federal government and other community colleges to better prepare students for the world that exists, not the world they want to live in. It has meant working closely with employers and teaching the "foundational" skills that employers crave: An ability to communicate and work together, the talent to solve problems – equally important for the engineer and the electrician.

For a state with one of the lowest levels of educational attainment (translation: 35 other states have a greater percentage of people with a college degree), Michigan faces an uphill battle to alter the narrative that has seen the state's per-capita income ranking plummet from 18th in 2000 to 35th in 2012 (it fell a staggering 17 places – from 20th to 37th – in the six years before the recession officially began in 2007).

Those economic hard times forever altered the composition of the state's economy and Glazer and others have said the manufacturing jobs aren't coming back. The state has to find more diverse, knowledge-based industries to replace the one that had served the state so well for so long.

To do so will affect not only the 18-year-old who once never considered advance learning. Even those who choose college will have to change.

It's not enough to spend four years reading Fitzgerald and Chaucer and think some company will want your cultured brain. Now you have to buttress your Mensa membership with a few real-world skills.

Pushback on liberal arts

"In the '90s, in Michigan, if you had a smile and a degree, you had a job," said Troy Farley, director of career counseling at Grand Valley State University. "We kind of got spoiled."

Most employers no longer have time to turn the well-rounded student into a skill-based employee. And so the history major may have to trade that Early Colonial America class for Accounting 101, Farley said. Or the prospective finance whiz will have to do a stint as a bank teller rather than tend bar at the campus watering hole.

"Now they expect you to have skills by the time you start," Farley said.

That's forced university and college career centers to begin having what Farley calls "tough conversations" earlier in a student's academic career: They have to begin focusing on what will make them employable longer, far earlier. They cannot wait until the January before they graduate.

"It's changed the landscape of employment overnight," Farley said.

High school diploma won't cut it

That attitude has even pervaded high schools. After watching their parents and friends suffer through the recession, almost all Allen Park High School students now acknowledge, perhaps some grudgingly, that graduation day won't mark the last time they step foot in a classroom, said Wollard.

Just 10 years ago, some students talked openly about taking their diploma and heading off to Ford or U.S. Steel to "work the line."

"I don't ever hear that anymore," Wollard said.

Perhaps that attitude change is rooted in what teachers and counselors have long been saying. But it could also be a reflection of the world they've endured: The district has seen its free-and-reduced lunch population quadruple from 2002 to 2012 as families that once relied on steady manufacturing jobs have had to find other work.

On a field trip to the Ford truck plant, Wollard said students noticed that even the line workers are quasi-nerds, using computers, not just hydraulic wrenches.

"The way jobs get cut, who gets the jobs that are left on the line?" Wollard asked. Then she answered her own question: "The guys who got more training."

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Michigan's Christmas Carol: A scary look at our jobs outlook

Ron French
This is not a holiday story Gov. Rick Snyder wants to read to his children.

Continued shrinking of the state's famed middle-class factory jobs. Fast-growing occupations that pay so little, workers may qualify for food stamps. Job growth that ranks 49th in the nation.

It's less Christmas joy and more "A Christmas Carol."

Bridge Magazine economic projections paint a Scrooge-like portrait of the state economy over the coming decade. But that's just one possible future. In the Charles Dickens story, Scrooge is scared enough to change his ways.

Is Michigan prepared to change?

It won't be easy. For Snyder and other state leaders, it means facing some uncomfortable truths about Michigan's future, and taking steps that might not always be popular in the short run. More money for education, starting with toddlers' first steps and continuing until they walk across a stage with a college diploma. More money to repair and

replace our crumbling roads and bridges over which new business and new residents must travel. More of a willingness to invest in the present, to stave off a Dickensian future.

"I'm afraid that's the direction Michigan is heading," warns University of Michigan economist Don Grimes, "toward a poor, old state."

It doesn't have to be, if leaders view these dire job projections as a wakeup call.

To conduct the analysis, Bridge used projections made by Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., in Idaho, based on federal Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics data. That analysis projects about 266,000 jobs added to the Michigan economy by 2023. That's a growth rate of about 6 percent over 10 years, compared to a projected growth for the rest of the country of 11.4 percent.

Michigan ranks 49th in projected job growth, beating out only Maine. (That's actually an improvement for Michigan, which ranked 50th in job growth over the past decade.)

Just being average in job growth would make a major difference. If Michigan added jobs at just the national average over the next 10 years, residents would have 245,000 more jobs to pick from than projected. If the state had a growth rate half way between neighboring Ohio and Indiana (7.6 percent and 12 percent, respectively) Michigan would have 148,000 additional jobs.

Michigan has a bigger hole to climb out of than most states. It lost a higher percentage of jobs in the past decade than any other state. Even with jobs now growing in the state, Michigan likely will still have fewer in 2023 (4,591,000) than it did in 2003 (4,614,000).

If growth is indeed that slow, it will do little to attack Michigan's unemployment rate of 9 percent, which is third-highest in the nation.

One more Scrooge-like number: There will be fewer new jobs created in Michigan in the next 10 years (266,000) than Michigan residents who are now unemployed (423,000).

Pay going in the wrong direction

And many of those new jobs are projected to come with smaller paychecks. Five of the seven projected fastest-growing occupations offer salaries that might qualify workers for food stamps. The average salary of occupations projected to shrink is $22.16 per hour; growing occupations pay an average of $19.56 an hour.

Newly created jobs aren't the only ones available – workers retire, die or leave the workforce. About 1,465,000 Michigan openings are projected in the coming decade. But with new workers entering the job market every year from high school and college, as well as residents re-entering the workforce, those openings alone won't be enough to boost the state's economy.

"Even with retirements, you're not going to have enough jobs," said Larry Good, chairman of the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce. "This is a very stagnant picture. The big challenge is, what do you do to change this picture?"

Changing the storyline

Charles Ballard is familiar with doctor visits that end with warnings: Exercise and eat better, or you're going to pay for it later.

The Michigan State University economics professor looks at job projections for Michigan and can hear a physician's voice in his ear. If you're Michigan, Ballard said, "You can hope your doctor is wrong, or you can climb on the treadmill and stop eating Fritos and dip."

What that treadmill looks like depends on who you ask.

To Ballard, it includes investment in roads and schools. And by investment, he means taxes.

"Tax cuts have overwhelmed all other policies for the past 20 years," Ballard said. "You certainly don't want to raise taxes and throw the money away. Nobody loves to pay taxes. But I'd be willing to pay more taxes for better roads.

"The expansion of early childhood (education), that's one success. Education and fixing roads and bridges are very important in positioning ourselves for economic growth. But we have continued to have massive disinvestment in higher education."

Making higher education more affordable is one of the keys to improving Michigan's fate, said Gilda Jacobs, president of the Michigan League for Public Policy, along with "raising the minimum wage (and) restoring the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit."

U-M's Grimes argues that Michigan must do whatever it takes to increase the percentage of adults who have college degrees. Michigan gets a lot of kids to college, but it does poorly in getting them to complete college.

If Michigan is going to avoid becoming a poor state, it needs to increase college completion rates for its home-grown students, and find a way to attract college-educated adults to the state.

Snyder and the Legislature should explore tax policies to lure the educated here, Grimes said.

"It would put them (Michigan) on the map. That kind of policy would attract attention."

Michigan had the fifth-largest net loss of college students in 2012, with more than 8,000 more college-educated moving to other states than moving here. "Essentially, no one's moving in," Grimes said.

Business Leaders for Michigan has advocated for investment in higher education as a means to help the state stay competitive. More education generally means fatter paychecks and lower unemployment.

Bridge's job projections for Michigan back that up. The occupation with the most openings in the next decade for workers with a high school diploma or less is retail sales, with an average salary of $11.96 an hour; the most common job opening for Michiganders with a two-year associate's degree is registered nurse, with an average salary of $31.12.

"If Michigan is going to be competitive for business investment and job creation, we cannot ignore the fact that Michigan is looking at a severe talent shortage," BLM President Doug Rothwell said earlier this year.

"Michigan has a weak track record over the past decade or so which is negatively influencing long-term forecasts," Rothwell said last week. "But it doesn't have to be that way. Business Leaders for Michigan projects that we could grow as many as 500,000 new jobs over the next decade by growing our life science, natural resource, automotive, engineering, logistics and higher education assets," Rothwell told Bridge last week. "The key is to take actions now that change the growth trajectory for the future."

Goodbye assembly line, hello health care

An unchanged trajectory would mean that good-paying factory jobs, the bread and butter of Michigan's economy for generations, will continue to dwindle. Manufacturing as a whole is projected to lose 30,000 jobs in the state – the

equivalent of a busload of workers leaving a plant every week for 10 years. Automobile and light-duty manufacturing is expected to take the biggest hit – losing 12,000 jobs, or about a third of the Michigan workforce.

Meanwhile, jobs in the health care industry are expected to explode. Workers servicing the elderly are projected to double, and home health care workers will increase by 38 percent, and registered nurses increase by 16,000, up 18 percent.

Unfortunately, workers in some of those growing jobs, such as home health aides, earn little more than fast food workers. "About 40 percent of direct-care workers are on some kind of public assistance," said Hollis Turnham, Midwest director for PHI-Michigan, an advocacy group that works with workers and consumers of home health care. "We need these occupations, but they're very low-wage and low-benefit."

A happy ending?

Not everyone believes Michigan's future is as dark as a Dickens novel. University of Michigan economist George Fulton says models constructed by the school's Research Seminar on Quantitative Analysis projects a comparatively robust jobs growth of 1.6 percent per year over the next three years (more than twice the annual growth rate projected by Bridge's analysis).

He points out that Michigan was fourth in the nation in job growth between 2010 and 2012. The 80,000 jobs projected to be gained in 2013 will be the third-highest in Michigan since 1996. Fulton agrees that there will be rapid growth in low-paying jobs, but he also sees pockets of hope in some high-education, high-pay jobs, such as engineering and accounting.

"I find that really encouraging," Fulton said. "Things may not go gangbusters the next few years, but I'd describe it as solid growth."

That growth won't happen with the turn of a storybook page. It will take hard decisions in the Capitol, says Ballard.

For the story to have a happy ending will likely require some drama in earlier chapters. Ballard is blunt: "We're going to raise your taxes to build better roads," the economist said. "We're going to raise your taxes to have better schools."

Is Michigan ready to change?

"We have to figure out how to accelerate job development, and grow the right kinds of jobs," said Good. "If we don't, Michigan either becomes a less populated state or a poorer state."

MICHIGAN RADIO

How are 'Common Core' standards playing out in Michigan classrooms today?

Back in 2010, the State Board of Education approved the Common Core State Standards for Michigan — a set of math and English goals for K-12 students.

School districts across the state have spent the past three years integrating the standards into their curricula. At the same time, we've heard a lot of political debate about Common Core, mostly about the involvement of the federal government in our classrooms.

But in October of this year, state lawmakers OK'd funding for Common Core, and now it is becoming a reality in Michigan classrooms.

We wanted to find out: What does this mean — day-in, day-out — for Michigan's students?

What does a school year under Common Core really look like?

Joining us is Naomi Norman, the executive director of Achievement Initiatives at Washtenaw Intermediate School District and Livingston Educational Service Agency.

Listen to the full interview : http://cpa.ds.npr.org/michigan/audio/2013/12/CommonCoreforAIR.mp3

ASSOCIATED PRESS

More Michigan kids qualify for food aid, report says

A report by a private foundation says the percentage of young Michigan children qualifying for federal food assistance has jumped in recent years.

The annual Kids Count in Michigan project says more than one in three qualified for nutritional help in 2012. That's up 53% from 2005.

Jane Zehnder-Merrell of the Michigan League for Public Policy says it shows that effects of the recession are continuing even though the economic downturn officially ended years ago.

The study documented a 34% rise in child poverty between 2005 and 2011, while the number of children in families investigated for possible abuse and neglect last year was highest in 22 years.

Among recommendations in the report are boosting the earned income tax credit, the minimum wage and the child care subsidy.

MIRS

Wimmer To Head Michigan CACFP Affairs

The Association for Child Development (ACD), a sponsor of the U.S Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), announced today that Billie Kops WIMMER will head up Michigan's CACFP affairs.

In this role, Wimmer will oversee ACD assistance to child care providers in serving nutritious food to children in their care and to provide nutrition education for child care personnel.

DETROIT NEWS

Grosse Pointe Farms parents say their kids denied 'equal education'

Jennifer Chambers and Candice Williams
Graduation rates are in the mid-90s at both high schools in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

North High and South High are both highly rated schools with numerous Advanced Placement and foreign language offerings.

But a group of families in Grosse Pointe Farms, one of Michigan's most affluent communities, feels it is being shortchanged. The families want the district to move their children from North High to South High, claiming their kids have been denied "equal access" to "equal education."

In seeking a transfer to South, the parents have cited the landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, which outlawed restricting black students to "separate but equal" public schools.

But a majority of the seven-member school board said at a Monday night meeting they didn't intend to change boundaries that have been in place for 45 years to accommodate a few families.

At North High, 26.7 percent of the students are African-American, compared with 12 percent at South.

In the Grosse Pointe school district, 76.78 percent of students are white and 17 percent are African-American. More than half of the households in Grosse Pointe Farms have an annual income of $100,000 or more, and 95 percent are white, according to U.S. Census data.

Kurt Strehlke, a father of three and resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, is part of "Unite the Farms," the group asking the school board to redraw the district's boundary lines to allow children residing in the area of Grosse Pointe Farms north of Moross between Chalfonte and Mack to be redistricted to South High.

Most Farms children who attend his son's middle school — Brownell — are forced to attend South. A few — maybe 10 students a year, including his son— must go to North, Strehlke said.

"Ninety percent of our neighbors' kids attend South," he said. "We want them to go to South because it's who you grew up with."

District Superintendent Thomas Harwood said the district is aware of the residents' request. "We believe there is no difference between the schools. They both provide quality education," he said.

Strehlke said he does not agree with the district, which says South is at capacity with 1,712 students. North has 1,327 students and is not at capacity.

"We think it's a funding issue," Strehlke said.

In a letter to the school board last month, Karen Strehlke asked for a hearing by Dec. 16 on the group's request. Attached was a petition signed by more than 250 Farms residents calling for the district border change.

The petition, titled "SEPARATE IS NOT EQUAL — UNITE THE FARMS," says the affected residents receive "a different treatment relative to the rest of the Farms" because their children can't enroll at South.

Harwood said the board denied the group's request for a public hearing, but the district has scheduled a meeting with parents and administrators.

Harwood said he doesn't think Brown v. Board is relevant to the parents' claims. "We don't think there are violations of constitutional rights," he said.

Several parents spoke during the board's public comment period Monday night and favored maintaining the district's boundaries. Shifting the lines would only teach children to be afraid of change, said Bharani Yerramaloi, whose 14-year-old daughter attends North High.

At least four school board members said Monday night they wouldn't change the district boundaries, while two said they would consider it.

“Nothing has changed within the community that suggests we need to change the boundaries,” said board member Lois Valente.

Board Vice President Daniel Roeske said the district has had the same “open district” policy for 45 years that allows students to transfer from one high school to another — if space is available. Last school year, transfers from North to South and from South to North occurred, Roeske said, but he didn’t know how many. The district does not participate in the state Schools of Choice program, which allows transfers between districts.

But board member Tom Jakubiec said he would consider redistricting for family convenience.

An email sent to parents on Wednesday by the North Parents Club stated “the UtF group has deepened a wound that so many Grosse Pointe citizens have spent countless years trying to mend — the idea that there is or should be a ‘more perfect’ educational options, for a privileged few.”

Strehlke said it is not a race issue. “Their whole peer group is South,” he said. “... It’s about going to school with whom you grew up with.”

From: Morford, Sandy (MDE)
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2014 10:54 AM
To: Boone, Philip (MDE);Rader, Glenda (MDE);Brooks, John (MDE);Suggitt, Gloria (MDE);Kolb, Jeff (MDE);Ciloski, Brian (MDE);Hayner, John (MDE);Urchike, Chad (MDE);May, Christopher (MDE);Keller, Cindy (DTMB)
Subject: FW: News to Know Today, 7-10-14

From: Head, David (MDE)
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2014 10:53:29 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Head, David (MDE)
Subject: News to Know Today, 7-10-14

MLIVE.COM
COLUMN

Michigan state superintendent puts laser focus on making charter school authorizers transparent
Tim Skubick
Mike Flanagan means business. Last February, the state school superintendent convened a private meeting of charter school authorizers. These are the outfits that research and then license charter schools around the state. Mr. Flanagan was picking up soundings that there was "trouble in River City."

As the meeting unfolded, he discovered he was right and it had nothing to do with young boys playing in the pool hall.

While noting that "most of the authorizers are measuring up," there are some that apparently are not. The concern around the table was, if this is not corrected, it could hurt everyone in the room.

He says the issue is transparency or the lack of same.

Five months later and this time prompted by an in-depth series in the Detroit Free Press that raised a number of charter challenges, Mr. Flanagan issued an edict: Authorizers, clean up your act or you will lose the right to create any more charter schools.

"The transparency issue is something we need to get better at and if we find that they don't measure up with appropriate transparency, than I'll make sure they can't offer more charters."

Mr.Flanagan expects to take the next three months to do his due diligence and then he advises, "within six months" he may lower the boom if it is warranted.

Will he give those authorizers a second chance before the boom goes boom?

"Probably not."

Asked why he did not move earlier before the newspaper spread, he reports he was busy with "other fish to fry" as the legislature was battling the school community on Smarter Balance testing. A battle the school superintendent lost.

So now he's fully engaged. He will not be judge and jury of what may be going wrong, but he wants to implement standards that the authorizers will enforce with their charter school clients. And if that doesn't weed out the bad apples, if there are any, he'll take it from there.

"This is on a fast track," he says.

For the players in the charter game, the anxiety meter has gone up another notch.

MICHIGAN RADIO

Michigan's superintendent predicts institutions will lose authority to create charter schools

Jake Neher
The statement comes a day after state Superintendent of Schools Mike Flanagan said he's ready to use his authority to revoke that ability from charter school authorizers. That's if they fail to meet new standards for transparency set by state education officials.
Flanagan says he met with authorizers in February about issues involving charters. He says he's not convinced all of them will be able to meet the new, tougher standards.
"If I had to guess, just because of the candor at the February meeting, there's probably some that we won't extend their ability," Flanagan said Tuesday. "But I don't want to pre-judge that too much. That's only hearing the anecdotal stuff."
"I probably shouldn't speculate, but I'm just saying – out of, whatever is it, 30-some authorizers – everything being equal, there may be some that haven't met those standards," he said. "And then, I wouldn't hesitate at all to say that's it, you can't charter any more schools."
But Flanagan says he's still leaving it up to authorizers to actively monitor their charter schools, instead of cracking down on the schools directly.
"I don't see myself judging whether or not those are appropriate – for instance, leases – but I think they need to be transparent so that the authorizers know about it and then they should judge it," he said.
Flanagan is also urging state lawmakers to pass tougher transparency requirements for charter school operators.
A spokesperson for state Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, says he's having discussions with staff about ways to address some of the issues brought up in the Free Press series. Democrats in the Legislature have already introduced bills to ban for-profit charters, and plan to introduce legislation to increase transparency after lawmakers return from their summer break.

DETROIT NEWS
COLUMN

Michigan schools still largely mediocre
Ingrid Jacques
When students leave their high schools behind, they should be able to face their first college classes with confidence.

While the latest test results can't perfectly predict how well students will do after high school, the scores can shed light on overall school performance trends. And they aren't great.

The test scores from the Michigan Merit Exam, given to all high school juniors each spring, along with the ACT college entrance exam, do show some progress.

"There is some improvement over time," says Sarah Lenhoff, director of policy and research at Michigan's Education Trust-Midwest.

But the gains are slow and somewhat mixed, and the overall percentage of students prepared for college fell slightly to 17.8 percent this year.

That college readiness standard is fairly tough, with students having to meet benchmarks in four subjects: English, reading, math and science. And Michigan is one of only a few states that gives the ACT to all high school students.

But more students should be up to the challenge, especially when an increasing number of jobs require some higher education. At four Metro Detroit school districts — Ecorse, Highland Park, River Rouge and Westwood — not a single one of the students who took the MME and ACT exams did well enough to be considered ready for college.

Statewide, large achievement gaps exist among African-American, Latino and low-income students. The Education Trust-Midwest has shown a 27.6 percentage point gap in math proficiency between African-American students and white students; only 6 percent of African-American students are proficient in math.

Many students from all parts of the state continue to struggle in some subjects, especially science and math.

Less than 29 percent of students scored proficient in science and math on the Merit Exam; fewer hit that target on the ACT.

In a statement, Gov. Rick Snyder said it's his mission to make sure students "have the rigorous education they need to be successful." And Education Department officials credited the state's strong Michigan Merit Curriculum with some of the improved test results.

So it's ironic that Snyder recently signed legislation that ultimately allows more students to graduate without taking some of the tougher math and science courses — clearly the state's weakest performance areas.

It's obvious many schools around the state are struggling academically. Yet the same day the test scores were announced, State Superintendent Mike Flanagan chose to single out one type of public school, releasing another statement concerning his plans to crack down on charter school authorizers that aren't meeting quality expectations.

"We are getting serious about quality choices for Michigan students," Flanagan said.

That should be the goal, but all schools deserve the same level of scrutiny. Charter schools only educate about 10 percent of students in the state. Flanagan should follow the lead of the authorizers that have closed 88 charter schools, many for academic failure. Not one traditional public school has been shut down for poor academic performance.

With less than one in five high school grads ready for college, that should change.

ANN ARBOR INDEPENDENT

Revamped Michigan eLibrary Offers More for Adults and Kids to Access Information

IT'S AN UNAPOLOGETIC bookworm, a hit at trivia games, a great homework helper and its memory is lightning-fast.Even if you've never met, you soon may find yourself basking in its boundless knowledge and 24/7 stamina.
Meet the new and improved MeL – Michigan eLibrary – now available at http://mel.org, on a computer, tablet, or smartphone screen near you.
Part of the Library of Michigan, the state's official digital library got a comprehensive makeover to go with a faster "discovery" search engine. The goal was to make MeL more user-friendly.
"MeL has a fantastic new look and feel, along with increased availability of its discover search service on the homepages of MeL and Michigana, which houses the state digital history collections," said State Superintendent Mike Flanagan.
"The MeL homepage search box provides access to MeLCat, the shared statewide catalog and interloan service for more than 425 libraries statewide."

MeL's homepage search feature also accesses selected MeL subscription eResources or databases, Michigan Online Resources for Educators (M.O.R.E.) curricular content, and digital Michigan history projects. Using the search box on the Michigana homepage, http://mel.org/michigana, users can access digital history collections.
Additionally, both the Kids and Teens gateways were redesigned. At MeL Kids, http://mel.org/kids, new mascot, "Brookie," and pal, "ReadIt," introduce young MeL users to resources aimed at helping them become engaged readers. MeL Teens, http://mel.org/teens, meanwhile, includes resources aimed at helping teens with school assignments, preparing for college or career.
"MeL Teens prepares Michigan teens for when life happens," said State Librarian Randy Riley. "I think teens will agree the site is simply cool."
LM, http://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan, and Midwest Collaborative for Library Services, http://mcls.org, partnered on the MeL redesign for more than a year. They worked with Innovative Interfaces Inc., EBSCO EDS and Strudell Studios. "This collaboration resulted in remarkable new functionality for MeL." Riley said. "We're now able to offer easy access to a wide array of eResources from the search box on the homepage. And, as always, the resources and information found in MeL are available at no cost to all Michigan residents."
MeL includes subscription eResources such as eBooks, full-text articles, test prep and vetted subject-specific websites. MeL may be accessed from home, school, office or all Michigan public libraries.

LIVINGSTON DAILY PRESS & ARGUS
EDITORIAL

Low college readiness causes concern
It is past time for Michigan's citizens and policymakers to acknowledge the crisis looming in the state's future: The state's public schools are failing to educate the next generation of Michiganders.

An abundance of poorly educated workers won't attract employers, potentially hindering job opportunities even for the better educated who choose to live here. It's time to make K-12 education a top priority.

As much as the machinery of government (the Legislature, the state Department of Education) continues to work on improvements, results are lagging. Test results released Monday continue an alarming trend. While many districts saw at least slight improvements in some numbers over last year, overall lackluster results point to a serious situation needing more attention and action.

Statewide on the Michigan Merit Exam, 40 percent of 11th-graders were not proficient in reading. Nearly 50 percent were not proficient in writing. Furthermore, a stunning 70 percent were not proficient in math or science — two subjects that anchor STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), the four disciplines that are critical in the knowledge economy and thus essential for future economic prosperity.

A decade ago, the Cherry Commission was charged with creating strategies to double the number of college graduates in Michigan. Yet statewide, 82 percent of some 100,000 11th-graders who took the ACT as part of the Michigan Merit Exam were not considered ready for college work. Indeed, a Detroit Free Press review of Monday's data release showed some 200 Michigan schools (including both traditional schools and charter schools) had no students considered college-ready by the standards of the ACT. Not one.

Michigan citizens, state Board of Education members, the Department of Education, the governor, the Legislature, business and civic leaders — all need to make K-12 student achievement a higher priority. Pulling Michigan out of the recession won't mean much if the state fails to educate a competent work force for the future.

FLINT JOURNAL
OP-ED

Flint schools committed to transparency, turnaround so students can compete for jobs
Interim Superintendent Larry Watkins, Flint Community Schools
Flint Community Schools is on a path to turning things around and building a new future for our children and our community.
The challenges our schools face are among the most daunting in Michigan. At the same time, our commitment to resolving our academic, financial and other challenges is equal to the task.
Our journey to rebuild Flint schools so our students can learn and teachers can teach starts with transparency and openness. We will hold ourselves accountable. We expect our community – and watchdogs like The Flint Journal – to keep us under a microscope because Flint schools' No. 1 mission is to serve the families of this community and make sure we can compete for 21st century jobs.
At my direction, we have put in place a new financial team, under the leadership of Chief Financial Officer Richard Carpenter. This team is made up of people with experience serving as CFOs themselves, with the background and knowledge to design and implement a successful finance department, internal control structure and budget.
I directed this team to look into FCS' finances again because I suspected things were being overlooked or misread. In mid-June, this new team began their work. In just two weeks of round-the-clock work, we found errors that indicated FCS' deficit was greater than we had earlier projected for the 2013-2014 school year.
At the same time, because of their expertise, this team also found a surplus of nearly $4 million in grants for the 2014-2015 school year.

We are reforming Flint schools now because business as usual is no longer acceptable.
We are confident our team can tackle our shortfall responsibly and complete a deficit elimination plan, as required by law, that can get our schools and our students on a path to success.
We are reforming Flint schools now because business as usual is no longer acceptable. Our financial deficit is growing. Our student population is shrinking. Achievement lags the rest of the state. And our community is demanding change.
If we don't reform FCS now, one of our region's greatest assets – our public schools – will be in freefall, unable to reverse the downward spiral that will affect Flint for generations.
That's why we must act now. And we need the community to help us and point out areas where we can and must do better. If we made mistakes, we intend to fix them. In many cases, we have.
I'm a proud product of Flint Community Schools. My four daughters are graduates of Flint schools. When I took the job of interim superintendent, I knew two things: That I would fight tirelessly to turn things around for the school district that I love, and that this job – our job – would not be easy.
For the first time in a long time, all of us – administrators, parents, teachers, students, businesses, community advocates and others – are coming together to build Flint schools for the future.
This time, we are turning words into action and we will turn Flint schools around so our children can learn and succeed.

FLINT JOURNAL

Flint School District considers outsourcing contract for substitutes, others at special meeting
Dominic Adams
The Flint School District could save nearly $319,000 per year if the school board approves a contract with a Burton-based company to outsource substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, clerical workers, safety advocates and athletic coaches during a special meeting on Wednesday, July 9.
Professional Educational Services Group will allow the Flint School District to cut two “sub-finder managers” for an annual savings of $130,000 and nearly $189,000 in savings from benefits and pensions for substitutes, according to an executive summary provided to The Flint Journal by board member David Davenport.
The Flint School District expects to save a total of $318,713 per year. Currently, the district spends over $800,000 in substitute wages and benefits, the summary said.
“This is part of our effort to right-size our school district to continue to work on our deficit elimination plan,” said Interim Superintendent Larry Watkins. “It helps us with our legacy costs. One of our goals with the outsourcing is we’re hopeful that we can bring back some of our employees.”
The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. and is at the district’s administrative building, 923 E. Kearsley St.

Other agenda items include a session closed to the public to discuss a legal opinion regarding the debt with the Genesee Intermediate School District, a litigation update and superintendent's performance review.
Flint schools deficit has grown by $20.4 million in seven months, according to district officials. The Flint School District had a plan to erase a $10.4 million deficit by June 30, 2018, before revealing the increased deficit last month.

The district has until July 31 to submit an updated deficit elimination plan to the Michigan Department of Education.
The GISD filed a lawsuit on Tuesday, July 8, over $8.6 million in millage money meant for vocational education that the GISD claims Flint misspent.

"The GISD has done what they're supposed to – I'm not mad at them," said school board Trustee David Davenport. "The July 31 deadline is coming around the corner. What else are we going to cut? I think the state is going to send in a financial review team."
The MDE won't tell the district what to put in its deficit elimination plan, but just wants to make sure that the plan is doable.
"I think a lot of it is, 'Can the district develop a deficit elimination plan that is viable?' If they can't, then we look at the options in (Public Act) 436," Martin Ackley, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Education, previously said. "We want to give school districts every chance to resolve their situation."

FLINT JOURNAL

Genesee Intermediate School District sues Flint schools over disputed $8.6 million in misspent tax money for skill center

Dominic Adams
The Genesee Intermediate School District is suing Flint schools over $8.6 million in countywide tax money that was meant for vocational education, but auditors said was improperly spent on general operations.
GISD Superintendent Lisa Hagel said she's tried in good faith for over a year to reach an agreement for repayment from the Flint School District for the funds meant for the Genesee Area Skill Center, but nothing has come to fruition.
Meanwhile, the Flint School District's deficit has grown to $20.4 million, not including the debt to the GISD.
Flint schools Interim Superintendent Larry Watkins disputes the $8.6 million figure, but did not specify the amount the Flint School District owes the GISD.
"I'm not surprised," Watkins said when told about the lawsuit by The Flint Journal. "We have been negotiating with the GISD and our board attorney was still in process and we had not come to an agreement."
He said he's still hopeful the two districts can come to an agreement.
"I disagree with the number and since you indicated a lawsuit has been filed, I guess the matter will be handled through the courts," he said. "I was hoping we could sit down as two educational entities to come to a resolution of the matter."
Flint schools didn't include the money owed to the GISD as part of its deficit in its last audit, and said the Michigan Department of Education has allowed both sides to negotiate repayment.
But Hagel said the GISD has grown skeptical that discussions between the two districts will be productive. She said negotiations or discussions about the funds have occurred every couple of weeks for more than a year.
"Flint's getting deeper in deficit and we're feeling like the county is never going to recover the money unless we step up," Hagel said. "When we realized that Flint is not really making effort or progress on paying down the deficit, it became evident that we had to do something because having faith that we can resolve this isn't going anywhere."
The lawsuit was filed in Genesee County Circuit Court on Tuesday, July 8, but was not available at the Genesee County Clerk's Office Wednesday morning, July 9.

Twenty superintendents from school districts throughout Genesee County have signed letters to the GISD in support of its efforts to recoup the millage money.
The skill center was the first countywide vocational school in the state when the GISD established it in the 1960s. At the time, ISDs weren't legally allowed to operate a vocational school, so the GISD sought out the county's biggest district -- the Flint School District -- for help.

Taxpayers in Genesee County pay a property tax of nearly 1 mill for operation of the countywide vocational school, which was under the umbrella of the Flint School District. Thousands of students over the years have learned skills such as auto repair, carpentry and architecture at the skill center.
Flint no longer operates the Genesee Area Skill Center and sold the facility to the GISD last year for $2.5 million. The GISD had terminated its contract with Flint to operate the skill center when the GISD learned of the misspending from auditors.

Hagel said the GISD claims that for about six years, Flint had been reducing the skill center's operating budget by about $1.5 million per year and Flint then used that countywide millage money as part of its general operations.
A special meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 9, at the Flint School District's administrative office. A closed session was scheduled to discuss a legal opinion regarding the GISD debt.

Flint's interim superintendent said he did not know how the GISD's lawsuit could affect Flint's deficit elimination plan, a document required by the state from districts that have budget deficits. The Flint School District has until July 31 to revise and resubmit its deficit elimination plan to the state education department because its deficit has grown.
State education department officials could not be immediately reached for comment.
"If they go further in deficit, we're not going to take any more chances here," Hagel said. "They've changed (chief financial officers) four times and every time they change CFOs it's like a stall tactic. It just comes to a point where it's enough.
"Whatever happens to Flint, we don't want to lose that money – by putting a stake in the sand, that lets it be known we do expect repayment."
Flint School Board President Isaiah Oliver issued an emailed statement to The Flint Journal regarding the lawsuit.
"When the financial advisers determined that (Flint Community Schools) had made substantial excess cash contributions to the operations of the Genesee Area Skill Center over several years, which had not been properly accounted for in the past, FCS provided this information to the GISD," he said. "Unfortunately, the GISD was not willing to consider such excess cash contributions by FCS to the Genesee Area Skill Center, and efforts by the parties to resolve the dispute, without judicial involvement, were not successful."
Hagel said Flint schools didn't provide adequate records to support the Flint School District's claim that it paid skill center employees out of the general fund on different occasions.
"Our legal department has been asking for months – give us anything that would show that," Hagel said. "We can't even get to a number. It's just getting worse."
The GISD has said Flint also owes the GISD an additional $4 million for contracted services. A Flint schools spokesman said at the time that conversations about those funds were ongoing.

FLINT JOURNAL

Flint schools educating parents on Common Core, as poll says 47 percent of people haven't heard of new standards

Dominic Adams
Officials with the Flint School District are working to ensure that teachers, administrators and parents understand the Common Core State Standards that have been adopted in Michigan.

The district approved a new education plan last month, which also outlines how the district will align to the common core, which are standards that ensure students learn the necessary skills at each grade level to be prepared for college or a career after high school.

In June, a poll from MSN/Wall Street Journal found that 47 percent of the 1,000 people questioned had never heard of the common core standards.

"Parents received CCSS updates at monthly district and building level meetings," Shamarion Grace, acting executive director of curriculum and instruction for Flint schools, wrote in an email to The Flint Journal. "They received strategies to use with their children at home to prepare them for the content of the CCSS."

The district said it is implementing the new standards into the curriculum:

- Elementary/secondary English language arts and math curriculum are aligned to the Common Core State Standards.
- Administrators/teachers are receiving ongoing professional development on how to teach the CCSS aligned curriculum.
- Administrators/teachers took the CCSS practice tests to heighten their awareness of the content of the CCSS curriculum.
- Some buildings and students participated in the pilot tests aligned to the CCSS.

Here is a parent's guide to the standards from the National Parent Teachers' Association.

MLIVE.COM

Be Nice: West Michigan mental health group takes anti-bullying initiative national
Monica Scott
The Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan is taking its "Be Nice" initiative national, recently unveiling a curriculum schools across the country can utilize for bullying prevention at the National Education Association's EXPO in Denver, CO.

Forty West Michigan school districts have taken part in the foundation's anti-bullying initiative, Be Nice, and "Live Laugh Love: Educating Youth about Mental Health Program," a comprehensive mental health curriculum taught in classrooms.

"We've been doing Be Nice for three years successfully here and it's time to take the program outside of West Michigan because it's all about saving and changing lives," said Christy Buck, executive director of the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan about the launch July 1 and 2 with educators.

Buck said their booth got a lot of traffic from educators across the country interested in lesson plans and relevant topics to address what students are experiencing with bullying and depression. She said their staff dedicated the past year to taking the program national, including the $1,500 kits, promoted in Denver.

Sixth grade student Summer Catron, 11, works on making a poster in class as part of the school's 'Be Nice Day' at Timberland Charter Academy on February 13, 2012. The school day schedule was adjusted for students to focus on promoting anti-bullying activities. MLive File Photo

The kit includes, an age appropriate curriculum (elementary, middle and high school) with multiple lessons, 30 T-shirts for the student and/or staff leadership team (more can be purchased for $5), 30 wristbands, 30 lanyards, and online access to the beniceonline.com website that features additional curriculum information, webinars, blogs and videos.

"This curriculum is full out mental health based, going back to how we treat people and how that affects how people think, act and feel," Buck said. "We are talking about this because people are dying and how you treat someone can trigger depression. You can't just say stop bullying."

Buck said there are a lot of programs and initiatives for districts to choose from, but there's is unique and proven. She said she is optimistic they will begin introducing more of the country to Be Nice.

"Every day you can affect someone's life," she said.

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Emergency manager or emperor? Why Michigan's law stirs contempt

Chastity Pratt Dawsey

Flint has gone through a state takeover of its finances twice now. The city's emergency manager knows he must handle power differently this time.

When the state's first emergency takeover of Flint ended in 2004, the elected officials who returned to power quickly replaced the department heads who had worked with the state to balance the city's budget.

Flint's finances would soon again suffer the stress of low revenues and higher spending. So in 2011, the state took over Flint's busted budget – again.

Darnell Earley is now the state-appointed emergency manager, working from the same office he used when he was the city administrator in Flint during the first state takeover.

Flint cannot afford to fail again. It could lead to bankruptcy, Earley warns. Knowing this, he has started to engage the city's elected officials in the city's transition plan before his term ends next April. It is not easy. Many still view him as the state's henchman, the enemy. On July 1, he transferred the day-to-day operations of the Planning and Development and Public Works departments to the elected mayor, while retaining final say. The city council, meanwhile, has started regular meetings that take on policy issues just as any city council would do.

Earley said easing the elected officials into power will help sustain the city's positive financial course once he's gone. The key, Earley said, is making sure that the people in charge after the emergency manager leaves aren't so sore about the process that they interfere with recovery.

"If we're going to fix this thing and going to remain solvent, they are going to have to deal with some things – learn to ride without training wheels," Earley said of Flint's elected leaders. "Everyone should be thinking, 'How do we avoid going down this road again?'…"You want them at the table, but you don't want them to flip over the table."

Earley may be onto something, according to a study by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

While Michigan's aggressive emergency manager law is mired in litigation and some acrimony, other states – notably, North Carolina and Rhode Island – have succeeded with more proactive and inclusive approaches in distressed cities. Experts say Michigan should pay more attention to monitoring fragile cities before they are in crisis and, if emergency intervention is needed, give local leaders a role in the path toward recovery.

"The reason why some (receiverships) succeed and others don't, I believe is if you don't have buy-in it'll never get through it," said James Spiotto, a municipal bankruptcy expert and co-author of "Municipalities in Distress?: How States and Investors Deal with Local Government Financial Emergencies."

"Nobody likes being told what to do from on high. It has to be on the city because they're the ones who will have to live with it."

"The reason why some (receiverships) succeed and others don't, I believe, is if you don't have buy-in it'll never get through it. Nobody likes being told what to do from on high." – James Spiotto, a municipal bankruptcy expert.

Two years ago, only a half dozen Michigan cities and school districts were being managed by the state. But the number is growing as more cities face hard times and the state puts its new law to work. Today, 17 are in some phase of receivership, with the governor appointing an emergency manager for Lincoln Park just last week.

Nationwide, at least 23 states have laws that allow them to intervene with municipalities and schools that fall into financial pits, according to Spiotto's research. They allow for everything from debt supervision to receivership and bankruptcy filing. None of those laws are considered to give as much unbridled power to a state-appointed financial overseer as the law Gov. Rick Snyder successfully pushed through. Michigan's law gives EM's near-total power to reshape union contracts, sideline elected officials and sell city assets.

A racial component

And with big power comes big controversy.

In Michigan, there is an unmistakable racial cast to the raw feelings engendered by the EM law, with civil rights groups contending African-American communities have been disproportionately targeted for intervention.

The Detroit Branch and Michigan State Conference NAACP chapters filed a federal lawsuit to repeal the Michigan emergency manager law, Public Act 436, calling it a violation of voting rights because elected officials are stripped of

authority when the state appoints an emergency manager. U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes denied the NAACP challenge last fall, saying it would disrupt the Detroit bankruptcy case if Detroit's EM were to be removed.
The NAACP filed an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. No hearing has been scheduled, said Chui Karega, an attorney for the NAACP.
The NAACP and many of the critics of Michigan's law note that state-appointed emergency managers now control the budgets in municipalities where a majority of the state's African Americans live, including Detroit.
Karega also noted that Michigan residents voted down the emergency manager law by ballot referendum in 2012, only for the legislature and governor to approve another emergency manager law weeks later.
"Michigan citizens should be making decisions about their future and not a single dictator – that's what an emergency manager is, a dictator," Karega said. "The voice of the people ought to be heard. The governor and legislature should listen to the people."
It's beyond dispute that Michigan communities under state control are poor and predominantly black. But Gov. Snyder and Republican legislative leaders have said the law was motivated by a desire help, not control, chronically financially struggling cities and the people who live there.
"There has to be a culture of (knowing) there isn't an endless pot of money. You can't fix it with people with the same mindset as the people who were there in the first place." – Veteran EM Lou Schimmel, on the limits of involving local officials.
Sen. Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair Township, sponsor of the emergency manager law (Public Act 436), added that while protestors and litigants feel they are looking out for their best interests, the state has to step in to protect taxpayers across Michigan when a city or school district can't pay its bills.
"We really need to think about what's best financially," he said.
Sara Wurfel, spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Snyder, defended the state's actions, saying the extreme nature of financial emergencies dictates state intervention in a municipality, not the skin color of its residents.
"The communities or schools currently with an EM or going through part of the process are because of financial facts and crises, not because of the makeup of their populations," she said.
Nationwide, almost every recent financial emergency can be traced to a one-time blow or a structural problem that worsened over time such as the disaster in Detroit, said Stephen Fehr, a researcher for the Pew Charitable Trusts. State officials should provide technical assistance – in addition to warnings – when signs of stress surface, instead of waiting until distress sets in.
"Our big take away: good monitoring upfront," Fehr said.
Experts cite North Carolina as a model for financial monitoring to prevent crisis.
The North Carolina way – An ounce of prevention
After the Great Depression, so many local governments were in or near bankruptcy in North Carolina that the state created a powerful agency – the Local Government Commission. The commission monitors finances of cities and towns, requires a minimum 8% fund balance cushion in municipal budgets, and makes onsite visits to cities and districts.
The commission's close attention to local financial health has resulted in communities there getting bond ratings higher than most in the U.S.
"Other states have formal and informal tools to assist local governments, but none has the same reach as North Carolina's Commission which imposes budget controls and advises troubled communities," according the Pew study.
Rob Shepherd, manager of member relations and education for the North Carolina League of Municipalities, said some local government staff and elected officials view the commission negatively because of its oversight role. If problems occur, the commission can take over the spending for a city and act as finance officer until the financial issues have been corrected.
In 2012, for example, the commission rejected the town of Navassa's request to seek a loan to complete a sewer project. The state instead insisted that the town first address a budget gap.
Pew calls North Carolina's system "relatively trouble-free," noting that the state is one of only eight nationally with a top bond grade from all three credit rating agencies. It is a testament to how proactive monitoring can avoid problems down the road, said Fehr, the Pew researcher.
The commission provides "a tremendous benefit to North Carolina local governments and the citizens of North Carolina that is often underappreciated or goes unnoticed until there is a problem," added Shepherd, of that state's municipal league.

Wurfel, Snyder's spokeswoman, said the governor has taken steps toward better monitoring to prevent emergencies. In late 2012, an Office of Fiscal Responsibility was created within the treasury department to help local hits of government. Snyder also signed bills last year that created temporary work groups tasked with identifying early warning signs to stem crises.

"Treasury has beefed up their proactive work on this front – from staff who can and do work with local units on budgeting and accounting best practices in municipal finance," Wurfel said. "But we believe still more work is necessary on these fronts."

In Rhode Island, a 5-year plan

Central Falls, R.I., a tiny, poor, congested little town of 19,000 near Providence, had a debt of $21 million when it zoomed in and out of a state takeover and municipal bankruptcy. It was the quickest municipal bankruptcy in the nation, ending in 2012 after 13 months.

Hard feelings were part of the entire process.

"The town council, mayor, state senators and reps were basically opposed to some unelected person coming in from outside the city who assumes all powers of the elected officials and displaced them, and goes about firing their friends and closing the library and the senior center all because the city can't afford it," said Robert Flanders, a former state supreme court justice who was the state-appointed receiver in Central Falls.

The local elected officials lost their authority during the receivership and bankruptcy.

Like other cities operating under a state takeover, the state pushed to get Central Falls' employees and retirees to cut their pay. In bankruptcy, the city pushed to cut retirees' payments by over 50%. Bondholders faced no cuts because the state had passed a law protecting bondholders if a municipality filed bankruptcy.

But the discord did not logjam the Central Falls process because the state emphasized negotiation over confrontation.

After the bankruptcy ended, an oversight board was appointed to monitor the city's five-year budget.

Limiting the oversight board's powers to five years was welcomed by locally elected politicians who resent the oversight process, Flanders said. "The politics is the hardest part," Flanders said. "There are no guarantees. Ultimately if you live in a democracy, you have to depend on elected officials to do the right thing."

Local buy-in or bust

Spiotto, the municipal turnaround expert, said state takeovers will fail – municipalities will revert to oversepnding or a state will be stuck in an oversight role in perpetuity – unless local officials and experts have a hand in crafting a recovery.

Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 436, the 2012 law that re-established emergency managers after voters struck down the prior emergency manager law. The new law allows for a transition advisory board, or TAB, to be appointed to monitor and approve local elected officials' decisions after the emergency manager leaves.

The TAB is similar to the oversight board in Rhode Island and control boards that have operated in cities such as in New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. By Michigan law, a TAB serves until the governor determines the municipality is out of the woods and dismisses the board.

A TAB (or the financial review board that will soon monitor the City of Detroit), should truly act as an advisor, not an emperor, and allow city officials to do the work, said Spiotto, managing director at Chapman Strategic Advisors in Chicago.

If the city officials take part in crafting a recovery plan, they have skin in the game. If the state dictates too much, the pitch and fever of politics will sap progress, Spiotto said.

As has certainly been the case in Michigan, Pew's research shows state takeovers are "often viewed as a usurping of local democracy because unelected state officials make decisions usually left up to local mayors and councils."

Pew urges states to "design interventions to involve all stakeholders in discussions, to be transparent with financial information, and to return control to local officials quickly. This promotes better cooperation between all concerned parties as a local government recovers from a crisis."

Inclusion in Allen Park

Joyce Parker, who has served as emergency manager over Highland Park schools, the city Ecorse and the city of Allen Park, near Detroit, agrees.

Since Parker took over Allen Park in 2012, she has attended the city council meetings, provided written updates and held a retreat with the council about operations.

Her goal?

"When I transition out, they're ready to step in," she said.
Parker said she has recruited locals to serve voluntarily on an advisory panel and act as a liaison between the community and the emergency manager.
Cheryl Stan, finance director of Cass Community Social Services, a nonprofit organization, is on Parker's volunteer advisory committee. Stan said there's two camps in the city of 28,000. One faction believes the state takeover was the best thing that could've happened because the city couldn't get itself together. The other believes the process is part of The Evil Empire.
Even with a team of resident advisors, the state takeover period is not all kumbaya and olive branches. A regular band of critics and dissenters attend public meetings, Stan said.
A transition advisory board will ultimately oversee Allen Park's finances after Parker leaves, a process that Stan says she backs. "I think without a transition group there are a lot of people that would forget all of the lessons we learned this time around," she said
But locals must be a part of that team, she said. "If you don't have some local voice in that transition committee, then it's going to make it harder to get things done," Stan said. "You give the opponents the perfect soap box."
Cooperation, not chaos
In 1986, a circuit court named Lou Schimmel receiver for Ecorse. In 2000, he became emergency financial manager over Hamtramck's budget. Both cities required a second round of state oversight since he left.
Who is to blame for the cities' reversals is subject to debate. Was it local officials undoing the cost-cutting reforms Schimmel enacted? Or the other factors at play – a flagging Michigan economy, perhaps? A drop in tax revenues? Increased municipal health care and retirement costs that are bedeviling communities across Michigan? Or maybe it was the state's cutback in revenue sharing?
Whatever the cause, Schimmel was not left wanting for work. In 2011, he was appointed emergency manager in Pontiac. Schimmel said that while it's important to include local officials in turnaround plans, having too many divisive locals can cause in-fighting, dragging out the recovery. Schimmel should know. A native of Pontiac, he is now on the Pontiac transition advisory board.
"It's all about management," Schimmel said. "There has to be a culture of (knowing) there's isn't an endless pot of money."

EDUCATION WEEK

President Obama Asks Teachers for Help With Ed. Policy. What Did They Tell Him?

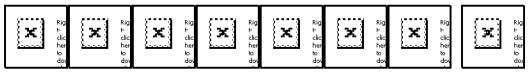
Alyson Klein
What if you got a chance to sit down with the president of the United States and the secretary of education over lunch and tell them where you think the nation is going wrong—and right—when it comes to K-12 policy?
Four teachers—all of whom have spent at least a decade teaching at high-need schools, many in the same communities that they grew up in—got the opportunity to do just that on Monday. So what did they tell President Barack Obama and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan? And what was it like to eat at the White House?

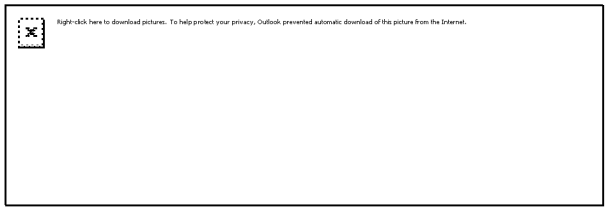
To find out, I spoke with two of the teachers—Justin Minkel, a second grade teacher in Springdale, Ark., and Dwight Davis, who teaches 5th grade in Washington, D.C. Minkel was the 2007 Arkansas Teacher of the Year, and he blogs for Education Week, over at Teaching for Triumph: Reflections of a 21st Century ELL Teacher. And Davis is a teaching policy fellow with Teach Plus.
First things first. What was for lunch?
Not school cafeteria fare. Grilled salmon with green peas, a watermelon and feta salad, cobbler with ginger ice cream and lemonade. Minkel thought he'd be too nervous to eat, but he managed. Both gave the food—and the "free flowing discussion" two thumbs up.
What did President Obama want to know?
Obama's first question had to do with the teachers and their backgrounds: Why had they continued to work with needy populations for their entire careers, and what can the federal government do to help support more teachers who want to work with disadvantaged kids, and stay in those jobs for the long haul?

And what did the teachers tell him?
Some of the toughest parts of being a teacher aren't what people expect. They include having to cope with bureaucracy, and not having as much as autonomy as other proven professionals, Minkel said. "It's not the kids that are keeping teachers from low-income schools," he added.

President Obama also asked for suggestions on how to improve the profession. What did the teachers recommend?
They want more time to collaborate with each other, and the opportunity to feel like they have more say over what goes on in their own classrooms. And Minkel wanted the president and secretary—who have presided over the biggest shift in the federal role in teacher evaluation in recent history—to know that there aren't really "good teachers and bad teachers" so much as "good teaching and bad teaching." Only a "small minority of teachers don't care about kids," he said.
Many teachers are concerned about the overuse of standardized testing. Did that come up?
Yes! In fact, the president himself asked the teachers if there is too much testing. Davis told him that he thinks some types of assessments can be really beneficial to both students and teachers, allowing kids to gauge their own progress and making it possible for teachers to pinpoint students' weaknesses. "I believe students want to be assessed," Davis said.
But some tests don't provide that kind of information. "All I get is averages," Davis said. "All I get is assessment for the sake of assessment."
What did else they talk about?
Their students, and even their own children. Obama talked about his daughters and their educations. Minkel told the president about how he started a program to build home libraries for students in his class. He saw a dramatic improvement in their reading abilities, particularly for one child whose parents aren't native English speakers, she read at home to her mother and her younger sister. And Davis told him about his practice of choosing culturally relevant texts his students can relate to. (He's a big fan of Thank You, Mr. Falker, about a struggling reader.)
A cynical reporter who writes a blog about education policy and politics in Washington would say the president and secretary choose to have lunch with teachers to send a message to folks who have questioned the direction of federal K-12 policy, or maybe even called for Duncan's resignation. Did Davis and Minkel ever feel like props?
This drew an emphatic no, from both teachers. "If we were props, [President Obama] would have just stuck to his talking points," Davis said. "He sat back and he literally listened." Minkel had a similar take. "I thought of it as genuine," he said. "His questions were so thoughtful. They were respectful."

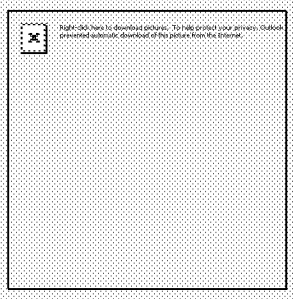
From: Bridge Magazine <ajones@thecenterformichigan.ccsend.com> on behalf of Bridge Magazine <info@thecenterformichigan.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Keller, Cindy (DTMB)
Subject: What is the state's role in Flint's water fiasco?





News & Analysis from The Center for Michigan

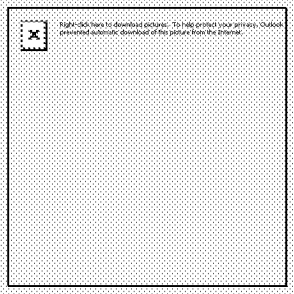
Cringe over troubled water - Flint's smelly dilemma



Flint calls on the state to clear up the city's low-quality drinking water. Who is responsible for the city's water problems?

READ FULL STORY

MSU Dean: Obama's free college plan is not best path to a degree



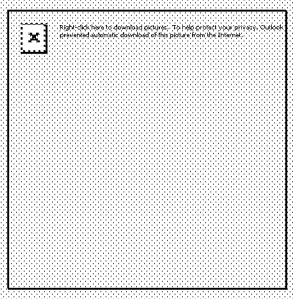
Where will the money come from? Why would Republicans embrace it? Wouldn't aid be better spent on only those students truly need help? Too many questions for now.

READ FULL STORY

Commentary: Michigan criminal code encroaching on civil liberties

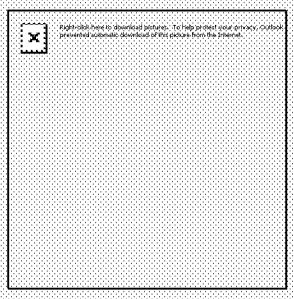
New, get-tough laws requiring DNA swabs or field sobriety tests from people who have not yet been convicted stretch the limits of government power.

READ FULL STORY



Coming Next Week: 2014 Academic State Champs

Bridge ranks every district, school and charter in the state by how much their students overachieve or underachieve academically, based on their socioeconomic status. The results may surprise you.



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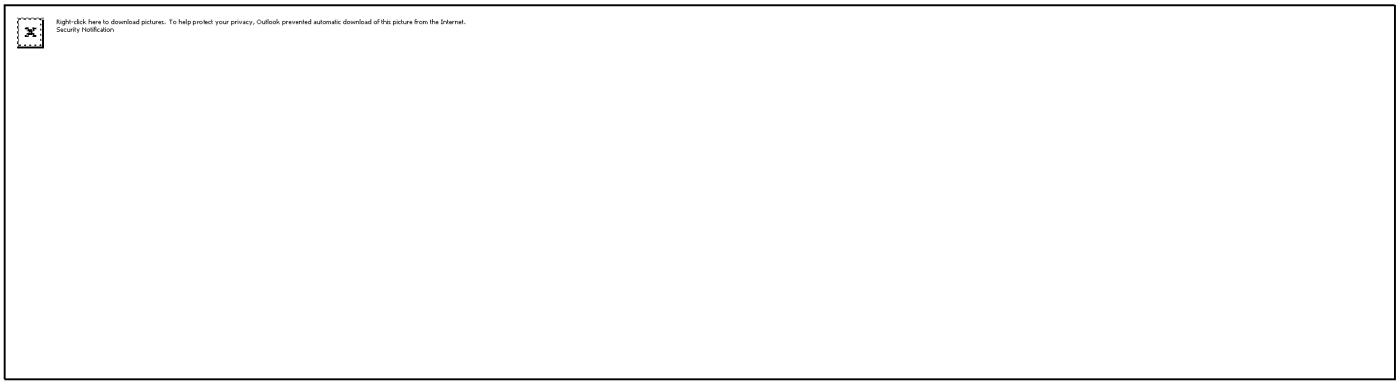
The Center for Michigan ¦ 4100 N Dixboro Rd ¦ Ann Arbor ¦ MI ¦ 48105

From: DTMB Facilities <dtmb@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 8:17 AM
To: Keller, Cindy (DTMB)
Subject: Facility Notification: Constitution Hall



Protest Activity

Date/Time:

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Details:

Please be aware that there is a protest event planned for today, October 28, outside of the Constitution Hall from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The event is being held in response to the water condition in Flint. Please plan your daily activities with this in mind as a large turnout for this event is anticipated. DTMB and MSP will be working together to monitor the situation.

Contact:

DTMB Customer Service Center, DTMB-Customerservice@michigan.gov or 517-373-6227

This email was sent to kellerc2@michigan.gov using GovDelivery, on behalf of DTMB · Lewis Cass Building · 320 South Walnut Street · Lansing, MI 48933 · 517-373-1004

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:35 AM
To: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Cc: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

Apparently, MSHDA is now in the mix for potentially up to $250.0. Can you please check that angle out with Beth? Thanks.

As is, LARA, in relation to plumbing inspections and regulation of hospitals, nursing homes, etc. Brian -- see me and I will bring you up to speed.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:22 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Cc: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

Thank you both for exploring.

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:02 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Cc: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

The preliminary inquiries are not positive on the use of CDBG in line with Tyler's comments below. Genesee and most of the municipalities within the county receive CDBG resources directly and not through the state program. However, TED/MSF is exploring with the Detroit HUD office other potential alternatives.

From: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 8:11 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

Lisa,

I've pulled the following from MEDC's CDBG Application Guide, which leads me to believe providing Flint CDBG Funds would not be permitted.

Eligible applicants for CDBG funds are small cities, townships, and villages of less than 50,000 in population, and non-urban counties. A specifically declared **ineligible** applicant is Genesee County (and local governments in the county jurisdiction except for Clio, Davison, flushing, and Lennon).CDBG Funds were provided for the UP Freeze emergency under the CDBG Urgent Need program. Urgent Need projects are typically permitted after declaration of a State of Emergency by the Governor.

Still waiting on a response from Beth, as I am by no means an expert on CDBG.

-Tyler

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:39 AM
To: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

See me ASAP please.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 6:43 PM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

Lisa,

Nancy caught me as I was attempting to leave the building this evening, and noted that John is looking to receive detail on the Flint water issue funding solution by 10 am tomorrow, Wednesday, 7 Oct 2015.

Mind you, my 3 pm phone call to DEQ's budget staff this afternoon has remained unanswered, and Chris Harkins has yet to hear from DCH. Our commitment is $6 million, and I was hoping our CDBG folks could revisit a strategy utilized last year towards a UP freeze, whereby, an obscure rule in the federal CDBG regulations allowed for funding support to assist a municipality in repair of frozen underground piping for their water system, to the tune of > $7 million if I recall correctly.

We are only seeking a million (or more) towards the Flint water reconnect effort, and asking for a Steve Arwood commitment by 10 am is certainly ridiculous. . . Nevertheless, I am indeed asking Madame for any assistance you can provide towards accomplishing such.

John, Harkins, and myself will be attending an 8 a.m. meeting of Dir. Wyant on this matter in Constitution Hall, and I will have my pad with me if we need to dialog. Thanks !

Jacques

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Supplemental for Flint Water

Importance: High

FYI.

From: Pohl, Allan (LARA)
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Supplemental for Flint Water
Importance: High

FYI

Allan R. Pohl, Deputy Director, CFO
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
611 W. Ottawa, PO Box 30004
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 335-1976

From: Paul Holland [mailto:pholland@house.mi.gov]
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 11:56 AM
To: Dennis, Ann (LARA) <DennisA@michigan.gov>
Cc: Pohl, Allan (LARA) <pohla1@michigan.gov>
Subject: Supplemental for Flint Water
Importance: High

Hi Ann & Al,

So here are my initial questions, as you might expect we are under pressure to pass the supplemental, so please ask program to respond ASAP:

1) The City of Flint has historically performed plumbing inspections; why is it currently unable to perform plumbing inspections of schools and health facilities?
    a. What are the schools and health facilities that the BCC anticipates inspecting?
    b. When was the last time that these schools and health facilities were inspected?
2) What does the inspection of schools and health facilities have to do with the Governor's "Flint Water Action Plan"
    a. Are these schools and health facilities going to be installing new plumbing fixtures/systems?
    b. Are the inspections to enforce the "lead free" requirement of MCL 125.1513b by inspecting existing plumbing fixtures/systems?
3) Is the City of Flint able to perform plumbing inspections of fixtures/systems in other (not school or health facility) buildings?
4) Will the schools and health facilities being inspected by the BCC pay the fees to the BCC for the inspections?
    a. Specifically, what fees will or will not be paid?
5) How long will the BCC be performing inspections of the plumbing fixtures/systems within schools and health facilities?

a. How many BCC FTEs will be expended on these inspections?

Thank you!

With Regards,
Paul B.A. Holland, M.P.P.
Senior Fiscal Analyst,
House Fiscal Agency
Michigan House of Representatives
(517) 373-5369
pholland@house.mi.gov

"What peculiar privilege has this little agitation of the brain which we call thought, that we must thus make it the model of the whole universe? Our partiality in our own favour does indeed present it on all occasions, but sound philosophy ought carefully to guard against so natural an illusion."
-David Hume

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:09 AM
To: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Subject: RE: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

Not when the sheet is entitled ***enacted*** appropriations. HB 4102 has to go to the Senate yet for concurrence.

From: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

LARA's is correct.

Note: it does not include the $200.0 for Flint or the $417.2 for the pending supplemental. But, should it?

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:31 AM
To: Buckberry, Gary (DTMB); Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB); Fink, Ryan (DTMB); Kennedy, Brian (DTMB); Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

Please double-check your agencies.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:00 AM
To: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB); Craft, Lisa (DTMB); Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); Gossman, Colleen (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Jameson, Robbie (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Mikula, Lora (DTMB); Moody, Michael (DTMB); Roberts, John (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Thelen, Anthony (DTMB); Weiss, Kurt (DTMB)
Subject: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

The attached FY2016 enacted total appropriations has been updated to include School Aid Appropriations contained in PA 139 of 2015 (SB 134).

Nancy – a hard copy is in your box.

From: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB);Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: RE: DRAFT #2 City of Flint Solution

My document is right when you open the OED folder.

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:22 PM
To: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB); Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: DRAFT #2 City of Flint Solution
Importance: High

Note: Intent is to transmit formal supplemental request tomorrow. Let's be ready.

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:12 PM
To: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Khouri, Nick (TREASURY); Saxton, Thomas (Treasury); Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Lyon, Nick (DHHS); Zimmer, Mike (LARA); Muchmore, Dennis (GOV)
Cc: Pohl, Allan (LARA); Hanley, Farah (DHHS); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Roberts, John (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Peruchietti, Cindy (Treasury); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ)
Subject: DRAFT #2 City of Flint Solution
Importance: High

Latest version of the Flint water issue. This is still a draft. Let me know if I have not accurately reflected your comments. NOTE: I have made no adjustments for Tom Saxton's latest e-mail on potential re-connect costs.

Assuming concurrence by the Governor, we are planning to transmit a formal supplemental request tomorrow.

Nancy Duncan
Deputy State Budget Director
517-373-0870

From: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:38 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

LARA's is correct.

Note: it does not include the $200.0 for Flint or the $417.2 for the pending supplemental. But, should it?

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:31 AM
To: Buckberry, Gary (DTMB); Ferguson, Matthew (DTMB); Fink, Ryan (DTMB); Kennedy, Brian (DTMB); Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

Please double-check your agencies.

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 7:00 AM
To: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB); Craft, Lisa (DTMB); Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); Gossman, Colleen (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Jameson, Robbie (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Mikula, Lora (DTMB); Moody, Michael (DTMB); Roberts, John (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Thelen, Anthony (DTMB); Weiss, Kurt (DTMB)
Subject: FY16 Enacted Appropriations

The attached FY2016 enacted total appropriations has been updated to include School Aid Appropriations contained in PA 139 of 2015 (SB 134).

Nancy – a hard copy is in your box.

From: The Environment Report <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:05 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Measuring Arsenic in Newborns / Flint River Backlash

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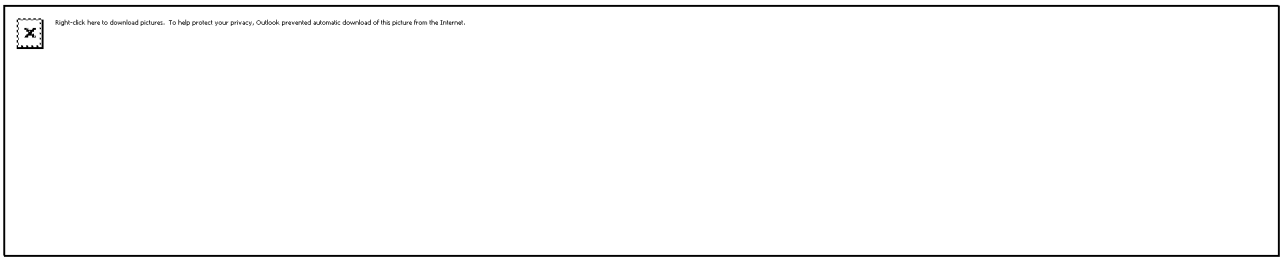
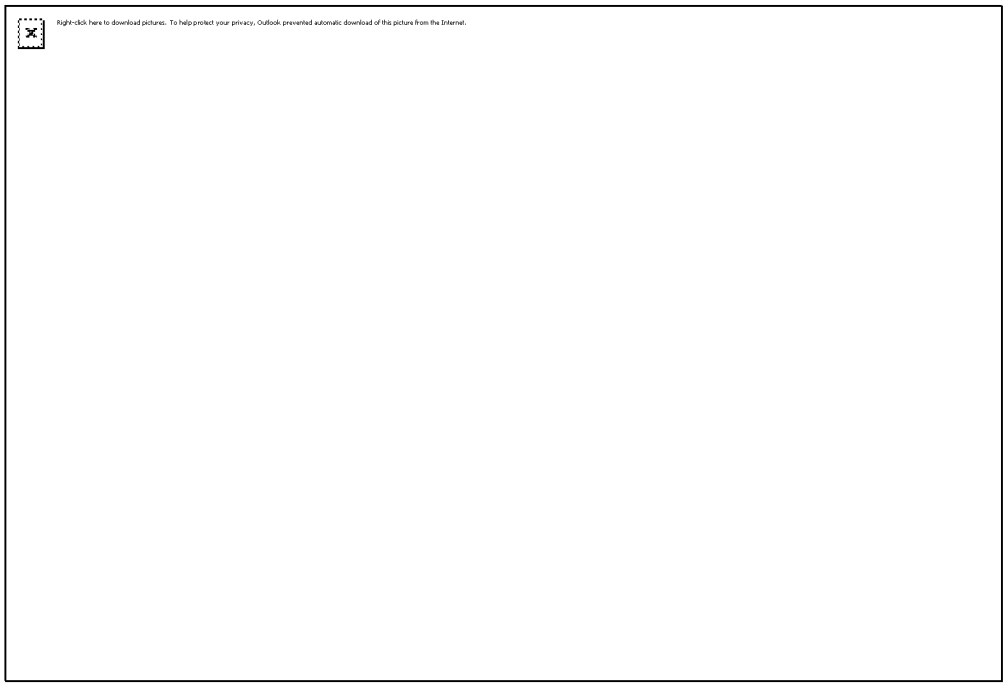


February 24, 2015

This Week on The Environment Report



A research team has found breastfed infants have lower exposure to arsenic than babies who exclusively drink formula, although exposure for both groups of infants was low overall. We'll talk to one of the Dartmouth researchers about why this is, and what parents can do to reduce their children's exposure to arsenic. You can find the story here.

And on Thursday's show.....Flint residents are upset about the quality of their tap water. They're complaining about the taste and smell and some are concerned the water's not safe. Many blame the Flint River, which the city started using as its water source last April. But is it fair to blame the river?

Listen to *The Environment Report* on Michigan Radio Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:50 am & 5:45 pm. Or, visit us online.

Environmental News from Around the Country

Antarctica: Mystery Continent Holds Key To Mankind's Future

Solar Panels Raise Value of Homes

Park Service Surveys The Environment's Accoustical Health

Fuel-Hauling Trains Could Derail at 10 a Year

Fresh Leak of Radioactive Water Detected at Fukushima Nuclear Plant

The Environment Report, Michigan Radio
535 W. William, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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From: Kaiser Health News <emails@kaiserhealthnews.org>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 11:28 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: KHN Morning Briefing: September 25, 2015

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Morning Briefing

Friday, September 25, 2015
Check Kaiser Health News online for the latest headlines

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?
2. Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors
3. D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives
4. Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

5. Boehner To Leave Congress At The End Of October
6. Senate GOP Fails To Pass Temporary Spending Bill That Defunded Planned Parenthood

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Healthcare.gov Account Information Stored On Vulnerable Database, Audit Finds
8. Details Of Utah's Much-Anticipated Medicaid Expansion Plan To Be Rolled Out Tuesday

MARKETPLACE

9. APA Says Insurance Mergers Would Undermine Access To Mental Health Care
10. 'Doing The Right Thing': The Complicated Business Of Prescription Drug Pricing
11. Possible Government Shutdown Won't Delay Oct. 1 Launch Of Revised Medical Coding System

CAMPAIGN 2016

12. Fiorina's Position On Mandated Health Insurance Evolves Over Past Two Years

HEALTH IT

13. Premera Faces 38 Class-Action Lawsuits Over Cyberattack

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION
14. FDA Needs More Info To Gauge Safety Of Essure Sterilization Device

STATE WATCH
15. State Highlights: Conn. Hospital CEO Salaries Draw Scrutiny; Calif. Counties Provide Non-Emergency Care To Undocumented Adults

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH
16. Research Roundup: Economics Of Chronic Care; State-Run Marketplaces

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS
17. Viewpoints: Pinning Blame For A Possible Shutdown; Medicare Should Help On Drug Prices

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The Rx For Rising Health Costs?

The Democratic president candidate's proposals to save consumers money are questioned by experts and health industry officials. (Julie Rovner, 9/25)

2. Seniors Tell Medical Students What They Need From Doctors

Many students avoid geriatrics because of the low pay and high complications, but six people over 90 offer a different perspective to help attract young doctors. (Susan Jaffe, 9/25)

3. D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives

The new law is only the second in the country that allows women to get a year's prescription at one time. (Michelle Andrews, 9/25)

4. Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Common Ground?'" by Lisa Benson.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

THERE'S NO ESCAPING ICD-10

Shutdown? No matter.
Medicare moving ahead

With new codes for docs.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

5. Boehner To Leave Congress At The End Of October

News outlets report Friday morning that House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, plans to resign, amidst growing pressure from the conservative wing of the Republican Party. Politico notes that now, free from intra-caucus concerns, he will be free to push a clean stop-gap funding bill through the House to prevent a government shutdown.

USA Today: Speaker John Boehner To Resign From Congress
In a shocking announcement, John Boehner told his GOP colleagues he will step down as House speaker and resign his Ohio congressional seat on Oct. 30. ... His resignation comes the day after Pope Francis became the first pontiff to address a joint meeting of Congress — a crowning achievement of Boehner's career — and amid a congressional fight over federal funding of Planned Parenthood that threatens another government shutdown. (Shesgreen and Allen, 9/25)

NBC News: House Speaker John Boehner To Resign
Boehner has been under prolonged pressure from conservatives in his party, who have accused him of failing to fight the Obama administration on issues important to the GOP. Foes within his party had been pushing to oust him if he presented any legislation that would continue to fund the government and avoid a government shutdown without stripping federal funding for Planned Parenthood. (9/25)

The New York Times: John Boehner Will Resign From Congress
Most recently, Mr. Boehner, 65, was trying to craft a solution to keep the government open through the rest of the year, but was under pressure from a growing base of conservatives who told him that they would not vote for a bill that did not defund Planned Parenthood. Several of those members were on a path to remove Mr. Boehner as speaker, though their ability to do so was far from certain. (Steinhauer, 9/25)

Politico: Speaker John Boehner Retiring From Congress At The End Of October
Speaker John Boehner, who rose from bartender's son to the most powerful man in Congress, will retire at the end of October, ending a tumultuous five-year tenure atop the House of Representatives. ... Now that he doesn't have internal political considerations to weigh, Boehner is certain to push through a government-funding bill next week that funds Planned Parenthood, and keeps the government open. Boehner's decision, relayed in a closed Republican meeting Friday morning, will set off one of the most intense leadership scrambles in modern Congressional GOP politics. (Sherman

9/25)

6. Senate GOP Fails To Pass Temporary Spending Bill That Defunded Planned Parenthood

With just days left before a possible federal government shutdown, Democrats blocked passage of a bill that would have funded the government through Dec. 11 but included a provision to strip federal funding from the women's health organization. Meanwhile, Republican leaders in both the House and Senate are moving ahead in efforts to pass a clean, bipartisan budget measure.

Los Angeles Times: Senate Fails To Advance Bill That Would Cut Planned Parenthood Funding

With a federal shutdown days away, Senate Republicans tried -- and failed -- on Thursday to advance legislation that would eliminate money for Planned Parenthood but keep government offices and services open. Democrats blocked the bill with a filibuster, refusing to cut funds for the large family planning organization after secretly recorded videos disclosed officials discussing the practice of providing fetal tissue from abortions for research. The debate has become a national conversation on abortion. (Mascaro, 9/24)

USA Today: Democrats Block Planned Parenthood Defunding; McConnell Offers 'Clean Bill'

Senate Democrats blocked a bill Thursday to keep the government funded through Dec. 11 because of a Republican provision to strip Planned Parenthood of federal money for a year. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., moved immediately after the vote to try to avert an Oct. 1 government shutdown by filing a new bill that funds federal agencies but does not include the divisive Planned Parenthood provision. A vote on that bill could come as early as Monday. (Kelly, 9/24)

The Associated Press: McConnell Moves Ahead With Bipartisan Stopgap Spending Bill

In the House, GOP leaders called a meeting of their fractious rank and file for Friday morning to discuss whether to accept the Senate's move or reject it at the risk that continuing the fight over Planned Parenthood would lead to a government shutdown. The White House signaled President Barack Obama would sign the measure, called a continuing resolution, into law — if the House steps aside from the fight tea party Republicans want over "defunding" Planned Parenthood. (Taylor, 9/24)

Politico: Boehner Plots Shutdown Move As Critics Weigh Options

House Republican leaders will move next week to approve a "clean" government spending bill — and avert a shutdown — but only after they hold a vote on a measure to bar federal funding for Planned Parenthood, according to multiple sources familiar with the GOP's plan. The move, which comes as conservatives are weighing whether to try to remove John Boehner as House speaker, was discussed at a closed GOP leadership meeting Thursday. It involves a legislative tactic called an "enrollment correction," which essentially changes the text of a bill that has passed the House and the Senate. But it would ultimately be a meaningless exercise: The Senate would reject the measure, and President Barack Obama has said he will veto any spending bill that

tries to defund Planned Parenthood. (Sherman, Palmer and Bresnahan, 9/24)

The Associated Press: House GOP May Opt Against Shutdown Over Planned Parenthood
House GOP leaders have summoned their divided conference for a make-or-break discussion on how to fight taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood without having the battle lead to a government shutdown next week. ... Friday's meeting is likely to center on immediate action to use a special filibuster-proof budget bill to send legislation defunding Planned Parenthood to Obama's desk for the first time — rather than a futile bid to attach the anti-Planned Parenthood measure to a stopgap spending bill. The temporary measure is needed to avoid a shutdown at midnight on Wednesday. It would fund the government through Dec. 11. (Taylor, 9/25)

In other Capitol Hill action -

McClatchy: Senate Democrats Introduce Legislation To Repeal Obamacare 'Cadillac Tax'
The call to repeal one of the Affordable Care Act's most controversial provisions got louder on Thursday when a group of prominent Democratic senators introduced legislation to abolish the so-called "Cadillac Tax" on high-cost, employer-sponsored health plans. The action further solidified growing bipartisan opposition to the tax, which has already drawn the ire of employers, insurers, unions and benefits groups. They claim the tax would burden working families with higher costs and force employers to cut benefits. (Pugh, 9/24)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

7. Healthcare.gov Account Information Stored On Vulnerable Database, Audit Finds

The flaws uncovered by auditors are now fixed but included critical issues of security policy, such as not encrypting user sessions. Millions of insurance customers' data is stored on the $110-million system known as MIDAS. In other health law news, a new study shows that Americans' top concern when shopping for health coverage is the monthly premium they will pay.

The Associated Press: Audit Finds Slipshod Cybersecurity At Healthcare.gov
The government stored sensitive personal information on millions of health insurance customers in a computer system with basic security flaws, according to an official audit that uncovered slipshod practices. The Obama administration said it acted quickly to fix all the problems identified by the Health and Human Services inspector general's office. But the episode raises questions about the government's ability to protect a vast new database at a time when cyberattacks are becoming bolder. (Alonso-Zaldivar, 9/24)

NBC News: Monthly Cost Is Top Concern For Health Insurance Shoppers: Survey
Americans, long used to seeking bargains, look mostly at price when they're shopping for health insurance, a new survey shows. More than half of those who looked but

didn't buy anything on the new Obamacare exchanges said they couldn't find a plan they could afford, the survey found. And two-thirds who switched coverage said price was the main factor. (Fox, 9/25)

8. Details Of Utah's Much-Anticipated Medicaid Expansion Plan To Be Rolled Out Tuesday

The plan, which faces skepticism from many Republican state legislators and is the product of hours of negotiations, will be the topic of briefings given next week during closed-door meetings.

Salt Lake Tribune: Utah Republican Lawmakers To Huddle Behind Closed Doors On Medicaid Expansion
House and Senate Republicans will meet next week in closed-door caucuses for briefings on a proposal to use Medicaid funds to help provide health insurance to tens of thousands low-income Utahns. The plan they will hear is the product of hours of negotiations between leaders in the House and Senate and Gov. Gary Herbert, launched after Herbert's Healthy Utah plan failed to win support earlier this year in the Republican-dominated House. Depending on the reception the plan receives — particularly from skeptical House members — the governor could call a special session in mid-October to vote on the plan. (Gehrke, 9/24)

KSL: Details Of Medicaid Expansion Plan Plan Due Next Week
Details of the much-anticipated new plan for Medicaid expansion from Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders will be rolled out Tuesday to lawmakers in closed-door meetings before being unveiled publicly. But the governor has yet to sign off on a final proposal, his spokesman, Jon Cox, said Wednesday. "There are still details that need to be negotiated by the group," Cox said. (Riley Roche, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Utah's Medicaid Expansion Hits Funding Roadblock
One red state's unprecedented effort to finance Medicaid expansion through a broad array of health care sectors — from hospitals and doctors to drug makers and pharmacies — is running into serious roadblocks. Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and legislative leaders in July announced a deal to expand Medicaid, agreeing on a framework that would require "providers and benefactors of Medicaid dollars to pay their fair share." But months later, Utah leaders are still facing objections from industry groups who argue they're being asked to pay too much. (Pradhan, 9/24)

Also, Oregon is converting its Medicaid eligibility system to the one used by Kentucky -

Portland Business Journal: Oregon Medicaid On Track To Convert To Kentucky System, Will Cost $58M
The Oregon Health Authority plans to debut its new Medicaid eligibility system, imported from Kentucky, on Dec. 15. The transition project came in under budget at $58 million, said Sarah Miller, project director for OHA's MAGI Medicaid System Transfer Project. The original estimate of $62 million. Miller said the new system will afford several advantages over the current one. (Hayes, 9/24)

Meanwhile, on the topic of health exchanges -

The Associated Press: Arkansas Governor Asks Panel To Put Exchange Plans On Hold
Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Thursday he wants Arkansas to halt work on setting up its own insurance exchange for consumers while lawmakers look at the future of the state's hybrid Medicaid expansion. The Republican governor said he's asked the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace board to wait for a legislative task force's recommendations on the "private option" expansion later this year. (DeMillo, 9/24)

MARKETPLACE

9. APA Says Insurance Mergers Would Undermine Access To Mental Health Care

Other prominent doctors groups, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians, have expressed concern about the proposed mergers' impact on patients.

Reuters: U.S. Insurance Mega Mergers Could Hurt Care - Psychiatric Group
The American Psychiatric Association warned U.S. antitrust regulators this month that two proposed health insurance deals could worsen access to mental health care services, adding to public opposition from several prominent doctors groups. Anthem Inc would become the largest U.S. health insurer through a proposed $47 billion acquisition of Cigna Corp, announced in late July. Earlier that month, Aetna Inc said it would buy Humana Inc and become the largest provider of Medicare plans for older people. (Humer, 9/24)

In other industry news -

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Blue Cross Plans Helping Corporate Clients Cut Health Costs
The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association on Thursday unveiled an expanded database that will help individual Blues, like Philadelphia's Independence, drill down into the cost of care for their corporate customers who have operations nationwide. he Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, whose members cover 105 million Americans, has maintained a claims database for a decade, and Independence has contributed for years. But now all 36 Blue Cross companies are required to share claims data, which are converted into 1,600 common treatments and elective procedures - up from 300 previously. (Brubaker, 9/25)

10. 'Doing The Right Thing': The Complicated Business Of Prescription Drug Pricing

With pharmaceutical companies receiving a lot of attention over the skyrocketing costs of drugs, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez talks to The Washington Post. And after

Turing's controversial price hike for an HIV drug made waves this week, NBC News reports on other similar cases in the industry.

The Washington Post: Novartis CEO Talks About Drug Costs, Paying Doctors And 'Doing The Right Thing'
As stories of jacked-up drug costs make news, and discussions of health-care reform pepper the campaign trail, Novartis CEO Joseph Jimenez sat down with The Washington Post to talk about how he views his responsibility as leader of one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. (Cunningham, 9/24)

NBC News: Turing Isn't The Only Drug Company Hiking Prices By Leaps And Bounds
Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO Martin Shkreli was lambasted this week by medical groups, a presidential candidate and his own industry for raising the price of a 62-year-old drug by more than 5,000 percent. He reversed course under pressure Tuesday night, but not before the national attention struck fear into the hearts of biotech investors over increased scrutiny of drug prices, sending stocks plummeting. Turing may have been an egregious example, but it's not the only one raising eyebrows for skyrocketing price tags. Bernstein analyst Ronny Gal pointed out many companies ratchet up drug prices when the market presents an opportunity. (Tirrell, 9/24)

U.S. News & World Report: Budget Breakers
Prescription drugs are costly and most Americans agree that they pay too much for them. Recent headlines illustrate that point clearly – from presidential candidates' promising to tackle the issue, to a CEO initially announcing a jump in the cost of a parasitic-fighting medicine. And with America's total spending on prescription medicine reaching its highest rate in 13 years, policy groups are listening and are coming up with their own plans for reining in costs. But while citizens are feeling the burden of drug costs, so is the government through publicly funded insurance plans. (Leonard, 9/24)

Meanwhile, antitrust enforcers suffer a rare court defeat when challenging a merger -

The Wall Street Journal: Federal Judge Declines To Block Steris From Acquiring Synergy Health
A federal judge on Thursday handed a rare court loss to U.S. antitrust enforcers, declining to block Steris Corp., a U.S. infection-prevention company, from acquiring U.K.-based Synergy Health PLC. U.S. District Judge Dan Polster in Cleveland rejected a request by the Federal Trade Commission to issue a preliminary injunction halting the merger, saying the FTC hadn't met its burden of showing the deal was likely to damp competition in the U.S. (Kendall, 9/24)

11. Possible Government Shutdown Won't Delay Oct. 1 Launch Of Revised Medical Coding System

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have contingency plans in place for managing the transition to ICD-10. In other medical practice news, physician groups oppose draft language aimed at curbing "surprise" billing. And telemedicine usage is on the rise.

CQ Healthbeat: ICD-10 Transition To Proceed Even If Government Shuts Down

A nationwide changeover to a new set of medical billing codes will proceed on Oct. 1 even if Congress triggers a partial government shutdown that day by missing an appropriations deadline, according to a top federal official. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services already is establishing contingency plans for managing the transition to ICD-10 codes against the potential disruption of a shutdown, said Patrick H. Conway, principal deputy administrator of the agency, on a Thursday call with reporters. Managing the switch from the older ICD-9 codes is among the top priorities for the agency, and CMS has some flexibility in its staffing that can be used to keep the work on track in case of a shutdown, he said. (Young, 9/24)

Politico Pro: Docs Battle Proposal To Curb 'Surprise' Medical Bills
A contentious fight over “surprise” medical bills is complicating an effort to revise a longstanding model state law on health care provider networks. The American Medical Association and other physician groups are pushing the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to drop draft language addressing what happens when patients visit facilities that are in their insurance networks but receive treatment from out-of-network providers. (Demko, 9/24)

McClatchy: Telemedicine Holds Promise Of Cheaper, Wider Medical Care
Samantha Cunningham was halfway through a five-hour road trip to a music festival in Bradley, Calif., when she realized she'd left her asthma inhaler back home in Sacramento. Her options seemed limited: go back, pick it up and be late for the concert; pay a $100 minimum fee to get a new prescription at a walk-in clinic; "or go without the inhaler and hope that they had a rescue machine at the festival on the off chance I had an asthma attack, which, of course, wasn't a very inviting prospect," Cunningham said. (Pugh, 9/24)

CAMPAIGN 2016

12. Fiorina's Position On Mandated Health Insurance Evolves Over Past Two Years

CNN questions the Republican candidate's campaign on statements Carly Fiorina made in a 2013 interview, while NPR reports on her abortion stance. Meanwhile, KHN analyzes Hillary Clinton's proposals to save consumers money on health care.

CNN: Fiorina's Long-Held Support For Mandatory Health Insurance
Carly Fiorina, who has joined other leading Republican presidential candidates in denouncing Obamacare, once backed an individual mandate to buy health insurance that could put her at odds with others in the GOP. (Moody, 9/24)

NPR: Carly Fiorina Doubles Down On Opposition To Abortion In South Carolina
Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina campaigned at a Christian pregnancy care center in South Carolina Thursday. Opposition to abortion has become a prominent message in her campaign recently. (McCammon, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: Clinton Seeks To Build On Health Law, But Does She Have The

Rx For Rising Health Costs?
While the Republicans running for president are united in their desire to repeal the federal health law, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton is fashioning her own health care agenda to tackle out-of-pocket costs – but industry experts question whether her proposals would solve the problem. In addition to defending the Affordable Care Act, Clinton released two separate proposals this week. One would seek to protect people with insurance from having to pay thousands of dollars in addition to their premiums for prescription drugs; the other would set overall limits on out-of-pocket health spending for those with insurance. (Rovner, 9/25)

HEALTH IT

13. Premera Faces 38 Class-Action Lawsuits Over Cyberattack

A security breach of the insurance company's computer system may have compromised the personal information of 11 million customers. Some of them are suing, citing attempts at identify theft. In other Health IT news, a Walgreens database outage delayed prescriptions at thousands of pharmacies.

The Seattle Times: Premera Sued Over Security Breaches
With less than a week left to apply, about 830,000 of almost 11 million current and former insurance customers have registered for credit monitoring and identity-theft protection after their personal and medical information may have been compromised in a security breach that Premera announced in March. Mountlake Terrace-based Premera maintains that it does not “have any evidence that there was any criminal activity on anyone’s account as a result of the cyberattack,” company spokeswoman Melanie Coon said in an email statement. (Garnick, 9/24)

The Chicago Tribune: Outage Of Walgreens Pharmacy Computer Database Causes Prescription Delays
Getting a prescription filled at Walgreens may take a lot longer than usual over the next few days due to an ongoing outage of the drugstore chain’s pharmacy computer database. Pharmacists have been filling prescriptions manually since the system went down Tuesday morning, causing delays for customers at all 8,200 Walgreens drugstores across the U.S., a company spokesman said Thursday. (9/24)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

14. FDA Needs More Info To Gauge Safety Of Essure Sterilization Device

The agency also wrote in a letter Thursday that a health-care startup’s cancer detection kit, which would be sold directly to healthy individuals, is high-risk and could harm public health.

NPR: FDA Advisers Call For More Safety Data On Sterilization Device
The Food and Drug Administration should gather more information to try to get a better sense of the safety of the Essure sterilization device, a panel of experts assembled by the agency recommended Thursday. (Stein, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Startup's Cancer Test For The Healthy May Harm Public, FDA Says
The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday that a health-care startup's cancer detection kit sold to healthy individuals is high-risk, could harm public health, and hasn't been validated by science. The FDA wrote to Pathway Genomics Corp. on Sept. 21 about the test, which retails for as much as $699. Patients get the test ordered by their doctor or one working for Pathway, then the company analyzes a blood sample for circulating traces of cancer. The company, which is backed by IBM Corp. and the venture capital firm Founders Fund, has touted the test as a less-expensive, faster way of detecting tumors. (Edney and Chen, 9/24)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Conn. Hospital CEO Salaries Draw Scrutiny; Calif. Counties Provide Non-Emergency Care To Undocumented Adults

Health care stories are reported from Connecticut, California, Florida, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Alabama, District of Columbia, Kansas, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Michigan and Texas.

The Connecticut Mirror: Hospital CEO Pay: Red Herring Or Key In State Funding Debate?
As hospital leaders warn of potential job and service reductions in response to state funding cuts, the six- and seven-figure pay packages of Connecticut hospital executives have emerged as a point of contention. (Levin Becker, 9/25)

NPR: California Counties Add Health Care For Immigrant Adults
A California county voted Tuesday to restore primary health care services to undocumented adults living in the county. Contra Costa County, east of San Francisco, joins 46 other California counties that have agreed to provide non-emergency care to immigrants who entered the country illegally. (Romero, 9/24)

News Service Of Florida: Bondi, Hospital System Reach $3.5M Settlement
Two days after the U.S. Department of Justice announced a $115 million legal settlement with Adventist Health System, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said Wednesday her office has reached a $3.5 million settlement with the Altamonte Springs-based hospital system. Both settlements, which stem from whistleblower lawsuits filed by Adventist employees, involve allegations that the hospital firm had improper financial arrangements with physicians. (9/24)

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: Assembly Passes Measure Cutting Taxpayer Funding Of Planned Parenthood
The state Assembly voted Thursday to strip Planned Parenthood of about $3.5 million

in government funding a year. The measure passed, 60-35, with all Republicans backing it and all Democrats opposing it. It now goes to the Senate, which like the Assembly is controlled by Republicans. (Marley, 9/24)

The Wall Street Journal: Lawmakers Fail To Override Christie Veto
New Jersey Democrats unsuccessfully attempted on Thursday to override Gov. Chris Christie's veto of a gun-control bill when most GOP supporters of the legislation decided not to buck the presidential candidate. The legislation would have prevented people with a documented history of mental illness from expunging that record to buy a gun. (Haddon, 9/24)

The New York Times: Alabama Vote Is Rare Win In The South For The U.A.W.
The 2-to-1 margin of victory at the small factory, which makes seats for trucks, represents an unusual win in the uphill battle to organize autoworkers in the South. But it was unclear whether the vote signaled a broader breakthrough for labor and the U.A.W. in a region that has historically been allergic to most unions. Employees at C.V.G. cited low pay, which tops out at $15.80 an hour, the growing use of temporary workers at even lower wages and rising health insurance costs as reasons they voted to join the union. (Cohen, 9/24)

Kaiser Health News: D.C. Women To Get Access To Full Year's Worth Of Contraceptives
Under a new law, District of Columbia women will be able to scratch one item off their list of things to worry about: running out of birth control pills. Under the law, which passed its congressional review period this month, women will be able to get a year's supply of pills at once. Prescriptions for birth control pills typically have to be renewed every 30 or 90 days, potentially resulting in women missing scheduled pills. The yearlong provision will begin in 2017. (Andrews, 9/25)

The Associated Press: Utah Unveils Tool Showing Impact Of Federal Budget Crisis
Lawwmakers worried about Utah's reliance on U.S. government funds unveiled an online calculator Thursday that shows how the state would be hit by various federal budget disasters like a shutdown. ... The calculator comes with several built-in scenarios that the commission says are "extreme but possible," such as broad federal spending cuts and or deep slashes to Medicaid money. On the website, the public can access a slimmed down version of a more sophisticated tool that legislative budget staff can use. (Price, 9/24)

The Kansas Health Institute News Service: Mental Health Advocates Question 72-Hour Involuntary Hold Proposal
Several advocates for people with mental illness on Wednesday panned a proposal that would allow treatment facilities to hold people in crisis situations for up to 72 hours as involuntary patients. "This is a deprivation of liberty," Mike Burgess, a spokesperson with the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, said during a meeting of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition. It would be better, he said, to expand access to voluntary treatment. (Ranney, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Orlando Health To 5,000 Patients: Redo Mammograms
Orlando Health mailed letters today to more than 5,300 patients who may have gotten

bad mammograms. Women who went to the Boston Diagnostic Imaging location on Orange Avenue from May of 2013 to July of 2015 are asked to call Orlando Health. It's unclear why the Boston Diagnostic center has lost its accreditation, but Orlando Health bought the center last December. (Aboraya, 9/24)

Health News Florida: Isolation Increases Florida's Rural Suicide Rates
Florida's rural counties are seeing suicide rates for youth almost double that of the state's large cities. And experts say isolation, poverty, access to firearms and a lack of mental health resources are to blame. ... the teen suicide rate in Florida's small towns has doubled in the past 20 years. From 2012 through 2014, almost 8,000 youth younger than 21 killed themselves in Florida. Of those, 520 come from rural communities -- a significant number given their populations. Also, experts say the number of teen suicides could be much higher, in part because medical examiners and law enforcement don't have an objective set of criteria to decide whether to label a death as suicide. (Miller and Klingener, 9/24)

The Associated Press: Chiropractor Says Iowa Officials Wrong About Payment Rules
A chiropractor accused of improper Medicaid billings says Iowa officials are wrong about coverage eligibility for some conditions. Prosecutors said Thursday that Elizabeth Kressin, of Spencer, had submitted improper claims for more than seven years for what the prosecutors said were medically unnecessary chiropractic procedures for which payments weren't allowed. They include bed wetting, colic and ear infections. (9/25)

The Associated Press: Survey Shows Big Drop In Uninsured Nevada Kindergartners
An annual health survey of Nevada kindergartners shows a big drop in the percentage of children without health insurance, a change that researchers attribute to more use of Medicaid benefits. The seventh annual report from the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, showed 7.6 percent of kindergartners were uninsured last school year, down from 12.6 percent a year earlier. (Rindels, 9/24)

The Charlotte Observer: New Charlotte VA Center Will Expand Veterans Health Care In Region
Charlotte's new Veterans Affairs Health Care Center won't open officially for more than six months. ... The Charlotte site is one of seven new VA health centers approved by Congress in 2010. The Salisbury hospital region is one of the fastest growing in the country, said VA spokesman Barthalomew Major. An estimated 140,000 veterans live in the Charlotte metropolitan area, about 60,000 in Mecklenburg County alone. Although the number of veterans nationwide is declining, the number of veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system in increasing, Major said. Over the past 10 years, the number of VA patients nationwide has increased by 23 percent, but in the Salisbury region, the increase has been 66 percent, he said. (Garloch, 9/24)

The Detroit Free Press: Doctor: Lead Seen In More Flint Kids Since Water Switch
Flint's ongoing water woes are now associated with an immediate and irreversible danger — possible lead poisoning of some of the city's children, according to a review of blood test results by a Hurley Children's Hospital pediatrician. ... State officials say their own review of blood test results have not shown the same increase that [Dr. Mona] Hanna-Attisha found. Moreover, water tests have similarly shown lead within

federally accepted levels, they say. (Erb, 9/24)

The San Antonio Express-News: Judge To Halt Medicaid Cuts For Therapy Services
A judge has decided to temporarily block tens of millions of dollars in planned Medicaid funding cuts, likely ensuring that thousands of children with disabilities will continue to access therapy services after Oct. 1. (Rosenthal, 9/24)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Economics Of Chronic Care; State-Run Marketplaces

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Annals of Internal Medicine: Medicare Chronic Care Management Payments And Financial Returns To Primary Care Practices--A Modeling Study
Physicians have traditionally been reimbursed for face-to-face visits. A new non–visit-based payment for chronic care management (CCM) of Medicare patients took effect in January 2015. ... If nonphysician staff were to deliver CCM services, net revenue to practices would increase despite opportunity and staffing costs. Practices could expect approximately $332 per enrolled patient per year... if CCM services were delivered by registered nurses (RNs), approximately $372 ... if services were delivered by licensed practical nurses, and approximately $385 ... if services were delivered by medical assistants. ... At a minimum, 131 Medicare patients ... must enroll for practices to recoup the salary and overhead costs of hiring a full-time RN to provide CCM services. (Basu et al., 9/22)

The Commonwealth Fund: The Experiences of State-Run Marketplaces That Use HealthCare.gov
This brief explores the experiences of four states—Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, and Oregon—that established their own exchanges but have operated them with support from the federal HealthCare.gov eligibility and enrollment platform. Drawing on discussions with policymakers, insurers, and brokers, we examine how these supported state-run marketplaces perform their key functions. We find that this model may offer states the ability to maximize their influence over their insurance markets, while limiting the financial risk of running an exchange. (Giovannelli and Lucia, 9/17)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Serving Low-Income Seniors Where They Live: Medicaid's Role In Providing Community-Based Long-Term Services And Supports
To better understand the low-income population with [long-term services and supports] LTSS needs, including those covered by Medicaid and those who are not, this issue brief examines the need for LTSS among seniors who live in the community and need LTSS. We use the 2011 National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) to examine rates of need for LTSS and detail the characteristics of seniors who need these services. Throughout the brief, we compare dual eligible beneficiaries to low-income seniors without Medicaid. We also examine a third group, higher income seniors

without Medicaid, to understand the role of income. Because LTSS needs increase with age, we also examine differences by age. (Garfield, 9/18)

National Governors Association: Using Data To Better Serve The Most Complex Patients: Highlights From NGA's Intensive Work With Seven States
[C]omplex care patients, sometimes referred to as super-utilizers, have comorbid and often serious conditions. ... such conditions often span both physical and behavioral health and are often further complicated by social factors, such as housing instability, poverty, or limited education. ... complex care patients represent only a small proportion (5 percent) of [Medicaid] beneficiaries but account for more than half of program costs. ... the National Governors Association has worked with several states to develop statewide [data] initiatives for improving the management of care for super-utilizers .... The following lessons learned can help state leaders ...: Understand the characteristics of complex populations. ... Identify and target specific patients. ... Ensure effective management and evaluation. (Isasi, 9/23)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

Reuters: Americans Overpaying Hugely For Cancer Drugs - Study
Americans are paying way over the odds for some modern cancer drugs, with pharmaceutical companies charging up to 600 times what the medicines cost to make, according to an independent academic study. The United States also pays more than double the price charged in Europe for these drugs - so-called tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), a potent class of cancer pills with fewer side effects than chemotherapy. The analysis by pharmacologist Andrew Hill of Britain's University of Liverpool, who will present his findings at the Sept. 25-29 European Cancer Congress in Vienna, is likely to fuel a growing storm over U.S. drug costs. (Hirschler, 9/22)

The Philadelphia Inquirer/Health Day: ERs Often 'Safety Net' Care For People With Schizophrenia: CDC
A new report finds that, too often, under-medicated Americans suffering from schizophrenia end up seeking care in the nation's hospital emergency rooms. The report, issued Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that between 2009 and 2011, over 382,000 visits to ERs were recorded for people aged 18 to 64 with schizophrenia. (9/23)

Reuters: Weight-Loss Surgery May Not Increase Health Costs For Diabetes
Weight loss surgery may be a cost-effective way of lowering blood sugar for many diabetics, not just those who are severely obese, a Swedish study suggests. Researchers found that for people with diabetes, total healthcare costs did not rise in the years following weight-loss surgery, largely because of overall savings from less use of healthcare and medications. (Rapaport, 9/23)

Reuters: A Text Message A Day May Keep The Doctor Away
Texting patients regular reminders to do things like eat right, exercise more and smoke less may help them make lifestyle changes linked to a lower risk of heart attacks and strokes, an Australian study suggests. Researchers sent four texts a week to about 350 people with heart disease to supplement their regular care with reminders designed to encourage healthier habits. Another group of about 350 patients stuck with their usual

care routines but didn't receive texts. (9/23)

The New York Times: Consumers Are Embracing Full-Fat Foods
Public health authorities have long urged Americans to cut back on foods high in saturated fat like butter, meat and whole milk. But a new report on dietary-fat consumption suggests that the public is increasingly eating more, not less, of these foods. The new report, which was published last week by the Credit Suisse Research Institute, found that sales of butter in the United States rose 14 percent last year and climbed another 6 percent in the first three months of 2015. Sales of whole milk rose 11 percent in the first half of this year, while skim milk purchases fell 14 percent. The report also predicted that consumption of red meat and eggs would climb in the coming years. (O'Connor, 9/23)

Reuters: Telehealth Visits May Be An Option After Surgery
People may happily, and safely, forgo in-person doctors' visits after surgery by opting instead for talking with their surgeons by phone or video, suggests a small study of U.S. veterans. Most patients preferred the virtual visits and the doctors didn't miss any infections that popped up after surgery, the researchers report in JAMA Surgery. (Seaman, 9/23)

Medscape: Many Poor Kids With Mental Illness Miss Out On Benefits
A "sizable" number of US children with mental disorders who are from low-income households do not receive federal benefits under the Social Security Administration's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, according to a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, in Washington, DC. However, the number of these children who are receiving SSI funds is growing at a pace consistent with the mental health trends in the general population, the report indicates. (Brooks, 9/21)

Medscape: DNR After In-Hospital Cardiac Arrest May Not Match Prognosis
Among patients who had an in-hospital cardiac arrest and successful restoration of spontaneous circulation, do-not-resuscitate (DNR) orders were generally issued quickly and reflected predicted prognosis, a new study reports. However, the study, which was published in the September 22/29, 2015 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, also identified room for improvement. (Busko, 9/23)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: Pinning Blame For A Possible Shutdown; Medicare Should Help On Drug Prices

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Los Angeles Times: Are Democrats Actually The Ones Trying To Shut Down The Government?
So, who's trying to shut down the government, Democrats or Republicans? The answer, naturally, depends on whom you ask. ... But another way, it was Republicans

who decided to tie the continued operation of government to the question of whether Planned Parenthood should receive Medicaid dollars. They took the hostage, they're responsible for the consequences. Feel free to debate the merits of Planned Parenthood all you like, but this fight isn't new. The recent videos didn't seem to persuade any of the organization's supporters in Congress to flip to the other side. So the outcome Thursday wasn't just predictable, it was a certainty. (Jon Healey, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Plum Line: Government Shutdown Fight May Again Shake Up GOP Presidential Race

With the big news out of Congress today the warm welcome received by Pope Francis, one might forget that our nation's august legislature is headed for yet another government shutdown, this time over Republican demands that the government cut off all funding for Planned Parenthood, most of which comes in the form of Medicaid reimbursements for women's health care. This comes at a particularly inopportune time for Republicans. Just when it was starting to look like their chaotic presidential primary might be heading to a more sane place, the shutdown controversy threatens to drag it backwards, boosting the candidates the party fears most. (Paul Waldman, 9/24)

The Washington Post's The Fix: Donald Trump Just Went After Martin Shkreli. Why In The World Isn't The Rest Of The GOP?

Jumping into the prescription drug debate could help elevate those candidates' plans, because prescription drug prices is one of the few health-care issues where Americans agree that the status quo needs to change. In fact, 76 percent of Americans said dealing with prescription drug prices should be Washington's No. 1 health-care priority, according to an April poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation. ... GOP front-runner Donald Trump is regularly praised by liberal leaders, such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D), for his call to raise taxes on the wealthy. Want to out-Trump Trump? Why not start talking about an issue that matters deeply to so many Americans? (Amber Phillips, 9/24)

Huffington Post: Top LGBT Group Wants Congress To Investigate Drug Company That Proposed Massive Price Hike

One of the nation's highest-profile LGBT advocacy organizations has joined the calls for Congress to investigate Turing Pharmaceuticals, the company that recently sparked a national backlash when it proposed hiking the price of a critical anti-infection drug. On Wednesday, The Huffington Post has learned, the Human Rights Campaign sent letters to the chairmen of three key House committees with jurisdiction over health care and the drug industry. In the letters, the organization calls upon the committees to investigate Turing's recent announcement that it would raise the price of drug called Daraprim, a treatment for toxoplasmosis, from $13.50 to $750 a tablet. (Jonathan Cohn, 9/24)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: A 5,455 Percent Price Increase? Expect More Of It

After Pope Francis's visit to the U.S., possibly the biggest news item this week has been the depraved price increase that Turing Pharmaceuticals posted for its drug, Daraprim. Although the 5,455 percent that Turing hiked Daraprim's price is astounding, the absolute daily price is less than that of many other drugs and the practice of gouging prices on specialty drugs is consistent with practices across the industry. (Daniel R. Hoffman, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Let Medicare Tackle High Drug Costs

Yes, the U.S. pays 40 percent more for drugs than other countries do, and last year those costs rose 12.6 percent. But the increase is expected to slow, and drugs still account for just 10 cents of every dollar Americans spend on health care. What has rightly made drug costs a political issue, however, are the astronomical prices of a few specialty medicines. ... The best strategy to push down such prices -- the one endorsed by [Hillary] Clinton and one of her rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, Bernie Sanders -- is to give Medicare, which pays for 29 percent of all U.S. prescription drug purchases, the ability to negotiate prices with drugmakers. That Medicare doesn't already do this is Congress's fault. (9/24)

Tribune News Service: Patients Win As Larger Insurers Seek To Cut Costs With Better Service

The planned mergers of several of America's largest health insurers Aetna combining with Humana, and Anthem with Cigna is almost certain to be good for the insurers, reducing overhead and improving their bargaining position as they attempt to negotiate better rates with providers. But what's in it for you and me? The answer may surprise you: In all likelihood, the mergers will lead to better medical care at lower costs. (Jon Kaplan, 9/24)

The Washington Post: Want To Fight Poverty? Expand Access To Contraception.

Pope Francis's visit has brought renewed attention to some of our nation's toughest economic challenges: inequality, poverty and income (im)mobility. These are pressing issues that leaders of both political parties say they want to tackle, but they disagree on useful, or even acceptable, policy tools. I have a humble suggestion for an antipoverty policy that, if framed correctly, could appeal to both left and right (though probably not Francis). That policy: better access to contraception. (Catherine Rampell, 9/24)

Forbes: Utah Proposes Tax On The Sick To Pay For Obamacare Medicaid Expansion

After the legislature blocked his Obamacare Medicaid expansion plans in 2014 and 2015, Utah Governor Gary Herbert (R) began working with legislative leaders to negotiate some kind of "compromise" to expand the program to more than 100,000 able-bodied adults. Although the deal is being negotiated in secret, some details have been leaked to the public. According to the few specifics made public, the biggest component of the negotiated framework is to levy a new "assessment" on medical providers in Utah to help pay for the state's share of expansion. But the so-called assessment is simply a new Obamacare tax on the sick that will not only raise health care costs for all Utahns, but add significantly to the national debt. (Nic Horton, Jonathan Ingram and Josh Archambault, 9/24)

The Washington Post's Wonkblog: We Must Act On Global Health Because Millions Of Lives Are At Stake

The report made a strong case that the benefits of the right health investments far exceed the costs. Indeed, I believe the moral and economic case for investments in health care--both prevention and treatment--is as or more compelling than in any other area in the developing world. The dramatic declines in child mortality and increases in life expectancy demonstrate that policy can make an immense difference. (Lawrence Summers, 9/24)

Bloomberg: Pope Moves The Needle In U.S. Politics

Pope Francis hasn't changed any church policies on economics, social justice, war, abortion or gay marriage. As if to underscore that point, on Wednesday he visited the Little Sisters of the Poor, which took the U.S. government to court to fight a requirement that religious organizations cover birth control in the health insurance they provide to employees. Yet in his emphasis on the plight of the poor, immigrants and the environment, this pope has changed the Catholic Church's tone and rebalanced its priorities. That bothers conservative activists in the U.S., where the Catholic hierarchy for three decades has largely been identified with Republicans and the culture wars because of its stress on abortion and gay marriage. (Albert R. Hunt, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Physician Payment After The SGR — The New Meritocracy

The “doc fix” — a permanent replacement for the unworkable sustainable growth rate formula (SGR) enacted in 1997 for calculating Medicare's physician fees — had been a long time coming .... At the heart of the legislation is the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), which replaces the Physician Value-Based Payment Modifier to move physician payment under Medicare further into the territory of value-based purchasing. ... When it is implemented, the MIPS will become the largest physician pay-for-performance scheme in the world and the first to create a single value-based purchasing framework covering the full spectrum of physician specialties. This new meritocracy will need to be flexible enough to account for the heterogeneous practice styles of the professionals who care for Medicare beneficiaries and the settings in which they work. (Meredith B. Rosenthal, 9/24)

The New England Journal of Medicine: Leap Of Faith — Medicare's New Physician Payment System

These changes mark a new era, in which Medicare offers powerful incentives for physicians to participate in ACOs and other innovative payment and delivery models. ... This revamping reflects a broader movement in U.S. health care toward paying for medical services on the basis of value rather than volume — a movement built on the prevailing view in the health policy community that cost-containment efforts can succeed only if we move away from fee-for-service payment. But there are several important problems with this belief and the reforms it inspires. (Jonathan Oberlander and Miriam J. Laugesen, 9/24)

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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 3:50 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Lead in Flint's water; Art in the aisles

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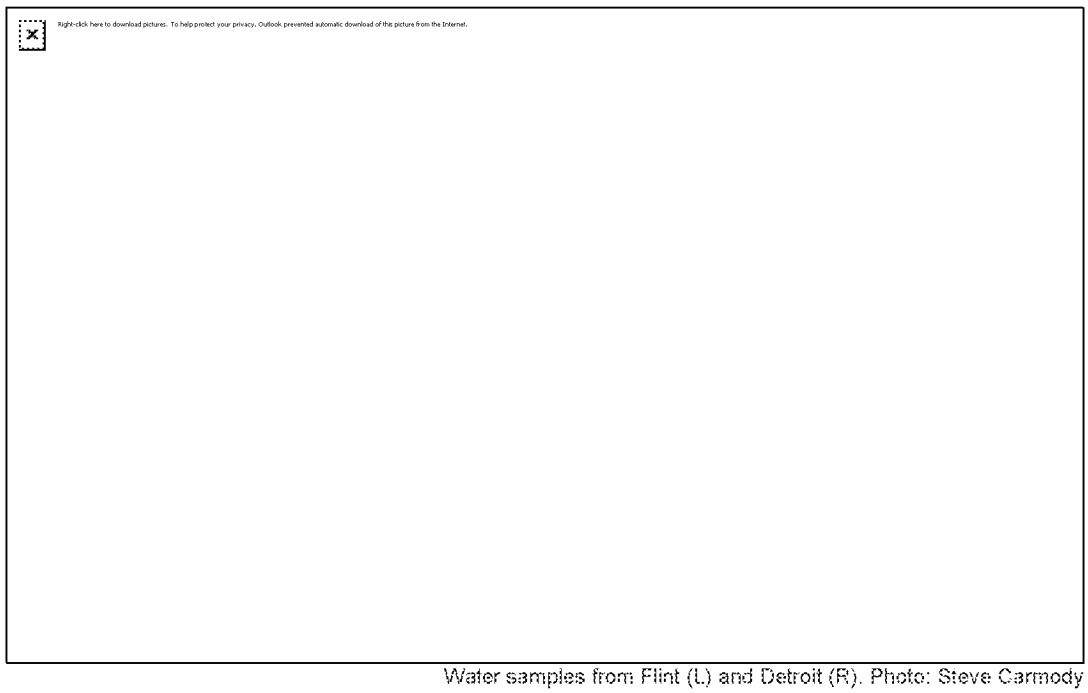

Water samples from Flint (L) and Detroit (R). Photo: Steve Carmody

"I want them to quit poisoning their citizens."

The water in Flint is likely poisoning kids. That's what pediatricians in the city say, after looking at lead levels in young children before and after the city switched its drinking water supply from the Detroit water system to the Flint River. Sarah Hulett **looks at the impact it may be having on children in the city.**

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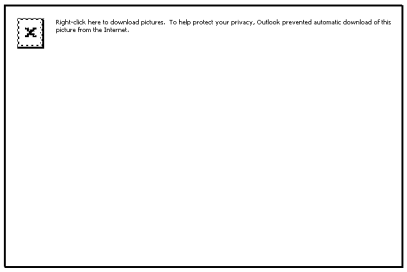
Guerilla artist makes sculptures inside big box stores

Photo: Doug Coombe

Would this sculpture catch your eye in the underwear department? Carson Brown is a visual artist from Grand Rapids who wants to make people think critically about what he calls the American landscape of consumerism. Is it art...or just a pile of stuff? Kyle Norris has **the story.**

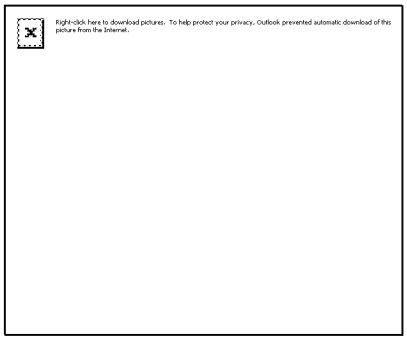
Volkswagen dodged clean air rules with emissions software

By now you've probably heard of the growing scandal involving Volkswagen's "clean diesel" vehicles. The CEO of VW resigned earlier this week and the company is facing billions in fines from the EPA. Michigan Radio's Tracy Samilton **first reported the story for NPR last Friday**, and **the *Diane Rehm Show* examined what the scandal means** for consumers and the car industry.



The main entrance gate at the Volkswagen production plant in Wolfsburg, Germany. Photo: Alexander Koerner/Getty Images.

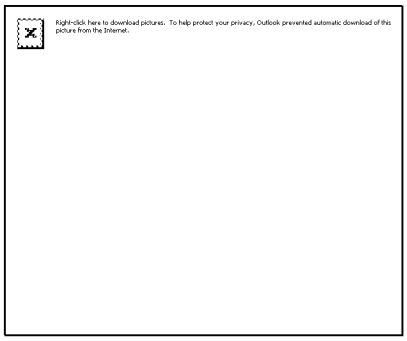
Upcoming Michigan Radio Event



Michigan Radio's West Michigan Member Mixer
Sunday, Oct. 4, Noon-2:00 PM
Grand Rapids Art Museum

Join us for our West Michigan Member Mixer and ArtPrize festivities. Stop by the Grand Rapids Art Museum on Sunday, October 4, to enjoy refreshments and to meet some of the Michigan Radio staff. **Click here to register.**

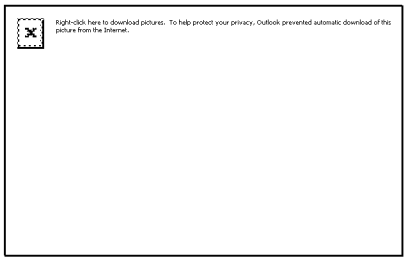
Featured Event



ArtPrize
Now through Oct. 11 in Downtown Grand Rapids

ArtPrize kicked off this week with over 1500 pieces of public art on display all throughout downtown Grand Rapids. Michigan Radio is proud to once again serve as a media sponsor. **Get more information and plan your visit.**

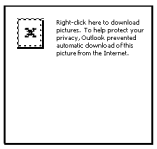
Thank you!



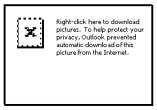
We are grateful to the 4,957 listeners who donated more than $553,000 to Michigan Radio during our recent fall fund drive. This show of support from new sustaining donors as well as renewing members is greatly appreciated by all of us here at Michigan Radio. Thank you again for your generosity and support!

P.S. If you missed the fund drive don't worry...**you can still make your gift now.**

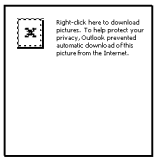
This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features



Is Muskegon Heights too violent to host a high school football game?



Meet my new nemesis: the invasive fruit fly swarming Michigan berry crops



Gov. Snyder launches a new political action committee, looks to find a new group of GOP lawmakers

The "guns-under-any-circumstances" crowd is making a strategic mistake

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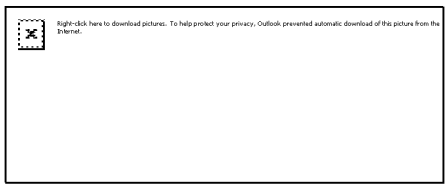
Stateside Highlights



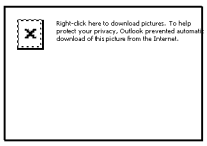
"Shame on us" if we're not a top 10 school system in 10 years, says Michigan's school superintendent
Just about every measurement shows that all groups of Michigan students are losing ground academically compared to their peers in other states. **More.**

Documentary tells story of Flint's T-Rex

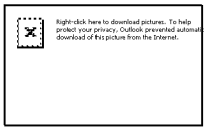
One of the breakout stars of the 2012 summer Olympics in London was a teenage girl from Flint. More.

Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

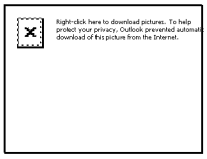
Weekend Highlights



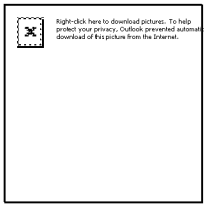
The Moth
Sat 12 pm and 8 pm
"Boyhood"
A preacher's kid steals money from his grandfather and a former child soldier navigates a New York high school.



Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm and 9p
"The Brass Ring"
Stories about the amazing lengths people go to when reaching for the prize.



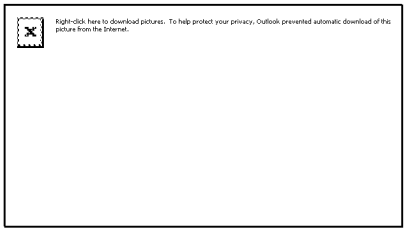
Ask me Another
Sat 4 pm
"Sonia Manzano: These Are The Muppets In Your Neighborhood"
After 44 years as "Maria" on Sesame Street, Sonia Manzano talks about retiring from the show.

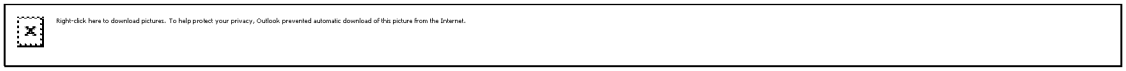


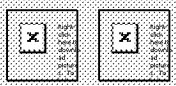
On Being with Krista Tippett
Sun 7 am and 10 pm
"Asteroids, Stars, and the Love of God"
Fresh off the Pope's visit, this hour two Vatican astronomers share the way they think of life, faith, and the Universe.

Bonus Click

"It's deja vu all over again!"
Yogi Berra, the New York Yankees Hall of Fame baseball player, died Tuesday at age 90. He was known for his skills as a catcher... and his catchphrases. Here's a sample of **some of our favorites.**







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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 3:02 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Continuing coverage of Flint's water crisis

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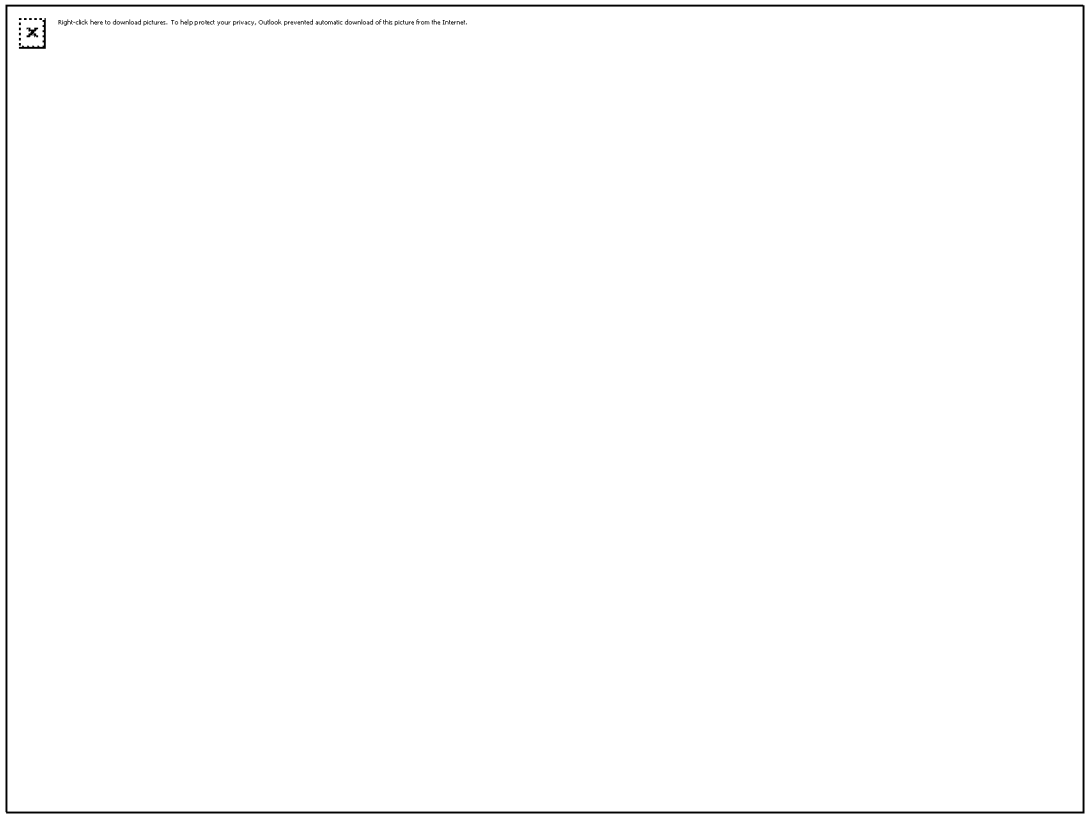


Credit: Steve Carmody

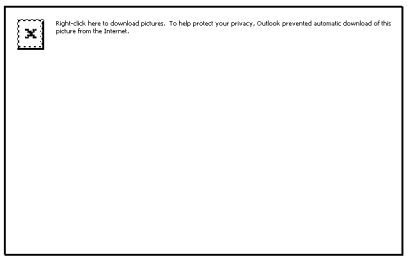
Flint's Water Crisis

Earlier this week, Flint got more bad news about its water system when a new report estimated **it will cost the city $1.5 billion** to repair the damage done since the switch to the Flint River as a water source.

In 2014, the city switched its drinking water source to save money. **Flint Mayor Dayne Walling was a guest on *Stateside*** this week saying the state should approve a corrosion-control plan "as fast as humanly possible" to help keep lead out of the water.

If you have missed parts of the Flint water story, **here's a quick rundown**.

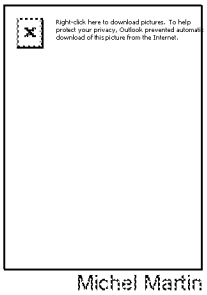
Native American boarding schools have nearly killed Michigan's native language



Holy Childhood School in Harbor Springs
Credit: Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians Archives and Records

Only an estimated three people with the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians are still fluent in Anishinaabemowin, which was the language of the Great Lakes for millennia. Michigan Radio's **Emily Fox has the story** about the role that a school in one of Michigan's favorite vacation destinations played in the decline of native speakers.

Michel Martin Begins Hosting *Weekend All Things Considered*



Michel Martin

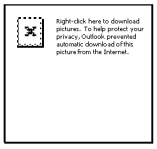
Michel Martin, former host of *Tell Me More*, will **take over as weekend host** of *All Things Considered* beginning this Saturday.

Upcoming Michigan Radio Event

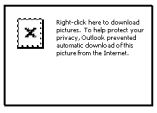
Issues & Ale: College Affordability and Access
Tuesday, October 6 - 6:30-8 PM
One Well Brewing, Kalamazoo

Join us for this *State of Opportunity* discussion about the impact college costs have on first generation or lower income students. **Info and registration.**

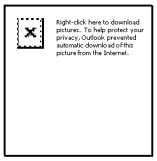
This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features



This is my think piece to try to make sense of the latest senseless tragedy



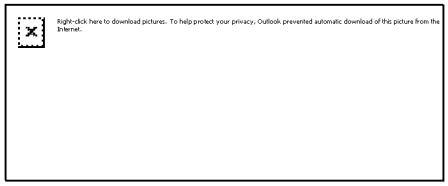
State officials say they've nearly reached goal for Lake Erie, critics say "not so fast"



Michigan Republicans get choosy in GOP presidential primary

Will anything be done about one of Matty Moroun's most corrupt deals?

Stateside Highlights

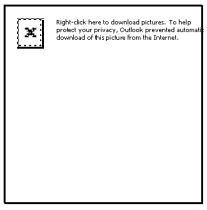


Nation's longest-serving state AG "really saw his life as public service"
Frank Kelly has the distinction of being both the youngest and oldest Attorney General in Michigan's history, serving for 37 years. More

The Tricycle Collective is helping Detroiters buy back their homes
Michele Oberholtzer's organization helps residents, who are often renters, living in homes that are up for auction remain in their homes. More

Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

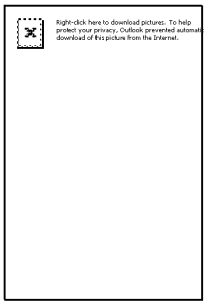
Weekend Highlights



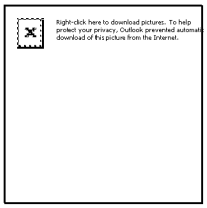
TED Radio Hour
Fri 6 am / Sun 8 pm
Love it or hate it, most of us have to work for a living. This Hour, TED speakers explore our values and motivations when it comes to the workplace.

On The Media
Sat 7 am / Sun 7 pm
A show all about the Supreme Court, just in time for the start of the term.

Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!
Sat 11 am / Sun 4 pm
Recorded in front of a sold-out crowd earlier this week in Ann Arbor with Not My Job guest, author and Michigan Radio commentator, John U. Bacon.



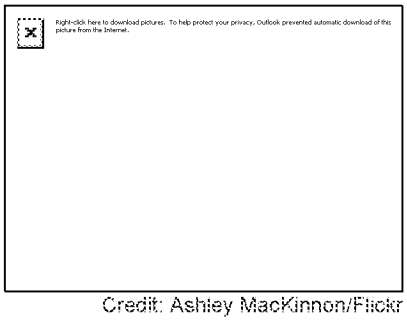
This American Life
Sat 1 pm / Sun 3 pm
"Human Spectacle 2015"
From Gladiators to reality T.V. stars, we've always loved to gawk at others. But what's it like when the tables are turned and all eyes are on you?



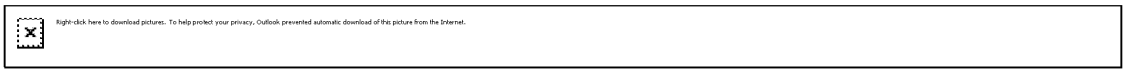
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"Keep Your Head Up"
The California Honeydrops ward off the early autumn chill with fired-up Bay Area Jazz, and The Cactus Blossoms deliver sharp country harmonies.
Plus the Latest News from Lake Wobegon and the Royal Academy of Radio Actors.

Bonus Click

What's in Pumpkin Spice flavor?
In honor of the first full week of fall, we revisit Dan Charles' 2014 piece on **the flavor of the season** -- pumpkin spice. What's the deal with the "science goo" in our lattes?



Credit: Ashley MacKinnon/Flickr



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From: The Environment Report <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Flint's Water Crisis

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October 6, 2015

This Week on The Environment Report

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Water samples from Flint (L) and Detroit (R). Photo, Steve Carmody / Michigan Radio

In Flint, lead levels in some children's blood have spiked dramatically since the city started using the Flint River as its water source. We've been hearing some conflicting things from state officials about what exactly Flint has been doing--if anything--to cut down on lead in the water. We'll sort that out, on the next *Environment Report*.

Listen to *The Environment Report* on Michigan Radio, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:50 am & 5:45 pm. Or, visit us online.

Environmental News from Around the World

South Carolina Copes With Deadly Flooding: 'Something We've Never Seen Before'

Obama just announced the first new marine sanctuaries in 15 years

AP analysis: Dozens of deaths likely from VW pollution dodge

Indonesia Forest Fires Could Become Worst on Record: NASA

BP settlement agreement announced in July to be filed Monday

The Environment Report, Michigan Radio
535 W. William, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:27 AM
To: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Subject: FW: Flint Water Summary for Governor

Importance: High

Are you also ok with this?

From: Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Cc: Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Ray, Patricia (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

See my answers in RED below

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:18 AM
To: Becker, Timothy (DHHS)
Cc: Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Subject: FW: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

Tim – we are working on the FY 16 supplemental this morning.

Your help is needed in identifying:

1. For the $1 million for filters in restricted funds: the name of the line item and what you want to call the funds (just 'Total Other State Restricted Funds' or a specific state restricted fund).

We think it should go in the Emergency Services Local Office Allocations line item and call the fund "total other state restricted funds". This will be the only source of state restricted in that line and we believe it should go in this line because that's where we've already received it, have set up coding, and that's where the work project is paid out of.

2. For the app. $600,000 (please confirm the exact GF amount) for follow up for children with elevated blood levels, which line item? I assume it will be a different line.

As I mentioned to Nancy, it should be $850,000 to contract out the Nurse Assessments and the Environmental Blood Level Investigators. We'd like this paid out of the Childhood Lead Program in the Family and Maternal Child Health Services.

3. A brief, short paragraph summarizing what DHHS will be doing / purchasing (for the supplemental letter).

(I've put in a lot here so you all can condense it down if you'd like)

These funds will be used to conduct visits by nurses and send trained certified Environmental Blood Level Investigators to families in Flint. Nurse visits will monitor child lead levels to determine changes in those levels and communicate with

primary care providers if other tests are required due to blood levels. Nurses will also conduct developmental screenings and if necessary make referrals for developmental services in the community. Nurses will also conduct nutritional assessments and counseling. Funds will also be used to support Environmental Blood Level Investigators who will test the various surfaces in the home for lead, collect dust samples and submit to the lab and conduct detailed visual inspections. Investigators will also prepare detailed reports summarizing the results of the investigations and will coordinate those results with the nurses making visits to the home.

4. Question – do you need any boilerplate language or not?

We are good with NO boilerplate language and would likely use our existing contract with MPHI to coordinate these services. There's also a possibility we could contract with the local Genesee health department.

Please respond back ASAP this morning – thank you

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:17 PM
To: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Khouri, Nick (TREASURY); Saxton, Thomas (Treasury); Lyon, Nick (DHHS); Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Zimmer, Mike (LARA); Pohl, Allan (LARA); Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Cc: Roberts, John (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

Attached is a summary of the funding commitments to address the Flint Water situation. The total state commitment is $10.4m; $7.9m of that amount is GF/GP. [The DHHS number needs to be verified tomorrow morning, but the final number should be close to this estimate.]

The funding will address 4 priority areas:

1. Provision of filters for residential service;

2. 50% of the estimated cost to reconnect temporarily to the Detroit Water System;

3. Funding for testing water samples; and

4. Other state assistance (e.g., home/school/health facility inspections and follow-up for children with elevated blood levels).

We are preparing a formal supplemental request to transmit to the Legislature tomorrow. John intends to talk with Rep. Pscholka and Sen. Hildenbrand about including this funding in HB 4102, the pending supplemental bill now awaiting House concurrence. Assuming that they agree, we would ask for final action next week.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about our planned approach.

Nancy

From: Kaiser Health News <emails@kaiserhealthnews.org>
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 10:10 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: KHN Morning Briefing: October 9, 2015

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Morning Briefing

Friday, October 09, 2015
Check Kaiser Health News online for the latest headlines

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES
1. Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds
2. Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'

MEDICARE
3. CMS Releases Star Ratings For 2016 Medicare Advantage Plans

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION
4. Insurers Seeking More Obamacare Aid Could Wait Years

QUALITY
5. Bill Would Require Drug, Device Makers To Disclose Pay To Nurses, Physician Assistants
6. Med Schools Trying To Adapt To New Health Care Environment

CAPITOL HILL WATCH
7. House Panel Finds No Financial Wrongdoing By Planned Parenthood, Rep. Chaffetz Says
8. From Planned Parenthood To Obamacare: Speaker Race Will Impact Key Health Care Issues, Funding

MEDICAID
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12. Oncologists Skipping Expensive Cancer Drugs That Offer Little Or No Benefit
13. Proposed Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Fails To Get Enough Signatures To Make Ballot
14. FDA Recognizes Salt As Generally 'Safe'; Advocacy Group Wants That Status Removed

STATE WATCH
15. State Highlights: Another Rural Hospital Closes; N.Y. Expands Low-Cost Health Care To Immigrants; Fla. Kids Losing Special-Needs Services

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH
16. Research Roundup: Observation Care At VA; Meeting Charity Standards; Medicare Drug Plans

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS
17. Viewpoints: War Of Words On Kansas Medicaid; Sebelius' Legacy; Mental Health Care Reform

KAISER HEALTH NEWS ORIGINAL STORIES

1. Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds

Researchers report that prices for a dozen procedures and tests were 8 to 26 percent higher in counties with the highest level of physicians concentrated in large group practices. (Michelle Andrews, 10/9)

2. Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'

Kaiser Health News provides a fresh take on health policy developments with "Political Cartoon: 'Gospel Truth?'" by Nate Beeler, The Columbus Dispatch.

Here's today's health policy haiku:

HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE BALANCE

Who will be Speaker?
Choice may set tone for budget
And key health issues.

- Anonymous

If you have a health policy haiku to share, please Contact Us and let us know if you want us to include your name. Keep in mind that we give extra points if you link back to a KHN original story.

MEDICARE

3. CMS Releases Star Ratings For 2016 Medicare Advantage Plans

Almost three out of four beneficiaries are enrolled in medical and drug coverage plans that received at least a four-star quality rating, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The rankings did show a drop for some companies, especially in regard to prescription drug benefits.

Modern Healthcare: Medicare Advantage Star Ratings Reveal Mix Of High, Low Performers
More Medicare Advantage plans nabbed top quality marks for their 2016 plans than last year, a potential sign that private insurers are trying to meet the federal government's standards for high-quality products and coordinated healthcare for seniors. But the CMS' star ratings, released Thursday, also showed that private Medicare plans are still failing on many levels, particularly when it comes to prescription drug benefits. (Herman, 10/8)

Meanwhile, 2016 Medicare Part D premiums will rise for many -

Reuters: Unwelcome News About Medicare's Rising Drug Costs
Seniors have received some unpleasant news in their mailboxes in recent weeks: premiums for many Medicare prescription drug insurance plans will rise at double-digit rates next year. Premiums for the ten most popular Medicare Part D prescription drug plans (PDPs) will rise an average of 8 percent next year - the fastest clip in five years, according to Avalere Health, a consulting and research firm. And five of the top plans will boost their average premiums anywhere from 16 percent to 26 percent. (Miller, 10/8)

HEALTH LAW ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION

4. Insurers Seeking More Obamacare Aid Could Wait Years

Insurers who hoped to get billions in aid after opening-year losses from their participation in the health law's insurance marketplaces are only getting 12.6 percent of what they requested after the fund to pay them fell short. In the meantime, Obamacare dropouts get picked up by employer coverage in California, and Wyoming loses one of its two health law insurers.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Affordable Care Act Aid Could Take Years To Reach Insurers
Health insurers that lost millions of dollars last year under the Affordable Care Act may wait years for the government to deliver the aid it promised them. Companies, including Downtown-based insurer Highmark, want about $2.87 billion to help cover their first-year losses from online insurance marketplaces — a centerpiece of the landmark

health care law. But a federal relief program meant to limit their risk is more than $2 billion short, leaving the companies to collect only 12.6 percent of those requests late this year, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services said this month. (Smeltz, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: Many Obamacare Dropouts In California Picked Up Employer Coverage, State Says

Nearly half of the estimated 700,000 Californians who have dropped their Obamacare policies during the past two years have enrolled in an employer-based plan, a new report from the Covered California exchange shows. In a news conference Thursday, Peter Lee, the organization's executive director, said there were about 1.3 million Californians enrolled in the exchange's plans as of June 30. That was about two-thirds of the 2 million who have enrolled in the exchange since it opened Oct. 1, 2013. (Sisson, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Wyoming Loses 1 Of Its 2 Affordable Care Act Insurers

One of the two companies offering health insurance coverage in Wyoming under the federal health care law has decided to drop out of the program after receiving word that the federal government would be providing drastically less financial help than it expected. The news comes as state leaders debate whether the federal government can be trusted to help pay for expansion of a health insurance program for the working poor. (Moen, 10/8)

Also, lawmakers in New Jersey ask the attorney general there to delay proposed insurance plans from Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield that are meant to save money --

The Associated Press: New Health Insurance Plan Sparks Debate In New Jersey

Two New Jersey senators have asked the state attorney general to delay the biggest health insurer in the state from offering a set of insurance plans that are being sold as money-saving ways to cover health care. Critics fear the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield plans could hurt some patients and hospitals. Democratic Sens. Nia Gill and Joseph Vitale say the state should first set up a way to oversee how health insurers rate health care providers when they set up tiered systems. Here's a look at the issue. (Mulvihill, 10/8)

Colorado's cooperative insurance plan faces an uncertain future over cost concerns, and a patient advocacy group rates California's best HMO and PPO plans --

The Associated Press: Low-Cost Health Insurer In Colorado Faces Uncertain Future

Colorado's biggest nonprofit health insurer faces an uncertain future, and its 80,000 or so customers don't know whether their insurer will be able to offer new polices when next year's enrollment period begins soon. Colorado HealthOP, which emerged from the Affordable Care Act, faces possible insolvency because the U.S. government said it won't be able to cover payments to help stabilize premiums in federal insurance markets. (Wyatt, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: California Agency Ranks Kaiser As Best HMO, Anthem And Cigna As Best PPOs

Kaiser Permanente was the highest-rated HMO and Anthem Blue Cross and Cigna the top-rated PPOs in a new state report. The California Office of the Patient Advocate

released ratings Wednesday of 10 HMOs, six PPOs and more than 200 medical groups, just as Californians prepare to choose their health plans for next year from their employers or Covered California, the state's Obamacare exchange. (Pfeifer, 10/8)

QUALITY

5. Bill Would Require Drug, Device Makers To Disclose Pay To Nurses, Physician Assistants

The legislation, introduced in the Senate, would close a loophole in the law that requires public disclosure of such payments to doctors and some other health providers.

ProPublica: Bill Would Add Nurses, Physician Assistants To Pharma Payments Database
A bill proposed Wednesday by two U.S. senators would require drugmakers and medical device manufacturers to publicly disclose their payments to nurse practitioners and physician assistants for promotional talks, consulting, meals and other interactions. The legislation would close a loophole in the Physician Payment Sunshine Act, which requires companies to report such payments to doctors, dentists, chiropractors, optometrists and podiatrists. Companies have so far released more than 15 million payment records, covering August 2013 to December 2014. (Ornstein, 10/8)

And on prices for medical services -

Kaiser Health News: Medical Prices Higher In Areas Where Large Doctor Groups Dominate, Study Finds
Prices for many common medical procedures are higher in areas where physicians are concentrated into larger practice groups, according to a new study. The October Health Affairs study examined the average county prices paid by preferred provider insurance organizations in 2010. It focused on 15 high-volume, high-cost medical procedures across a variety of specialties, including vasectomy, laparoscopic appendectomy, colonoscopy with lesion removal, nasal septum repair, cataract removal and knee replacement. The prices studied reflected the negotiated prices between the PPOs and the physician groups, including payments made by both the plan and the patient. The average price ranged from $2,301 for a total knee replacement to $576 for a vasectomy. (Andrews, 10/9)

6. Med Schools Trying To Adapt To New Health Care Environment

With a revolution in U.S. health care -- in both how care is delivered and paid for -- schools that train doctors are scrambling to revamp. Also, a Michigan paper examines the burden on nurses at an understaffed state hospital, and a study analyzes patient attitudes about being discharged from the hospital.

The Washington Post: A Different Kind Of Care Package
U.S. health care is in a revolution that is starting to shake up one of the most

conservative parts of medicine: its antiquated model for training doctors. Once paid a la carte for the procedures and services they perform, physicians are beginning to be reimbursed for keeping their patients healthy. ... The AMA is worried enough about the problem that it has been giving out millions of dollars to prod new kinds of teaching, in the hope that doctors' training can adapt as quickly as the system they will soon join. (Johnson, 10/8)

The Lansing State Journal: Michigan Mental Health Nurses Say OT Hurts Patient Care
The well-being of some 700 patients in state psychiatric hospitals is in the hands of nurses who say they're overworked, overtired and overstressed because of excessively mandated double shifts. Sometimes several days a week, nurses in Michigan's five state-run hospitals end their regular eight-hour shifts only to be ordered to cover staffing shortages by working another eight hours. Against the recommendations of nursing groups and one of the state's own task forces, several current and former nurses at the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services told the State Journal they're worked to the point of exhaustion and ragged nerves, more prone to errors or poor judgment as they deal with unpredictable, sometimes violent patients. (Hinkley, 10/8)

Reuters: Patients Who Feel Ready To Leave The Hospital Are More Satisfied
In a small study of hospitilized patients, those who felt ready to go home when they were discharged were more satisfied with the hospital and their caregivers than those who didn't feel ready to go. It may be useful to use patient readiness for discharge as one measure of quality of care, the authors write in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. (Doyle, 10/8)

CAPITOL HILL WATCH

7. House Panel Finds No Financial Wrongdoing By Planned Parenthood, Rep. Chaffetz Says

Chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) says his committee's hearings have not found that the reproductive health organization is improperly handling its finances. He says investigations may continue. At a hearing yesterday, a former employee said that Planned Parenthood did bill Medicaid for abortion services. The woman made similar claims in a lawsuit that in 2014 an Iowa appeals court said did not have enough evidence to go forward.

The Huffington Post: GOP Probe Into Planned Parenthood Funding Comes Up Empty
Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said Thursday [during a Judiciary Committee hearing] that the GOP's investigation into Planned Parenthood's use of federal funds hasn't turned up anything. ... Chaffetz said Thursday that he still supports digging into Planned Parenthood's activities, even if they're using their money appropriately. "I think there will continue to be investigations," he said. (Bendry, 10/8)

The Hill: Planned Parenthood Billed Medicaid For Abortion Services, Ex-Employee

Claims

A former Planned Parenthood employee told lawmakers Thursday that she had firsthand knowledge that the organization has billed the federal government for abortion-related ultrasounds and medications, in violation of federal law. Susan Thayer, who spent 17 years working as a clinic manager for Planned Parenthood in Iowa, told lawmakers Thursday that the group had overbilled Medicaid by about $28 million, reasserting claims that have been the subject of a drawn-out court battle in Iowa. ... an appeals court in Iowa ruled in fall 2014 that Thayer did not have detailed enough evidence to accuse Planned Parenthood of submitting false claims. (Ferris, 10/8)

8. From Planned Parenthood To Obamacare: Speaker Race Will Impact Key Health Care Issues, Funding

House Republicans will meet Friday morning to discuss next steps in electing a leader following Rep. Kevin McCarthy's surprise withdrawal from the race Thursday. Rep. Paul Ryan has resisted recruitment appeals so far.

The New York Times: Republicans To Meet Amid Turmoil After Kevin McCarthy's Exit From Speaker Race

House Republicans will meet Friday morning at the Capitol to begin charting a path forward after Representative Kevin McCarthy of California's stunning withdrawal from the race for speaker dashed expectations of an orderly succession and threw Congress deeper into turmoil. The struggle to restore order to their leadership comes as they confront major fiscal issues with rapidly approaching deadlines, and Republican leaders are casting about for a candidate for speaker who can both bring along restive conservatives and maintain the backing of the far larger ranks of the rest of their conference. (Herszenhorn, 10/9)

Wall Street Journal: Paul Ryan Resists Calls To Run For House Speaker

Deprived of a clear pick for House speaker, many Republican lawmakers turned Thursday to Paul Ryan, the 2012 GOP vice presidential nominee, an architect and lead salesman of the party's conservative economic policies. While the Ways and Means committee chairman, said in a statement Thursday that he was "grateful for the encouragement," Mr. Ryan added that he wouldn't be a candidate. ... He has described the chairmanship of the Ways and Committee, a panel that oversees issues such as tax and government health-care policy, Social Security and trade, as an ideal post for him. (McKinnon and Hughes, 10/8)

MEDICAID

9. Ariz. Weighs Medicaid Work Requirement, But HHS Has Rejected That For Other States

Arizona has already expanded its Medicaid program, but lawmakers there want to set tougher standards for those who are eligible. News outlets also report on the wait in Montana for the federal government to consider the state's expansion plans and a

controversial statement by an aide to the Kansas governor.

Stateline: Should Medicaid Recipients Have To Work?
If Arizona gets its way, its able-bodied, low-income adults will face the toughest requirements in the country to receive health care coverage through Medicaid. Most of the those Medicaid recipients and new applicants would have to have a job, be looking for one or be in job training to qualify for the joint federal-state program for the poor. They would have to contribute their own money to health savings accounts .... Some of Arizona's proposals have been made in other states, and the federal government has signed off on them. It has rejected work requirements, however. (Ollove, 10/8)

The Great Falls Tribune: Waiting For Medicaid Costly To Some Montanans
Holly Blouch wants to be working, and she wants to be healthy. But right now, it's almost impossible to do both. Diagnosed with carcinoid disorder eight years ago, Blouch needed to work to have health insurance to pay for her medical care, which will some day involve needing a kidney transplant. But she can't work enough hours to keep medical insurance because of her health. "There are a lot of people out there like me," said the 37-year-old Kalispell woman. She's referring to herself and the 69,999 other Montanans who now qualify for Medicaid coverage after the Montana Legislature approved the expansion plan this year. But she's got to wait a little while longer to get that coverage while the federal government reviews Montana's waiver application. (Cates, 10/8)

Wichita Eagle: Governor's Press Office Calls Medicaid Expansion 'Morally Reprehensible'
Gov. Sam Brownback's press office blasted Medicaid expansion as an "Obamacare ruse" in an e-mail to supporters Tuesday, signaling that the governor won't back expansion anytime soon. Melika Willoughby, the governor's deputy director of communications, pushed back against the claim that the state's refusal to expand Medicaid helped cause the closure of Mercy Hospital in Independence. "Those who say Medicaid Expansion would save the Independence Hospital are lying. It wouldn't," Willoughby said in an e-mail to the governor's supporters. "Instead, this Obamacare ruse funnels money to big city hospitals, creates a new entitlement class, and fails to rightly prioritize service for disabled citizens." (Lowry, 10/7)

And in other Medicaid news -

Los Angeles Times: Blue Shield's Deal With Regulators On $1.2-Billion Acquisition Draws Fire
Beleaguered insurer Blue Shield of California won state approval for its $1.2-billion acquisition of a Medicaid health plan, but the nonprofit company's deal with regulators drew heavy criticism. The California Department of Managed Health Care said it extracted several key concessions from Blue Shield in an agreement unveiled Thursday. Ending a high-stakes and lengthy battle, the company agreed to permanently relinquish its longtime state tax exemption. (Terhune, 10/8)

The Associated Press: DHS Director Says He Will Leave Department By End Of Year
The director of Arkansas' Department of Human Services said Thursday that he will leave his job by the end of the year. John Selig said in a news release that he told Gov.

Asa Hutchinson about his plans to leave the department that has overseen the implementation of the state's "private option" Medicaid expansion plan. Hutchinson said in an emailed statement that he met with Selig on Wednesday and asked him to stay on through January to help with the transition. (Lauer, 10/8)

MARKETPLACE

10. Big Pharmaceutical Companies Withhold Support Of Trans-Pacific Trade Deal

Negotiators struck a compromise on the major issue of patent protections for biologics and vaccines that left no party completely happy.

The Wall Street Journal: Business Groups Withholding TPP Support On Lack Of Details
Major U.S. business groups, citing internal frictions and uncertainty over the details of President Barack Obama's 12-nation Pacific trade deal, are withholding their support for now, hobbling the administration's early efforts to win congressional backing. With big pharmaceutical companies and several other major industries disappointed by the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the broader business coalitions that have long backed the talks say they first must consult with their members. (Mauldin, 10/8)

NPR: TPP Negotiators Reached Agreement With Sticky Compromise On Biologics Drugs
A big sticking point in the negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership involved biologics medicines and vaccines created from living organisms. The dispute centered on patent protection: how many years drug companies should have before facing competition from generics. The negotiators ended up with a complicated compromise that gives drug makers five to eight years of protection. But nobody is really happy with the outcome. (Zarroli, 10/8)

11. Biotech Stock Poised For Big Gain Or Big Fall

One Wall Street analyst says there's no middle ground forward for investment in biotech firms, whose products are becoming the focus of scrutiny after big price hikes. Elsewhere, a new multiple sclerosis drug from Roche shows promise, and there's news on a takeover bid by Blackstone and an impending sale by Clayton, Dubilier & Rice of a drug-compounding firm.

The Wall Street Journal: Biotechs Are A 'Strong Buy' Or 'Strong Sell,' Wall Street Strategist Says
Biotechnology stocks can't catch a break. And one Wall Street strategist says the volatile price action recently has him expecting one of two things: A sharp turnaround or a deeper plunge. "The group isn't a 'Buy' or 'Sell' here – it is either 'Strong Buy' or 'Strong Sell,'" wrote Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at brokerage Convergex. Biotechs have long been a volatile sector, well outperforming the large-cap S&P index

during good times and significantly underperforming during bad times. (Scholer, 10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: Roche's MS Drug Reports Promising Results
Roche Holding AG's Genentech unit said its experimental drug ocrelizumab proved effective in three late-stage studies against multiple sclerosis, potentially heralding an important new treatment option for the debilitating disease. In two of the studies, which included 1,656 patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis, the most common form of the condition, ocrelizumab proved superior to the commonly used drug, Rebif, in reducing the annual rate of relapse of major symptoms and other measures of the status of the disease, Roche said. (Winslow, 10/8)

Bloomberg: Blackstone To Acquire BioMed Realty Trust For $4.8B
Blackstone Group agreed to buy landlord BioMed Realty Trust Inc. for $4.8 billion, betting on growth in real estate demand from the life sciences and biotechnology industries. Shares of REITs have been battered this year as investors gird for the first interest-rate hike since 2006, creating opportunities for buyers like New York-based Blackstone to acquire companies relatively cheaply. Health-care spending is rising quickly in the United States, boosting demand for laboratory space that can accommodate pharmaceutical developers and manufacturers. (Callanan and Mulholland, 10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: PharMEDium A Hit For CD&R As Firms Renew Interest In Sector
Clayton Dubilier & Rice's planned sale of drug-compounding company PharMEDium Healthcare Holdings Inc. for $2.58 billion stands to land the private equity firm a nice return on its investment. It also reflects revived interest in compounding pharmacies, which mix or dilute pharmaceutical agents to create hospital-grade dosage forms that aren't commercially available. (Or, 10/8)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

12. Oncologists Skipping Expensive Cancer Drugs That Offer Little Or No Benefit

Meanwhile, news outlets report on other cancer care developments like the impact of life-expectancy questions on patients and what elephant genes could teach researchers about fighting the disease.

Reuters: Cancer Doctors Drop Pricey Drugs With Little Effect
U.S. oncologists, aware that patients are paying more of the costs of expensive cancer drugs, are increasingly declining to prescribe medicines that have scant or no effect, even as a last resort. At least half a dozen drugs, including colon cancer treatments Cyramza, from Eli Lilly & Co, and Stivarga, sold by Bayer AG, aren't worth prices that can exceed $100,000 a year, top cancer specialists said in interviews with Reuters. (Beasley, 10/8)

Reuters: Discussing Life Expectancy Gives Advanced Cancer Patients Realistic View

When doctors discuss prognosis with advanced cancer patients, those patients have more realistic views of their life expectancy and don't seem to experience a decrease in emotional wellbeing, according to a new study. "That the vast majority of cancer patients who are dying say that they want to know their prognosis seems surprisingly courageous," said senior author Holly G. Prigerson of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. (Doyle, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: What Elephants Can Teach Scientists About Fighting Cancer In Humans

You've heard that elephants never forget, but did you know they almost never get cancer either? It turns out just 4.8% of known elephant deaths are related to cancer. For humans, cancer-related deaths are much higher — between 11% and 25%, scientists say. The low cancer rate among elephants is particularly intriguing because all things being equal, elephants should get more cancer than we do. (Netburn, 10/8)

13. Proposed Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Fails To Get Enough Signatures To Make Ballot

Also in California, Gov. Jerry Brown signs three bills aimed at limiting prescriptions of antipsychotics for foster children. Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration faces criticism for its continued approval of OxyContin for kids. And the growing heroin epidemic puts more minors into the state foster systems.

The Associated Press: Measure To Repeal California Vaccine Law Won't Be On Ballot

Proponents of an effort to repeal California's new stricter law requiring mandatory vaccines for schoolchildren failed to submit enough signatures to qualify a ballot initiative asking voters to repeal the law. County election clerks reported receiving fewer than 234,000 of the 366,000 signatures needed to ask California voters to repeal the law, according to figures provided to the secretary of state's office and posted online Thursday. The new state law struck down the state's personal belief exemption for immunizations, a move that requires nearly all public schoolchildren to be vaccinated. (Williams, 10/8)

NPR: California Approves Laws To Cut Use Of Antipsychotics In Foster Care

Efforts to protect children in foster care from being inappropriately medicated with powerful antipsychotic drugs got a big boost forward on Tuesday, when California Gov. Jerry Brown signed three bills into law designed to reform prescribing. Overprescribing of psychiatric meds for foster youth is a persistent problem nationwide, with children given the drugs at double or triple the rate of those not in foster care. (Korry, 10/8)

The New York Times: F.D.A. Approval Of OxyContin Use For Children Continues To Draw Scrutiny

Ever since the Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the narcotic painkiller OxyContin for certain children in August, it has faced unabated criticism from lawmakers and public officials who are wrestling with devastating rates of prescription opioid abuse in their communities. ... The crux of the issue is whether the agency's approval will lead to more prescriptions for OxyContin in young patients. (Saint Louis, 10/8)

Stateline: How Heroin Is Hitting The Foster Care System
Timothy Dick's office receives all kinds of reports of child abuse and neglect. Perhaps a child has a broken bone, or is underfed, or has been left home alone for too long. But when caseworkers drive to the child's home to investigate, they often discover the same root cause. "What we're finding more and more is that the parents are addicted to opiates. And more often than not, it's heroin," said Dick, assistant director of child protective services in Clermont County, Ohio. (Quinton, 10/9)

In other children's health news -

CNN: Anti-Bullying Laws Appear To Be Working
Roughly 20% of high school students report being bullied at school in the past year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and 15% of high school students said they were bullied online. That number has gone down significantly since the federal government started collecting data on the problem in 2005. A decade ago, 28% of students reported being bullied. Why? One reason is that anti-bullying laws seem to actually work. That's what a new study in JAMA Pediatrics suggests, although not all bullying laws are equally impactful. (Christensen, 10/8)

The New York Times: Eating Organic Lowers Pesticide Levels In Children
Researchers have found that when children eat organic fruits and vegetables, the amount of pesticides in their bodies declines significantly. Most organophosphorus pesticides have been phased out for residential use, but they are still widely used in agriculture. High doses in agricultural workers can be deadly. (Bakalar, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Researcher: Children's Cancer Linked To Fukushima Radiation
A new study says children living near the Fukushima nuclear meltdowns have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer at a rate 20 to 50 times that of children elsewhere, a difference the authors contend undermines the government's position that more cases have been discovered in the area only because of stringent monitoring. Most of the 370,000 children in Fukushima prefecture (state) have been given ultrasound checkups since the March 2011 meltdowns at the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. The most recent statistics, released in August, show that thyroid cancer is suspected or confirmed in 137 of those children, a number that rose by 25 from a year earlier. Elsewhere, the disease occurs in only about one or two of every million children per year by some estimates. (Kageyama, 10/8)

14. FDA Recognizes Salt As Generally 'Safe'; Advocacy Group Wants That Status Removed

In other public health news, researchers find that intense early intervention can lead to recovery for people diagnosed with schizophrenia.

McClatchy: Consumer Group Sues FDA For Inaction On Salt
A prominent consumer advocacy group sued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Thursday for failing to regulate the amount of salt in the nation's food supply. The Center for Science in the Public Interest wants the FDA to act on the group's 10-year-old petition to lift salt's status as "generally recognized as safe." Doing so would reclassify salt as a food additive, which subjects it to more stringent regulation, like

limits on the amounts allowed in processed foods. The legal action is the latest chapter in the group's decades-long efforts to combat excessive sodium consumption. Eating too much salt can lead to high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease, kidney failure and stroke. (Pugh, 10/8)

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Intense Early Intervention For Schizophrenia Leads To Recovery

When the Places for People outreach team found Chandra Thirdkill, she was about 40 years old and had been homeless for two years. Her struggles, however, began as a teen. Everyone looked at her like she was ugly, she thought. No one liked her. She constantly got into fights. Thirdkill dropped out of high school, turned to alcohol and drugs, and was in and out of jail as the fights grew to involve dishes, knives and bricks. Shooting and injuring her then-husband landed her in prison for three years. That's when she was finally diagnosed with schizophrenia. (Munz, 10/8)

STATE WATCH

15. State Highlights: Another Rural Hospital Closes; N.Y. Expands Low-Cost Health Care To Immigrants; Fla. Kids Losing Special-Needs Services

News outlets report on health issues in Missouri, New York, Florida, California, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota and Maine.

The New York Times: Closing A Hospital, And Fearing For The Future

By this weekend, the last patients will be discharged and Mercy Hospital Independence will close, joining dozens of rural hospitals around the country that have not been able to withstand the financial and demographic challenges buffeting them. The hospital and its outpatient clinics, owned by the Mercy health care system in St. Louis, was where people in this city of 9,000 turned for everything from sore throats to emergency treatment after a car crash. Now, many say they are worried about what losing Mercy will mean not just for their own health, but for their community's future. (Smith and Goodnough, 10/8)

Reuters: New York To Offer Low-Cost Healthcare To Immigrants

New York will become one of the first major U.S. cities to expand low-cost healthcare to uninsured immigrants regardless of their legal status under a pilot program to launch next spring, Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Thursday. The pilot, called Direct Access, will initially apply to 1,000 immigrants. Some of them are in the country legally but still ineligible for support under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare. The program is expected to expand in the following years. (10/8)

The News Service Of Florida: Senate Panel Wants Answers From DOH On Children's Health Programs

A Florida Senate panel on Wednesday demanded answers from a state Department of Health official about how many special-needs children have recently lost services as

the state transitions to a new Medicaid system --- and why. Several members of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee said they'd had calls from constituents --- "in tears," in the words of Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach --- over losing critical health-care services for their children. (Menzel, 10/8)

Georgia Health News: 'Balance Billing' Draws Legislative Scrutiny

A patient scheduled for surgery makes sure that both the hospital and surgeon are in the health plan's network prior to the operation. But after the surgery, a surprise bill arrives for hundreds of dollars. It turns out that the anesthesiologist used in the procedure was not in the patient's insurance network – and the patient had no idea. Such "balance billing" situations often confound and upset consumers receiving medical care – and can lead to tough collections practices. (Miller, 10/8)

Los Angeles Times: Death With Dignity Act In Oregon: A Preview Of What California Might Expect

California's new law, which the 77-year-old former Jesuit seminarian struggled with before signing, was modeled after legislation enacted in Oregon nearly 18 years ago. Whether they call it "death with dignity" or the "corruption of the medical profession," "physician-assisted suicide" or "medical killing," those on both sides of the end-of-life debate do agree on one thing: That Oregon's example offers important lessons for California and its 38.8 million residents, who in the near future will be able to ask a doctor to prescribe them a lethal dose of medication so they can hasten their own deaths. (La Ganga, 10/8)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Camden County Program To Boost Post-Overdose Care

Camden County is launching a pilot program to support drug-overdose victims who are revived by police only to then wait weeks for a spot in an inpatient treatment center. Dubbed Operation SAL - an acronym for Save A Life and also a tribute to the son of a local addiction-issues advocate - the $150,000 program is designed to help up to 50 people receive intensive outpatient treatment during that waiting period after an overdose. (Lai, 10/8)

NJ Spotlight: Bid For Saint Michael's Could Let State Reshape Future Of Newark Hospitals

In the span of three years, the number of hospitals that the state owns could go from zero to two -- both in Newark, potentially allowing it determine exactly what healthcare in that city will look like for decades to come. The New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority has emerged as a potential bidder for Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark, just two years after the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey handed over University Hospital to the state. (Kitchenman, 10/8)

The Philadelphia Inquirer: Nemours Health Teaming With Lancaster County Clinic To Treat Children With Genetic Disorders

Nemours Children's Health System and the Clinic for Special Children in Lancaster County signed a five-year agreement to collaborate on the care of children with rare genetic disorders, the two tax-exempt organizations announced. The clinic, near Strasburg, Pa., was founded in 1989 to treat Old Order Amish and Mennonite children with genetic disorders. (Brukbaker, 10/9)

Minnesota Public Radio: CVS Offering Anti-Overdose Drug Without Prescription
Pharmacists at one of the largest drugstore chains in Minnesota can now distribute an antidote over the counter that can reverse opiate overdoses. CVS has announced that pharmacists at stores in Minnesota and 11 other states are now able to distribute the anti-overdose drug naloxone without a prescription. Another pharmacy based in southern Minnesota is exploring a similar program that's expected to launch before the end of the year. (Collins, 10/8)

Health News Florida: Lawmakers Prepare For Familiar Health Battles
Health care has been a hot-button policy issue for years in the Florida Legislature, and it's starting to look like the session scheduled to start on Jan. 12 will be no different. Battles over Medicaid expansion and payments to hospitals treating low-income patients were so bitter in the spring, it brought the Legislature to a halt. (Shedden, 10/8)

The Associated Press: 3 Working Groups Start Tackling Heroin Problem In Maine
A task force formed to address the state's heroin epidemic held its first meeting on Thursday, with 35 people on three teams focusing on law enforcement, education and treatment, officials said. The three working groups will hold additional meetings to come up with solutions and strategies to turn back the tide of overdose deaths, addiction and drug-related crimes, said U.S. Attorney Thomas Delahanty, who volunteered to establish the working groups after a pair of drug summits in August. (Sharp, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Snyder Supports Switching Flint Water System Back To Detroit
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday called for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency over lead and grapple with broader concerns about the effects of the aging pipes distributing the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, as well as adverse health reactions, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes. (Karoub and Eggert, 10/8)

Health News Florida: Arizona Homeopathic Doc Faces FL Board
A doctor who says she is "dedicated to the natural treatment of cancer" has been ordered to appear before the Florida Board of Medicine on Friday to explain the death of a toddler from an unapproved drug. Martha Grout MD, who left Florida 20 years ago after catching flak for her alternative methods, nevertheless holds a current Florida license. The incident occurred at her alternative medicine center in Scottsdale, Ariz., where she practices "homeopathy," a style of medicine that is not legal in Florida. (Gentry, 10/8)

The Associated Press: Petitions Filed To Allow Medical Marijuana Use In Missouri
The first step to put medical marijuana to a statewide vote next year came Thursday, with supporters filing initiative petitions with the Missouri secretary of state. The two petitions from pro-medical marijuana group New Approach Missouri, would ask voters whether to amend the state constitution to allow physicians to recommend the drug to patients with certain illnesses, such as cancer, epilepsy and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as "any other chronic, debilitating or otherwise equivalent condition."

(Ballentine, 10/8)

St. Louis Public Radio: Effort Underway To Legalize Medical Marijuana Use In Missouri
Backers of medical marijuana want Missourians to decide if doctors can be allowed to prescribe the drug to critically ill patients. Two ballot initiatives that would do just that were filed on Thursday. Sheila Dundon of Columbia is a registered nurse and a breast cancer survivor. She says past cancer patients advised her to try marijuana to help curb the effects of chemotherapy. (Griffin, 10/8)

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

16. Research Roundup: Observation Care At VA; Meeting Charity Standards; Medicare Drug Plans

Each week, KHN compiles a selection of recently released health policy studies and briefs.

Health Affairs: Observation Rates At Veterans' Hospitals More Than Doubled During 2005–13, Similar To Medicare Trends
When neither inpatient admission nor prompt discharge is clearly indicated for a patient in the emergency department, physicians place the patient under observation in a hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The increasing prevalence of observation stays at hospitals reimbursed by Medicare is receiving considerable attention, but the prevalence remains unexplored in Veterans Health Administration (VHA) hospitals, which are subject to different payment policies. Using VHA data for fiscal years 2005–13, we identified trends and variations in observation rates across twenty-one Veteran Integrated Service Networks and 128 VHA hospitals nationwide. We found that observation rates across VHA hospitals more than doubled, from 6.5 percent to 13.8 percent, and that there was substantial variation across both Veteran Integrated Service Networks and hospitals. (Wright et al., 10/5)

Health Affairs: Connecticut's 'Money Follows The Person' Yields Positive Results For Transitioning People Out Of Institutions
[T]he federal Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration helps qualified individuals living in institutions make the transition to life in the community. The Connecticut Money Follows the Person program is an unusually rich source of data, with information on the 2,262 people who transitioned to the community under that state's program during 2008–14. ... for the majority of respondents who remained in the community, quality of life and life satisfaction improved significantly after transition, and they stayed high. About half of the participants visited hospitals or emergency departments after transition; however, only 14 percent had returned to an institution one year after transition. Predictors of reinstitutionalization included some not previously observed: mental health disability, difficulties with family members before transition, and not exercising choice and control in daily life. (Robison et al., 10/5)

Brookings: A Floor-And-Trade Proposal To Improve The Delivery Of Charity-Care Services By U.S. Nonprofit Hospitals

Many uninsured Americans rely on charity care provided by nonprofit hospitals, which receive substantial tax benefits in exchange for providing community benefits. In this discussion paper we show that the hospitals that receive the largest tax benefits tend to be located in wealthier communities, whereas the demand for uncompensated care is highest in poorer communities. To ameliorate this geographic mismatch between the supply of charity care and the demand for charity care, we propose a floor-and-trade system whereby nonprofit hospitals would be required to meet charity-care standards, either by providing care to local patients or by purchasing credits from other hospitals. (Ody, Dranove and Garthwaite, 10/7)

The Kaiser Family Foundation: Medicare Part D At Ten Years: The 2015 Marketplace And Key Trends, 2006-2015

This report presents findings from an analysis of the Medicare Part D marketplace in 2015 and changes in features of the drug benefit offered by Part D plans since 2006. ... In 2015, more than 39 million Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare drug plans. Since 2006, the share of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in a Part D plan has increased from 53 percent to 72 percent of all eligible Medicare beneficiaries. ... The average Part D enrollee had a choice of 30 PDPs and 15 MA-PD plans in 2015. ... In 2015, most plans use five cost-sharing tiers: preferred and non-preferred tiers for generic drugs, preferred and non-preferred tiers for brand drugs, and a tier for specialty drugs. ... Cost sharing for brand-name drugs has been relatively stable in recent years. (Hoadley, Cubanski and Neuman, 10/5)

The Commonwealth Fund: U.S. Health Care From A Global Perspective: Spending, Use Of Services, Prices, And Health In 13 Countries

This analysis draws upon data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other cross-national analyses to compare health care spending, supply, utilization, prices, and health outcomes across 13 high-income countries .... These data predate the major insurance provisions of the Affordable Care Act. In 2013, the U.S. spent far more on health care than these other countries. Higher spending appeared to be largely driven by greater use of medical technology and higher health care prices, rather than more frequent doctor visits or hospital admissions. In contrast, U.S. spending on social services made up a relatively small share of the economy relative to other countries. Despite spending more on health care, Americans had poor health outcomes, including shorter life expectancy and greater prevalence of chronic conditions. (Squires and Anderson, 10/8)

CDC's Preventing Chronic Disease Journal: Health Status of Older US Workers and Nonworkers, National Health Interview Survey, 1997–2011

Many US workers are increasingly delaying retirement from work .... We examined the association of older adults' health status with their employment/occupation and other characteristics. National Health Interview Survey data from 1997 through 2011 were pooled for adults aged 65 or older .... Employed older adults had better health outcomes than unemployed older adults. Physically demanding occupations had the lowest risk of poor health outcomes, suggesting a stronger healthy worker effect: service workers were at lowest risk of multiple functional limitations ... and blue-collar workers were at lowest risk of multimorbidity ... and multiple functional limitation .... A strong association exists between employment and health status in older adults beyond what can be explained by socioeconomic factors (eg, education, income) or health

behaviors (eg, smoking). (Kachan et al., 9/24)

Here is a selection of news coverage of other recent research:

The Wall Street Journal: How Economic Downturns May Be Good For Your Health
Economic downturns, it turns out, appear to be good for health, according to a study released this week by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The research by Christopher Ruhm, a professor at the University of Virginia, builds upon earlier studies looking at the impact of economic downturns on health. "There is considerable evidence that harmful behaviors–like heavy drinking and smoking–decrease in bad economic times, whereas health-enhancing activities such as exercise and social interactions increase," Mr. Ruhm said. (Sparshott, 10/7)

Reuters: Women Are Missing From HIV Drug Trials
Although women make up roughly half of the world's HIV cases, they remain largely excluded from clinical trials testing drugs, vaccines and potential cures for the virus, a research review confirms. In an analysis spanning several decades that included work done as recently as 2012, researchers found that women typically comprised about 11 percent of participants in trials investigating cures for HIV. Similarly, drug studies were only about 19 percent female and just 38 percent of vaccine trial subjects were women. (Rapaport, 10/2)

Reuters: Caring For Loved One With Alzheimer's May Be Most Stressful For Spouse
Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease isn't easy under the best of circumstances, but it may be much more stressful for spouses and people who suffer from depression, a Finnish study suggests. Researchers followed 236 family caregivers of Alzheimer's patients for three years after the diagnosis. Caregiving appeared to be much more stressful for people who were married to the patients or who suffered from depression when the study began. (Rapaport, 10/2)

Reuters: Perceived Discrimination Linked To Smoking And Poor Diet
Feeling like the target of discrimination may increase a person's odds of harmful behaviors like smoking, eating fatty foods and getting less sleep, a study of African-Americans suggests. Researchers examined the connection between discrimination and these unhealthy habits among almost 5,000 African-American residents of the Jackson, Mississippi metropolitan area. (Rapaport, 10/8)

The Oregonian: Oregonians Billed By Out-Of-Network Health Providers At High Rates, Insurer Group Says
Patients who use health providers outside of their insurer's network can expect bills to be as much as 1,200 percent more than what those services would cost under Medicare, according to a new study from an insurer lobbying group. In Oregon, for instance, a session of computer-targeted radiation therapy to treat tumors costs, on average, $2,409. That's about six times the average Medicare reimbursement rate of $397 — a key benchmark for health care costs. (Budnick, 10/5)

The Wall Street Journal: Study: Attempted Suicide Rises After Weight-Loss Surgery
People who undergo surgery for weight loss are 50% more likely to attempt suicide after the operation than before it, according to a large Canadian study published

Wednesday in the journal JAMA Surgery. The popular procedures, which were performed nearly 200,000 times in the U.S. last year, result in significant weight loss for most patients and often bring about reductions in Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and sleep apnea as well. Many patients also report improved mood and self-esteem. But a small group experience a worsening of depression, substance abuse and eating disorders, past studies have found. (Beck, 10/7)

Reuters: Type Of Weight Loss Surgery Matters For Diabetes Remission
Diabetics considering weight-loss surgery to help send their disease into remission should opt for the most popular procedure, a gastric bypass, researchers suggest. In their study of different types of so-called bariatric surgeries, the biggest impact on diabetes remission was seen with gastric bypass, which can reduce the size of the stomach from about three pints to roughly the size of a shot glass. (Rapaport, 10/6)

The Associated Press: Gene Test Finds Which Breast Cancer Patients Can Skip Chemotherapy
Many women with early-stage breast cancer can skip chemotherapy without hurting their chances of beating the disease, a major new study has found. The 21-gene test accurately identified a group of women whose cancers are so likely to respond to hormone-blocking drugs that adding chemo would do little, if any, good while also exposing them to side effects and other risks, the researchers found. “You can’t do better than that,” says the study leader, Dr. Joseph Sparano of Montefiore Medical Center in New York. (Marchione, 10/3)

The New York Times: Heart Scan Can Fine-Tune Risk Estimate For Patients Considering Statins
Treatment guidelines suggest that nearly half of those over age 40 — nearly 50 million people in the United States — at least consider a cholesterol-lowering statin to reduce heart attack risk. But a new large study of people who had an inexpensive heart scan found that half of those who were statin candidates had no signs of plaque in their heart and very little chance of having a heart attack in the next decade. (Kolata, 10/5)

The Associated Press: Report: More US Hospitals Are Encouraging Breast-Feeding
Health officials say more hospitals are encouraging new mothers to breast-feed. A new report found more than two-thirds of hospitals in 2013 helped women start breast-feeding within an hour after birth. That's up from 44 percent six years earlier. Roughly 90 percent of hospitals teach moms breast-feeding techniques and how to recognize and respond to infant feeding cues. But only about a quarter refrain from giving infants breast milk alternatives — like formula or water — unless medically necessary. (Stobbe, 10/6)

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

17. Viewpoints: War Of Words On Kansas Medicaid; Sebelius' Legacy; Mental Health Care Reform

A selection of opinions on health care from around the country.

Huffington Post: This GOP Governor's Comments About The Poor Are Incredibly Revealing

Some Republicans want their party to stop bashing poor people as lazy and undeserving of public assistance. Sam Brownback, the conservative governor of Kansas, doesn't appear to be one of them. Brownback and his allies are in the middle of a major fight over Medicaid, the government-run health insurance program for the poor and disabled. ... And while conservatives who oppose the expansion sometimes rely exclusively on arguments about Medicaid's efficacy -- or perceived lack thereof -- Brownback has been putting his rhetorical emphasis elsewhere. On Tuesday, the governor's deputy communications director, Melika Willoughby, distributed a letter laying out in detail the heart of Brownback's argument -- namely, that expanding Medicaid would be "morally reprehensible" because it would help "able-bodied adults ... who choose not to work" and would send money to "big city hospitals." (Jonathan Cohn, 10/7)

Kansas City Star: Gov. Sam Brownback's Missive On Medicaid Expansion Was Wrong, Cruel And Divisive

Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's office sent out one of its trademark propaganda pieces on Tuesday, this one on the subject of Medicaid expansion. In its effort to score political points, it maligns low-income Kansans and pits citizens with disabilities against the working poor. As with other recent messages, the email signed by the governor's deputy communications director, Melika Willoughby, is rife with inaccurate information. (10/6)

Kansas City Star: Gov. Sam Brownback Takes The Low Road On Medicaid Expansion

In Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's world, expanding Medicaid eligibility to more low-income Kansans would create "new government entitlements" for "able-bodied adults" and benefit a small number of "big city hospitals." I'll say this for Melika Willoughby, the deputy communications director who penned that incendiary language in an email on behalf of the Brownback administration: She's got the code words down pat. ... By spewing this sort of vitriol, the governor's office is choosing to argue a complex issue with the lowest forms of talking points. (Barbara Shelly, 10/8)

Forbes: Three Major Problems Left By Sec. Sebelius' Legacy: Obamacare's Medicaid Expansion

While [former HHS Secretary Kathleen] Sebelius resigned in the shadow of a disastrous roll-out of healthcare.gov, her more damaging legacy is the temptation for state leaders to embrace a bigger welfare state and accept an injection of federal dollars funded by Medicare cuts and deficit spending. Medicaid expansion, like Obamacare, fails to deliver on its promises of quality health care that improves the health of enrollees. Even more troubling, ballooning Medicaid expansion costs threaten every other service and will trap millions in a cycle of dependency and poverty. (Tarren Bragdon, 10/7)

Deseret News: Let The People Decide On Medicaid Expansion

I listened with interest to Tuesday's Health Reform Task Force, where members of the Gang of Six presented their "Utah Access" plan for Medicaid expansion. This new

proposal, built on the premise that health care providers should pay the majority of the state's expansion costs, did not go over well. Providers are upset, and they have a right to be. Most providers will see no economic benefit from Medicaid expansion. They should not have to pay more than any other Utahn to cover its costs. (Dan Liljenquist, 10/8)

Des Moines Register: Medicaid Savings Are Increasingly Suspect
Perhaps Gov. Terry Branstad thought he could quietly privatize Iowa's Medicaid program. Instruct a state agency to hand over administration to managed care companies, issue a few press releases about "modernization," quickly secure federal approval and hope no one raises a fuss. Except when 4.2 billion public dollars and health care for 560,000 Iowans are on the line, people eventually pay attention to the details. It doesn't take long to realize privatization makes no sense. (10/8)

The Wall Street Journal: Mass Shootings And A Mental-Health Disgrace
We all know how this plays out in Congress: a moment of silence on the House floor and a fraternal feeling of melancholy when the flag over the Capitol is lowered to half-staff. But that moment of silence will not heal the hearts of those who lost a loved one, and it will not stop the next tragedy. Here and now we need action; we need real change. That's why I've authored the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act. The bill focuses resources and reform where they are most needed: to foster evidence-based care, fix the shortage of psychiatric hospital beds, empower patients and caregivers under HIPAA privacy laws, and help patients get treatment well before their illness spirals into crisis. (Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Penn.)

The New York Times: Getting The Diagnosis Wrong
Diagnostic accuracy is fiendishly difficult to measure precisely, but it is estimated that doctors get it wrong in one out of 10 to one out of 20 cases. Up until now, the focus of the patient safety movement has been on errors of medical treatment — incorrect medications or dosages, postoperative complications, hospital-acquired infections. But diagnostic errors — incorrect or delayed diagnoses — may be more common and potentially more deadly. The Institute of Medicine has taken up the subject, and its new report offers the chilling observation that nearly everyone will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetimes. (Ofri, 10/8)

Politico: Planned Parenthood's Cecile Richards Blasts GOP 'Total Lack Of Civility'
Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood, says she was "stunned by the total lack of civility and use of raw power" by Republican members of Congress during last week's House Oversight and Government Reform hearing on her organization's federal funding, Richards fired back at Congress and Republicans in general in a Guardian article published Thursday, warning that the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade is "on the ballot" for next year's presidential election. (Nick Gass, 10/8)

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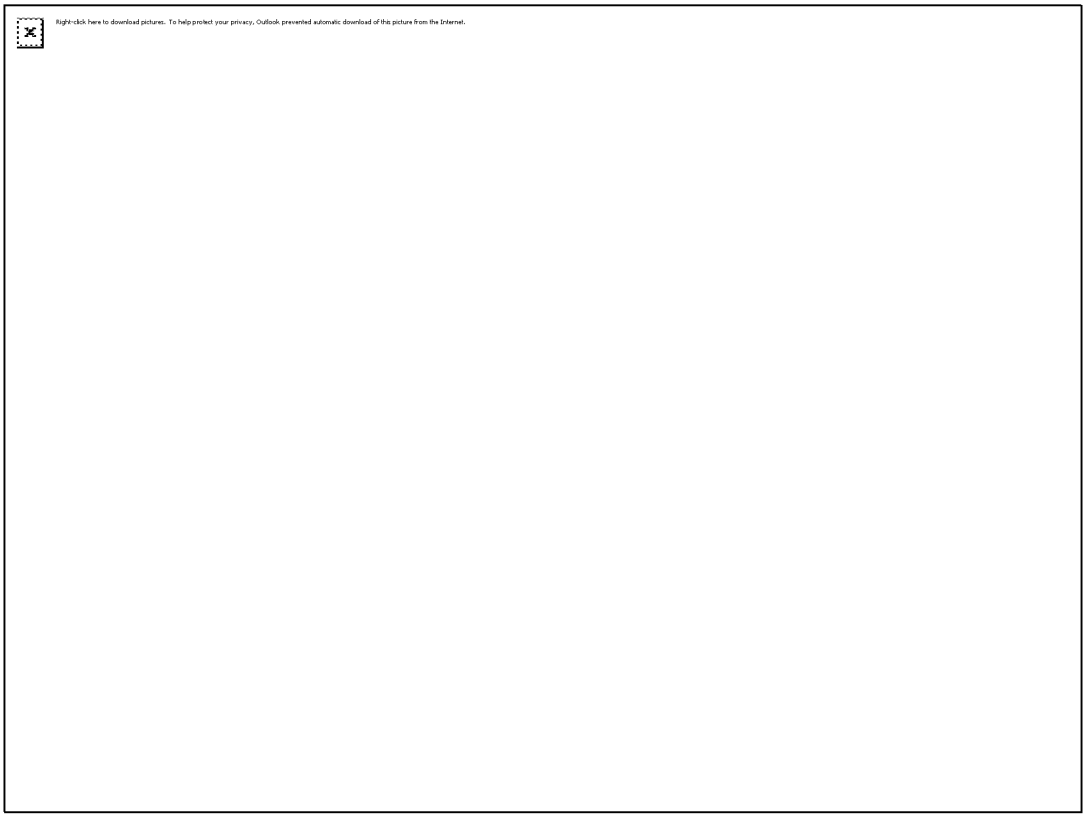
From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 3:32 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Remembering Grace Lee Boggs / Flint Update

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

October 9, 2015

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.



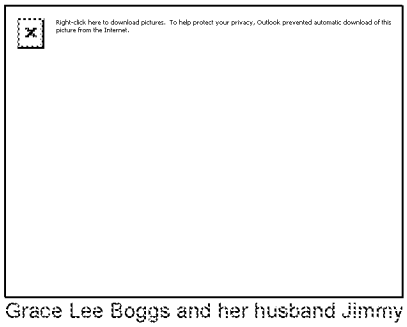
Gov. Snyder announced the $12 million plan to hook the city of Flint back up to Detroit water.
Photo by Steve Carmody / Michigan Radio

Flint returning to Detroit water, but problems persist

A year and a half after city leaders stood in Flint's water plant and raised plastic glasses to toast the city's switch to the Flint River, the city is going back to Detroit's water system after the state, the city and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation agreed to kick in $12 million to make the switch. Despite the proposed change, there are new concerns about **lead in the water in Flint schools**. Steve Carmody has **details on the latest developments**.

Remembering Detroit's Grace Lee Boggs

Philosopher, activist, and writer Grace Lee Boggs died at her home on the east side of Detroit earlier this week. She was 100. Zak Rosen has **this recollection** of the woman described as an "American Revolutionary."



Grace Lee Boggs and her husband Jimmy Boggs. Photo courtesy, Boggs Center.

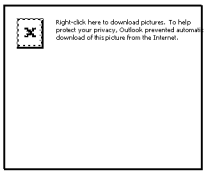
Weekend All Things Considered Saturday & Sunday, 5-6:00 PM

With **Michel Martin's debut** as weekend host of ***All Things Considered***, you can look forward to several new segments on the show. Saturdays will bring different perspectives on the week's stories, including the **"Barbershop"** roundtable. Sundays will take a deep dive into the important stories of the coming week including conversations around faiths, values and beliefs, and a commentary from Michel called **"Can I Just Tell You?"**

Michel Martin, new weekend host of *All Things Considered*.

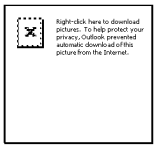
Win Tickets!

Enter to win a pair of tickets to see humorist David Sedaris at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor on October 26.

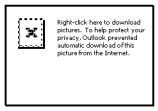


This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features

Road funding debate could get in the way of making sure there isn't a repeat of Flint water crisis



What would a world with no racial achievement gaps in schools look like?



Federal appeals court orders EPA to rewrite ballast rules for ships

We need a thorough investigation into how the Snyder administration handled the Flint water crisis

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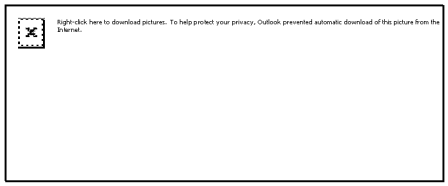
Stateside Highlights

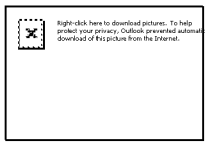


Did debtors' prison ever really go away?
Across Michigan and the rest of the country, people are being jailed over failing to repay fines and fees. More>

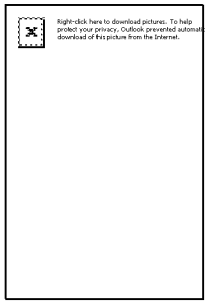
There's a way to help every child in Michigan save for education
Measures of family wealth and education attainment in the U.S. show a widening gap between the rich and the poor, but this Next Idea proposes a way to close that gap. More>

Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

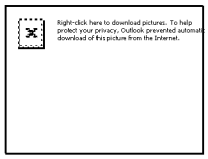
Weekend Highlights



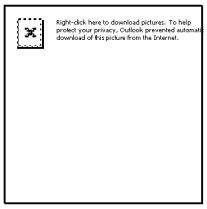
The Moth Radio Hour
Sat 12 pm & 8 pm
"Live from Boston"
A New York City cop looks into the death of a kid he grew up with, a marriage opposed, and more.



This American Life
Sat 1 pm / Sun 3 pm
"Peer Review"
Inside the room at Hardee's where the hot-dog topped burger was born. And other tales of people and their ideas, being judged by their peers.



Ask me Another
Sat 4 pm
"The Milk Carton Kids: No Expiration Date"
The folk band, The Milk Carton Kids tell host Ophira Eisenberg about the benefits of being a duo and field Seinfeld trivia questions.

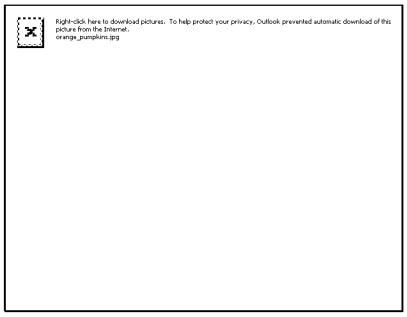


A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"Three Heads are Better Than One"
After 41 years on the air, Garrison Keillor accidentally let his radio license lapse. In his stead, Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O'Donovan host this week's episode. With the Royal Academy of Radio Actors.

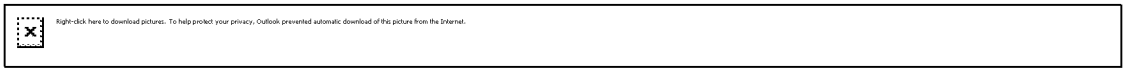
Old car won't run?

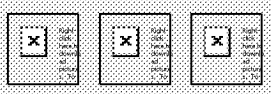
Don't trash it! We've got a better way to get rid of your old car:
Donate it to Michigan Radio.

Bonus Click



Dire news for pie lovers
Thanksgiving is still more than a month away, but **there's potential bad news for pie bakers**...a canned-pumpkin shortage.





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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 3:33 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Life after high school; Faith in government shaken

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

October 16, 2015

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MDEQ Director Dan Wyant, at the microphone, with Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, right.
Credit State of Michigan / LiveStream

MDEQ Director: Flint water crisis has shaken faith in government

For months, Flint residents were assured their drinking water was safe, until mounting evidence showed high lead levels in the water. In a ***Stateside*** interview earlier this week, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant called it an issue of "experience rather than wrongdoing" and said no one should lose their job. **Learn more.**

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Life After High School: *State of Opportunity* special

Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 3 PM and 10 PM

Senior year in high school...the popular narrative is that you graduate, go to college, then start your career. But life after high school is more complicated for many young people in Michigan. Join Michigan Radio's Jennifer White next Wednesday as we look at the options open to young people as they work to build a life for themselves.

Upcoming Retirement Series: Your Money and Your Life

Having enough money to retire is now the top financial concern for Americans. Starting next week, NPR will begin airing a new series on how to start saving and investing successfully for retirement. **Tune in during *Morning Edition*, 5-9:00 AM, and *All Things Considered*, 4-6:30 PM, beginning the week of October 19, on Michigan Radio.**

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.
3_piggy_banks.jpg

Issues & Ale: College Affordability & Access

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30-8 PM
ABC Microbrewery, 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti

Join Michigan Radio's Jennifer Guerra as she hosts this State of Opportunity discussion about the rising cost of college and the impact it's having on first generation and lower income students. Learn more and register to attend.

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Featured Event: Washtenaw County Heart Ball

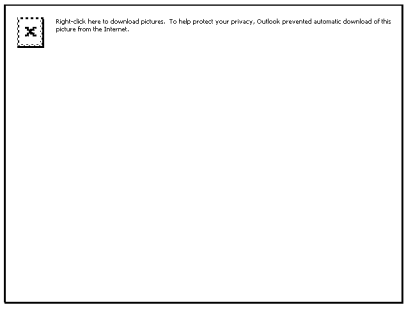
Friday, October 30, 6:30 PM
U-M Stadium - Jack Roth Stadium Club

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

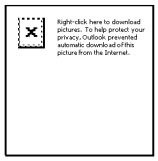
This year's Heart Ball promises to be an engaging evening of fun and passion bringing community and philanthropic leaders together. **Tickets and information.**

Creating your legacy at Michigan Radio

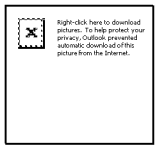
It's easier than you think to have an impact on future generations of public radio listeners. **Here are some ways...**



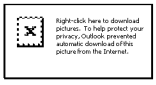
This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features



Will controversial Dave Agema run for Congress (in a district in which he doesn't even live)?



What does it take for most people to support soaking the rich with higher taxes? Mass war



Michigan lawmakers consider banning microbeads in consumer products

Commentary: Lawmakers have lost their minds, and it's time to call them out

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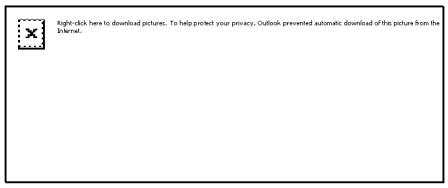
Stateside Highlights



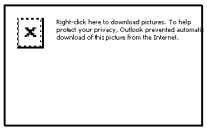
To help students focus, we could use less medication and more meditation
Mindfulness techniques can offer a way to help students and teachers handle stress in the classroom.
More

Catholic nun describes 30 years of teaching literature at men's prison
A Roman Catholic nun in Adrian has been teaching literature to male prisoners for nearly 30 years. More

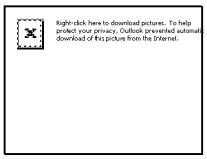
Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

Weekend Highlights

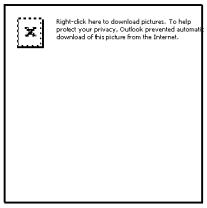
On the Media
Sat 7 am / Sun 7 pm
"Nudity on the Radio"
We've got more to say about Playboy's announcement this week that it will no longer do the thing that has defined it for over sixty years....feature nude models in the magazine.



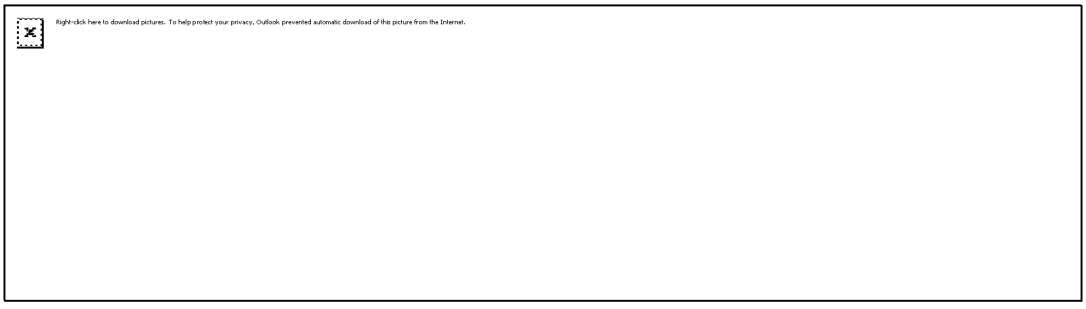
Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm & 9 pm
"Mystery Man"
People think they know who they're dealing with, but we throw them for a loop.



Ask me Another
Sat 4 pm
"Welcome To Night Vale: All Hail The Mighty Quiz Show!"
The creators of the hit podcast Welcome to Night Vale reflect on its runaway success and help lead a game about mysterious phenomena...that one should never speak of or acknowledge.

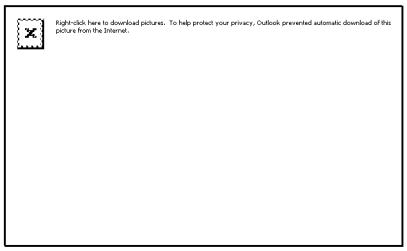


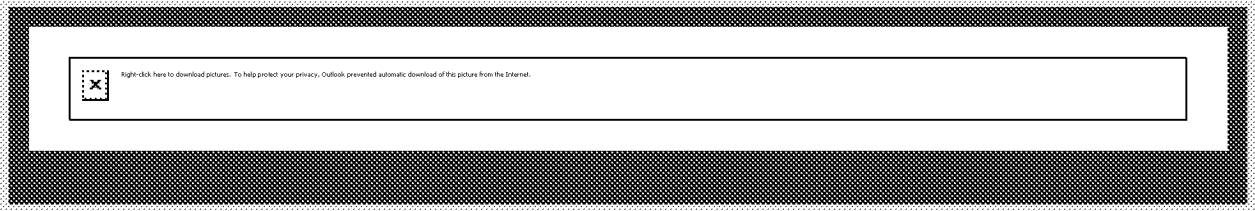
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"Autumn in St. Paul"
Garrison is back at the mic for a live broadcast from the Fitzgerald Theater. With mandolin fireworks from Chris Thile; red-hot fiddle and cello from Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas; a visit from public radio's only staff blues singer, Hilary Thavis; plus the Royal Academy of Radio Actors and an update on the last two weeks of News from Lake Wobegon.

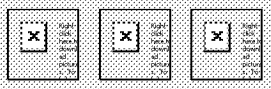


Bonus Click

Smart phones have been around for years, and even smart watches are so 2015. Maybe you need **a Ringly smart ring** that will let you know when important people are contacting you, or that your Uber is here.







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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 3:31 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: What you need to know about the water crisis/Win tickets

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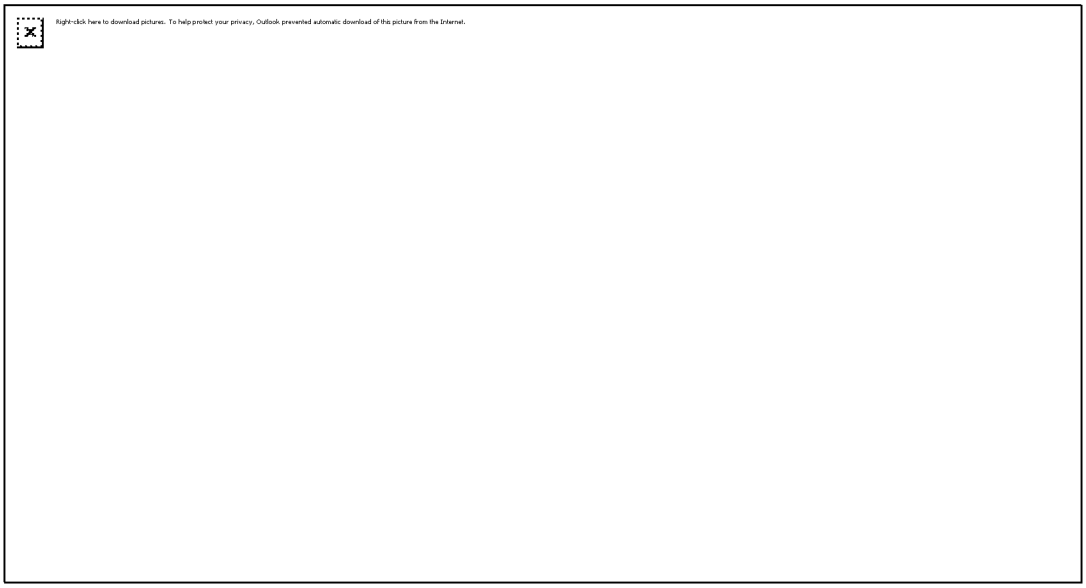
Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

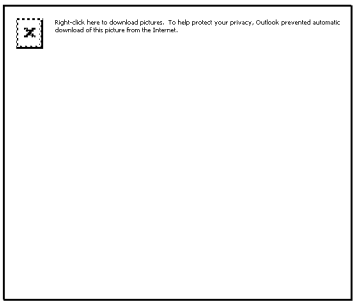
October 23, 2015



Flint did not follow federal rules to keep lead out of water

Earlier this week, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality admitted Flint did not follow federal rules designed to keep lead out of water. The city didn't do any kind of corrosion control when it started pumping water from the Flint River. The treatment helps keep lead from corroding from old service lines and pipes in people's homes, and is required under federal law.

If you live in Flint, Michigan Radio's **Infowire** has compiled this guide to **what you need to know about the water crisis,** including how you can get your water tested.



Connections

Wed 10/28, 3pm and 10pm

For a lot of us, we got where we are today through a combination of hard work...and some helpful connections along the way. Networks are all around us, if we're lucky. Join State of Opportunity's Jennifer Guerra next Wednesday for CONNECTIONS, a radio documentary about the power of networks.

Our Life After High School special

What's the best way for students to build a future for themselves? In this week's State of Opportunity special, Jennifer White talked to students from all over the state who each took a different path after leaving high school. Listen to their stories about college, the military, and job training programs, and then tell us yours.

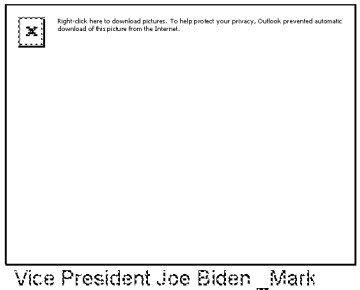
Issues & Ale: College Affordability & Access

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30-8 PM
ABC Microbrewery, 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti
FREE ADMISSION

Join Michigan Radio's Jennifer Guerra as she hosts this State of Opportunity discussion about the rising cost of college and the impact it's having on first generation and lower income students. **Learn more and register to attend**.

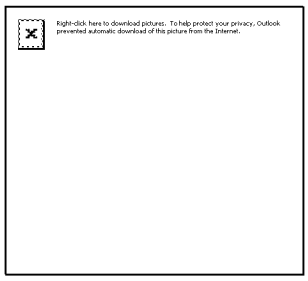
Canada Reminds Us That American Elections Are Much Longer

If Vice President Biden had announced his presidential candidacy this week, he would have entered the race with 384 days until Election Day. But he said it was too late for him to be competitive. Meanwhile Canada elected a new Prime Minister this week, following a campaign that lasted about 11 weeks. Why are American election campaigns so long?



Vice President Joe Biden _Mark Wilson_Getty Images_

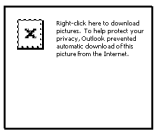
Win Tickets from Michigan Radio



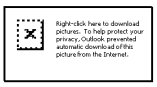
Enter to win a pair of tickets to the Grand Rapids Wine, Beer & Food Festival (Nov. 19-21, 2015), the largest wine and beer tasting event in the Midwest. Click here to enter.

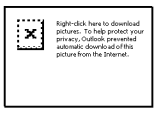
This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features

Governor Snyder has faced a hard few months, and there's little relief in sight



Are the arts a luxury or an economic necessity?

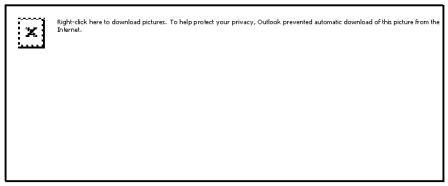




Building a comeback for the Detroit River

Commentary: Paying attention to Canada's election

Stateside Highlights



Pawpaw: the fruit America forgot
There is a fruit native to North America that is plentiful and was quite popular for a long time. More

Is GM as "vastly different" as Mary Barra claims?
GM announced better than expected profits his week, but what does that mean when times are good for all car makers right now? More

Listen to Stateside with Cynthia Canty Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

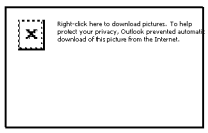
Weekend Highlights

Reveal
Sun 6 pm
"High and Dry"

From who is using the most water in parched California to the skyrocketing water bills in New York, *Reveal* investigates water issues around the country.

On the Media
Sat 7 am / Sun 7 pm

Brooke speaks with Cora Currier of The Intercept about how to unpack the White House's jargon on drone strikes, what it tells us about drone policy, and what the murky wording means for journalists trying to report on it.

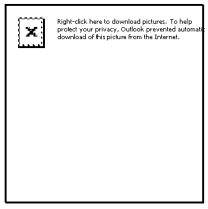


Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm & 9 pm
"Spooked VI: The Awakening"

We bury the very bad things and hope they go away forever, but some things... never die.

This American Life
Sat 1 pm / Sun 3 pm
"And the Call Was Coming from the Basement"

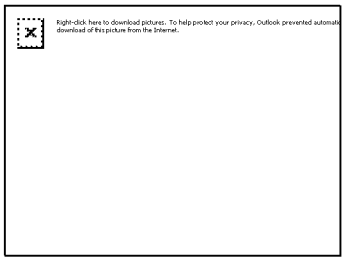
Scary stories that are all true for the week leading up to Halloween. Zombie raccoons, haunted houses, and things that go "EEEEK!!" in the night.



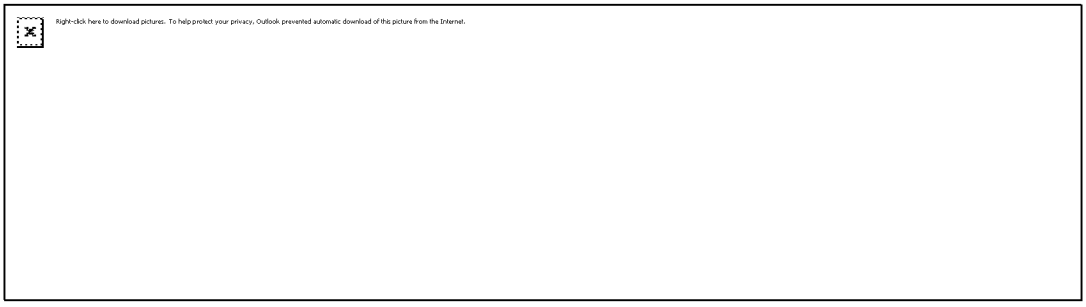
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
On Both Sides

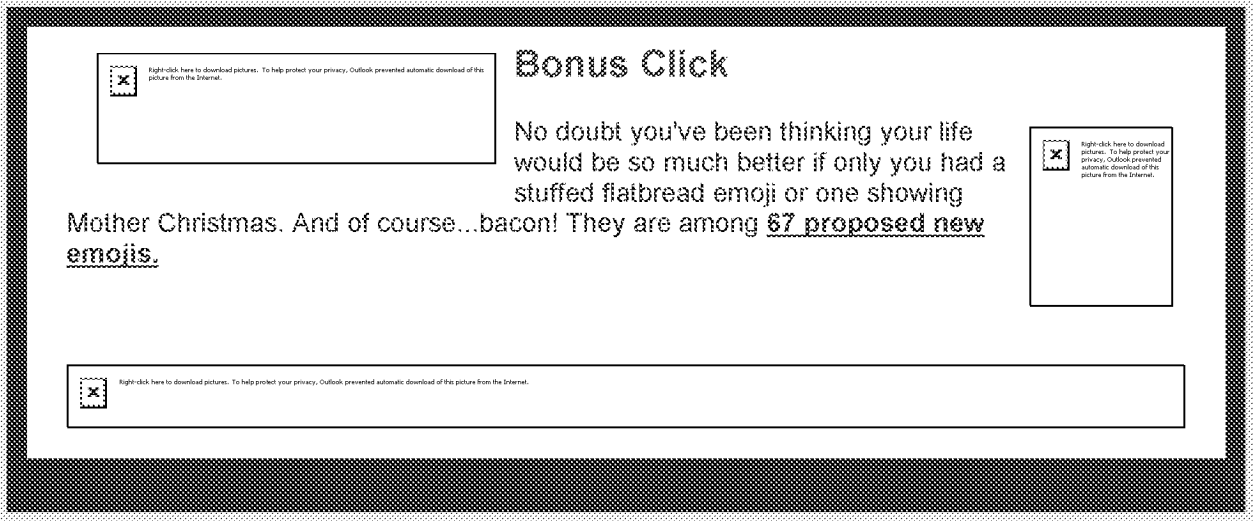
The show heads up the Mississippi River for a live broadcast from Anoka High School in Garrison Keillor's hometown of Anoka, Minnesota, the Halloween Capital of the World.

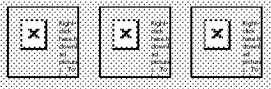
Creating your legacy at Michigan Radio



It's easier than you think to have an impact on future generations of public radio listeners. **Here are some ways...**







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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2015 3:03 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Michigan's Mormon King / A New Water Threat

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

November 6, 2015

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Tap water in a Flint hospital on Oct.16_ 2015 _Joyce Zhu- Flintwaterstudy.org_

New threat in Flint water

The EPA says people living in Flint could be in danger of "high lead release" into their tap water if road work or other physical disturbances to service lines occur. These physical disturbances **"could pose an immediate and acute health hazard"** to residents.

Meanwhile, an expert on water treatment is saying that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality knowingly dropped lead test samples to avoid exceeding a federal

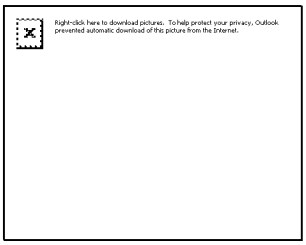
drinking water standard. By not including those samples, the city remained below the action level for lead. **Mark Brush has details**.

Michigan Radio Events

M I Curious Trivia Night
Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM
Rockford Brewing Co., Rockford

Join us for our next **M I Curious** Trivia Night where you can test your knowledge of the Great Lakes state, and meet and mingle with fellow Michigan Radio listeners. **Learn more and register**.

Stories you might have missed

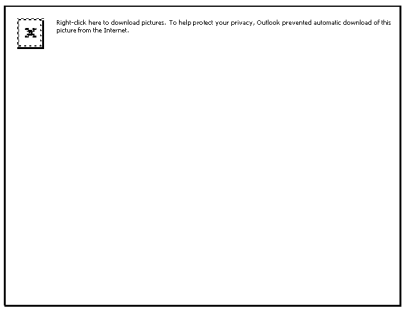


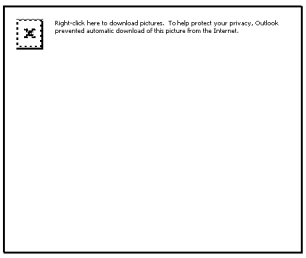
How a Mormon king shaped a sleepy island in Lake Michigan

It's **a story of murder, intrigue, and a Mormon population that's completely vanished**. And it started with an M I Curious question about the Mormon kingdom that used to be on Beaver Island.

Get a load of this chart

It's not an eye test. This chart shows all 80 federal programs that provide help to low-income families. Most everyone agrees that the system is a mess but as our State of Opportunity team points out, there's **also more to the story than the chart lets on.**

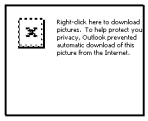




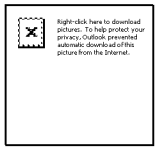
Win Tickets!

Enter to win a pair of passes to see the Bolshoi Ballet's critically acclaimed "Jewels" as it is broadcast via satellite from Moscow to selected movie theaters on Sunday, November 15 at 12:55 PM. **Enter here.**

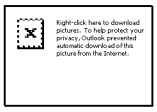
This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features



There's a lot to learn from a forgotten Michigan innovator



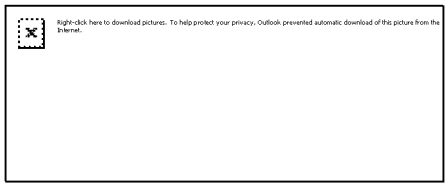
Pro-gay rights groups at odds over how to add LGBT protections to Michigan's constitution



A scientific panel weighs in on fish farming

Voters are smarter than the politicians

Stateside Highlights



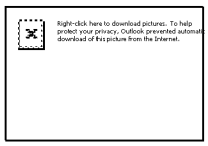
Roads deal: mission accomplished or can kicked?
State legislators finally passed a road funding deal earlier this week. More

"Superior:" a coming-of-age tale set in Northern Michigan
It's the summer of 1969 and two lifelong friends grab their bicycles and set out on a 1,300-mile journey around Lake Superior. More

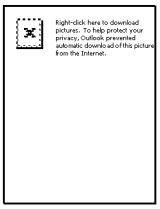
Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

Weekend Highlights

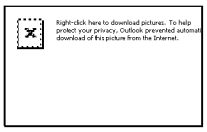
On the Media
Sat 7 am / Sun 7 pm
One complaint about last week's CNBC Republican debate was that moderators made galling, if predictable, use of the media's favorite trick: the dreaded "gotcha" question. But what actually qualifies as a gotcha question?



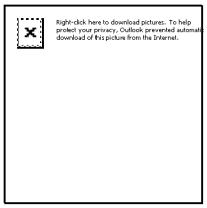
The Moth
Sat 12 pm & 8 pm
"Wedding Dress, Prison Choir, and a Hotdog"
A feminist searches for her wedding dress, a playwright visits a prison in Malawi, a man lives his life regretting a single moment, and more.



This American Life
Sat 1 pm / Sun 3 pm
"Transformers"
This hour, people address very big fears. Like a prisoner, who hasn't talked to anyone in years, and his bold plan to re-introduce himself to the world.



Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm & 9 pm
"Cross To Bear"
It would break ordinary mortals, but there are those who carry huge burdens in their lives - despite looking normal.



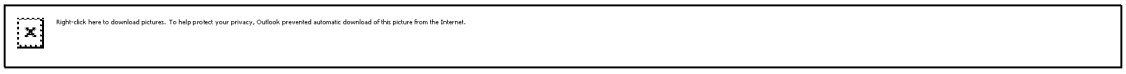
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"Crossing Waters"
This week is a live broadcast from Bemidji, Minnesota, with a little southern electric blues from Elvin Bishop and his Big Fun Trio. Plus Guy Noir, The Royal Academy of Radio Actors and the Latest News from Lake Wobegon.

Bloomberg via Getty Images

Bonus Click

China's War on Golf

Our recent warm weather has kept many Michiganders out on the links, but China's Communist Party recently banned people from joining golf clubs in that country. It's considered a violation of the country's "moral ethical code."



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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 3:03 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: The Refugee Debate / New MI Curious Questions

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

November 20, 2015

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Photo_ European Commission DG ECHO

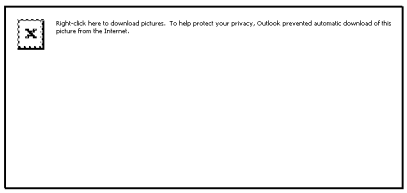
The Refugee Debate in Michigan

The Paris terrorist attacks ignited a debate over whether Syrian refugees should be allowed into Michigan. After first saying he was hitting the "pause" button on bringing more refugees to the state, **Governor Snyder tried to clarify his position**. Local officials weighed in also, saying Syrian **refugees were welcome in Grand Rapids**, but **in Oakland County...not so**

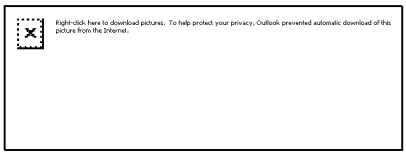
much!
Meanwhile, here are four things you should know about the current vetting process for refugees.

New MI Curious Questions

We've got three new Detroit questions up for vote on MI Curious. They deal with streetcars on Gratiot Avenue, a time capsule at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and the Masonic Temple. Cast your vote to let us know which one we should investigate.



Great Thanksgiving Listen



You can help StoryCorps preserve the voices of a generation over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Learn more.

Stories You Might Have Missed

Plans for Syrian refugee center moving forward in Pontiac
Plans to transform an abandoned elementary school in Pontiac into a community center for Syrian refugees are moving forward despite Gov. Snyder's announcement to put refugee resettlement efforts on hold.

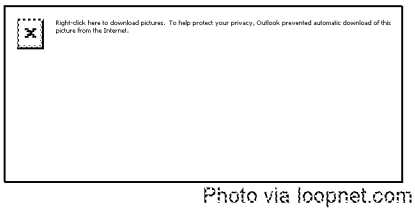
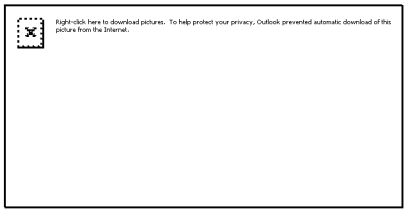
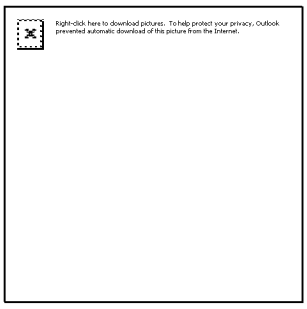


Photo via loopnet.com



MSU being sued for mishandling of sexual assault investigations
The lawsuit is being brought by four women, all seniors at MSU, who claim the university dragged out investigations into their sexual assault complaints.

Michigan Radio Events



Issues & Ale: Flint's Water Crisis
Tuesday, December 1 - 7:00 pm
Redwood Steakhouse & Brewery, Flint

Join host Jack Lessenberry to discuss the latest on Flint's water situation. Please note, because of space availability, you must register to attend. Free admission.

This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features

Some Republican lawmakers are adopting the "tax break" religion

Islamophobia harms the fearful as much as the feared

Michigan cherry growers mobilize against invasive fruit fly

Gov. Snyder's decision on Syrian refugees plays into what ISIS wants

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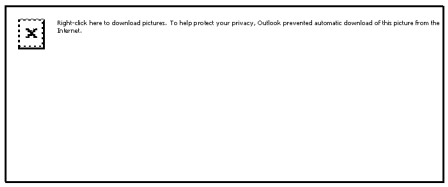
Stateside Highlights



Researchers say biodiversity is key to saving threatened coffee crops
Two UM professors discuss how "coffee rust" could put your morning cup in jeopardy. More

Lead Vatican astronomer: "Science is a wonderful way of getting to know God"
Did you know the Vatican has astronomers and one of them is from Michigan? More

Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Tired of driving that old turkey?
Donate a vehicle to Michigan Radio and support the programs you love.

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Visit Michigan Radio's CaféPress online shop for all the Michigan Radio fans on your list.

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Weekend Highlights

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

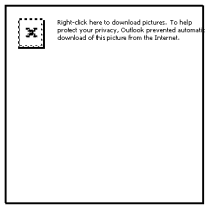
The Moth
Sat 12 pm and 8 pm
"The Moth StorySlam"
We'll hear stories from live open-mic StorySlam events in cities like Portland, OR; Burlington, VT; & the birthplace of The Moth StorySlam, New York City.

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

This American Life
Sat 1 pm / Sun 3 pm
"Regrets, I've had a few"
Everybody makes mistakes. And every so often, there's that one regret that makes us pause and take notice. This week, people find ways to cope with those regrets.

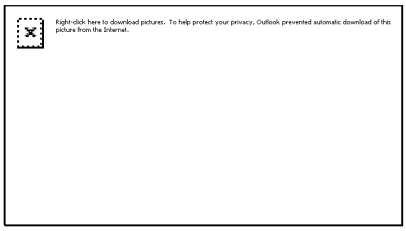
Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm and 9pm
"Gratitude 2015"
You've laughed with us, cried with us, and now...it's time to say thanks. On the next Snap Judgment

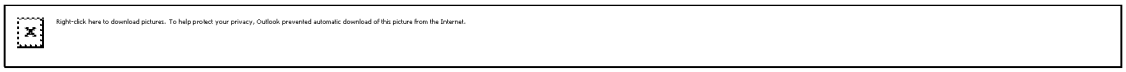


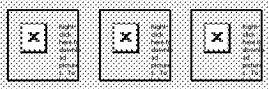
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"Quid Aere Perennius"
Live from the Palace Theater in Waterbury Connecticut, Craver Hicks, Watson and Newberry join the show. Don't let the name fool you, they aren't providing legal advice, but rocky bluegrass and old time music. Plus the Latest News from Lake Wobegon.

Bonus Click



Cop pulls over Google self-driving car, finds no driver to ticket
A police officer **pulled over one of Google's autonomous vehicles** recently for driving too slowly, only to find no driver. We can only imagine the disembodied navigation voice apologizing, and saying he's new to the neighborhood.





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From: Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: FW: DHHS (391) - EBA - 391007
Attachments: 391007_Flint Water project funding _GF.xlsx

Sorry, the Flint Water supplemental EBA is 391007.

Cindy Masterson
Health Services Budget Division Director
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Office 517-241-2409
Fax 517-241-4845

From: Moges, Kidest (DHHS)
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 4:12 PM
To: SBOBudgetaryTransactions
Cc: Boyd, Jeremy (DHHS); Thelen, Beverly (DHHS); Bacon, Richard (DHHS); Hetherington, Michael (DHHS); Dawson, Brice (DHHS); Kangas, Susan (DHHS); Gillette, Patrice (DHHS); Masterson, Cindy (DHHS); Hanley, Farah (DHHS); Scott, Teri (DHHS); Schneider, Teresa (DHHS); Smith, Kidada (DHHS); Halverson, Lisa M. (DHHS); Bendele, Steven (DHHS); Lehman, Mary Lou (DHHS); Babb, Abbey (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Hovenkamp, Robert (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Mukuna, Herve (DTMB); White, Keith (DTMB)
Subject: DHHS (391) - EBA - 391007

Attached is EBA 391007. The purpose of this EBA is to appropriate supplemental funds authorized in P.A. 143 of 2015 for the Flint water project.

Thank you.

Kide Moges
Information Technology & Administration Section, Budget Division
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
(517) 373-9603

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	A	B	C	D
1	**STATE BUDGET OFFICE**			
2	**BUDGETARY TRANSACTION PROCESSING IN MAIN-FACS**			
3				
4				
5	**TYPE OF TRANSACTION:**	**Supplemental**		
6	**AGENCY CODE:**	391		
7	**DEPARTMENT:**	Department of Health and Human Services		
8	**FILE #:**	391007		
9	**FISCAL YEAR:**	2016		
10	**DATE:**	11/13/2015		
11				
12				
13				**"20"**
14	**UNIT/LINE ITEM TITLES**		**AY**	**APPR #**
15	TO:	**FAMILY, MATERNAL AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES**		
16		Childhood Lead Program	2016	14254
17		State general fund/general purpose		
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19	**GRAND TOTAL:**			
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21	**EXPLANATION:**	To appropriate supplemental funds authorized in P.A. 143 of 2015 for the Flint water project.		
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13	**"D23"**	**FINANCE**	**Effective**	**Effective**	**Effective**	**Effective**	**"D23"**	**"20"**
14	**FUND #**	**TYPE**	**10/01**	**01/01**	**04/01**	**07/01**	**FUND**	**APPR**
15								
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70	Administrative Transfer			
71	Legislative Transfer			
72	Supplemental			
73	Boilerplate Supplemental			
74	Executive Order Reorganization			
75	Other Transaction Processing			

From: Masterson, Cindy (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 12:52 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Re: DHHS (391) - EBA - 391007

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 24, 2015, at 12:07 PM, Kimmith, Dean (DTMB) <KimmithD@michigan.gov> wrote:

> Moved to approved – apologies for the delay
>
> ---
>
> **From:** SBOBudgetaryTransactions
> **Sent:** Monday, November 16, 2015 8:37 AM
> **To:** Moges, Kidest (DHHS)
> **Cc:** Boyd, Jeremy (DHHS); Thelen, Beverly (DHHS); Bacon, Richard (DHHS); Hetherington, Michael (DHHS); Dawson, Brice (DHHS); Kangas, Susan (DHHS); Gillette, Patrice (DHHS); Masterson, Cindy (DHHS); Hanley, Farah (DHHS); Scott, Teri (DHHS); Schneider, Teresa (DHHS); Smith, Kidada (DHHS); Halverson, Lisa M. (DHHS); Bendele, Steven (DHHS); Lehman, Mary Lou (DHHS); Babb, Abbey (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Hovenkamp, Robert (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB); Mukuna, Herve (DTMB); White, Keith (DTMB)
> **Subject:** RE: DHHS (391) - EBA - 391007
>
> EBA has been logged and placed in the pending folder for review.
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Moges, Kidest (DHHS)
> **Sent:** Friday, November 13, 2015 4:12 PM
> **To:** SBOBudgetaryTransactions <SBOBudgetaryTransactions@michigan.gov>
> **Cc:** Boyd, Jeremy (DHHS) <BOYDJ1@michigan.gov>; Thelen, Beverly (DHHS) <ThelenB7@michigan.gov>; Bacon, Richard (DHHS) <baconr@michigan.gov>; Hetherington, Michael (DHHS) <HetheringtonM1@michigan.gov>; Dawson, Brice (DHHS) <DawsonB4@michigan.gov>; Kangas, Susan (DHHS) <KangasS1@michigan.gov>; Gillette, Patrice (DHHS) <GilletteP@michigan.gov>; Masterson, Cindy (DHHS) <MastersonC@michigan.gov>; Hanley, Farah (DHHS) <hanleyf@michigan.gov>; Scott, Teri (DHHS) <ScottT13@michigan.gov>; Schneider, Teresa (DHHS) <schneidert@michigan.gov>; Smith, Kidada (DHHS) <SmithK67@michigan.gov>; Halverson, Lisa M. (DHHS) <HalversonL@michigan.gov>; Bendele, Steven (DHHS) <BendeleS@michigan.gov>; Lehman, Mary Lou (DHHS) <LehmanM@michigan.gov>; Babb, Abbey (DTMB) <BabbA2@michigan.gov>; Fosdick, David (DTMB) <FosdickD@michigan.gov>; Harkins, Chris (DTMB) <HarkinsC1@michigan.gov>; Hovenkamp, Robert (DTMB) <HovenkampR@michigan.gov>; Kimmith, Dean (DTMB) <KimmithD@michigan.gov>; Mukuna, Herve (DTMB) <MukunaH1@michigan.gov>; White, Keith (DTMB) <WhiteK14@michigan.gov>
> **Subject:** DHHS (391) - EBA - 391007
>
> Attached is EBA 391007. The purpose of this EBA is to appropriate supplemental funds authorized in P.A. 143 of 2015 for the Flint water project.
>
> Thank you.
>
> *Kide Moges*

Information Technology & Administration Section, Budget Division
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
(517) 373-9603

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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 11:19 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Thanksgiving Day specials / Upcoming Issues & Ale events

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Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

November 25, 2015

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Tune in for these special shows on Thanksgiving Day

The Splendid Table's Turkey Confidential
Thurs, Nov. 26 - 12:00-2:00 pm

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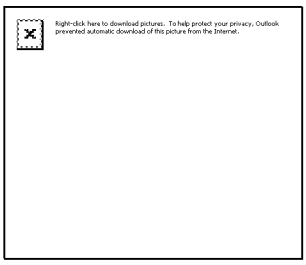
Help is on the way for Thanksgiving cooks from Lynne Rossetto Kasper, host of The Splendid Table. Lynne will answer listener questions throughout the live show, and will be joined by internationally renowned chef and author Jacques Pépin; and food enthusiast and TV personality Nigella Lawson.

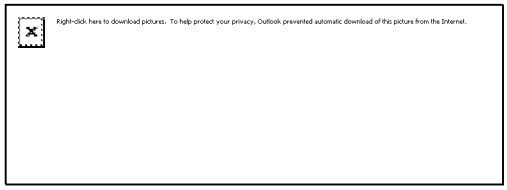
Connections: The Power of Networks, A State of Opportunity Special
Thurs, Nov. 26 - 3:00-4:00 pm
For a lot of us, we got where we are today through a combination of hard work...and some helpful connections along the way. Networks are all around us, if we're lucky. Join State of Opportunity's Jennifer Guerra next Wednesday for CONNECTIONS, a radio documentary about the power of networks.



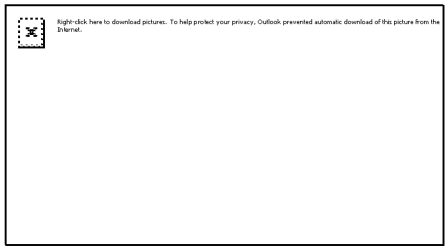
Reveal: For Profit Rehab Centers...Neglect and Abuse
Thurs, Nov 26 - 10:00-11:00 pm
From The Center for Investigative Reporting, this month Reveal looks at 40 years of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities at specialty rehab centers across the U.S.

StoryCorps' "Great Thanksgiving Listen"

You can help StoryCorps preserve the voices of a generation over the thanksgiving holiday weekend. Learn more.



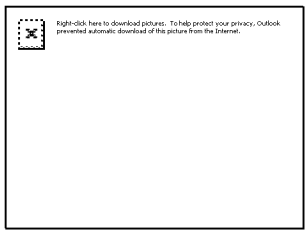
Stories you might have missed



***Washington Post* piece highlights "tensions" in Hamtramck as "first majority-Muslim" U.S. city**

Washington Post reporter Sarah Pulliam Bailey writes that the city in 2013 "earned the distinction of becoming what appears to be the first majority-Muslim city in the United States following the arrival of thousands of immigrants. Mark Brush has more.

Sponsored events

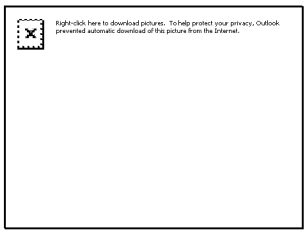


Sing-A-Long White Christmas
Friday, Nov. 27, 7:30 pm
Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor

Sing along to this Christmas classic starring Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney. With on-screen lyrics, interactive props, and more! Join us for caroling with the Barton organ from 7 - 7:30 PM.

Tickets and information.

Upcoming Issues & Ale events

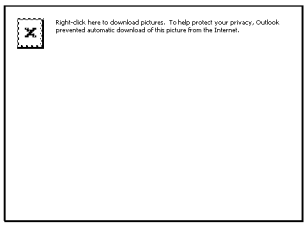


Issues & Ale: Flint's Water Crisis
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7:00-8:30 pm
Redwood Brewing, Flint

Join host Jack Lessenberry as we discuss the latest on Flint's water situation. **Learn more.**

Issues & Ale: The People's Lawyer
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 7:00-8:30 pm
Conor O'Neill's, Ann Arbor

Join host Jack Lessenberry for this conversation with the so-called godfather of the Michigan Democratic Party, former Attorney General Frank Kelly. **Learn more.**



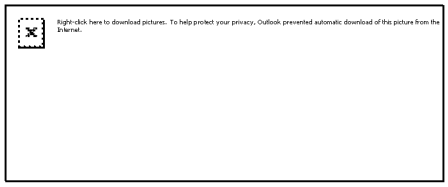
This week's top Michigan Radio features

What priorities will Governor Snyder give up in order to overhaul Detroit schools?

Some hunters say changes in northern Michigan deer hunting rules mean bigger bucks

Should Congressman John Conyers make a graceful exit?

Stateside highlights



New Flint Mayor Karen Weaver: "They voted for a new leader, so let me lead."
With the city of Flint's challenges, including the water crisis, its newly elected mayor doesn't have the luxury of gradually learning the ropes.
More

Listen to **Stateside with Cynthia Canty** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

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Tired of driving that old turkey?
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online shop for all the
Michigan Radio fans on your list.

Bonus click

A Cranberry Dish To Relish Far From Home

Every Thanksgiving since 1971, NPR's Susan Stamberg has found a way to sneak her notorious and, yes, weird family recipe for cranberry relish into NPR's coverage. And **2015 is no exception**.

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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Issues & Ale and Detroit Bankruptcy events

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Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

December 4, 2015

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(L to r) Sen. Jim Ananich, Prof. Marc Edwards, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Steve Carmody, and Jack Lessenberry

Flint's drinking water is still not safe

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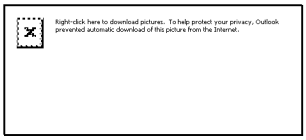
Michigan Radio events

Issues & Ale: The People's Lawyer
Tuesday, Dec 8, 7:00-8:30 PM
Conor O'Neill's, Ann Arbor

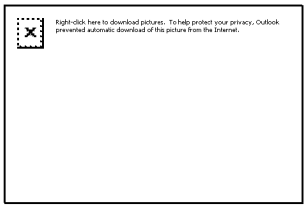
Join host Jack Lessenberry for this conversation with the so-called godfather of the Michigan Democratic Party, former Attorney General Frank Kelly. **Learn more and register.**

Detroit Bankruptcy: One Year Later
Thursday, Dec. 9, 5:30-8:00 PM
Wayne State Community Arts Auditorium, Detroit



This **Detroit Journalism Cooperative** discussion will feature Gov. Rick Snyder, Mayor Mike Duggan and now-retired Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes. **Learn more.**

Stories you might have missed



Despite Snyder's "pause," Syrian refugees continue to arrive in Michigan

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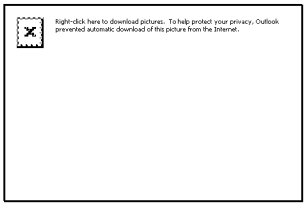

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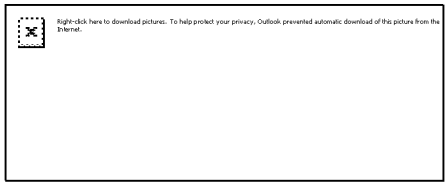
Stateside Highlights



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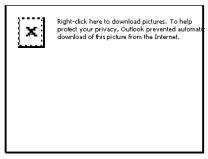

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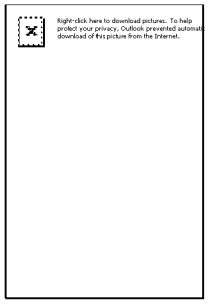

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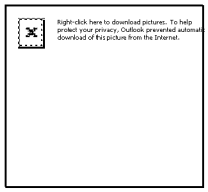
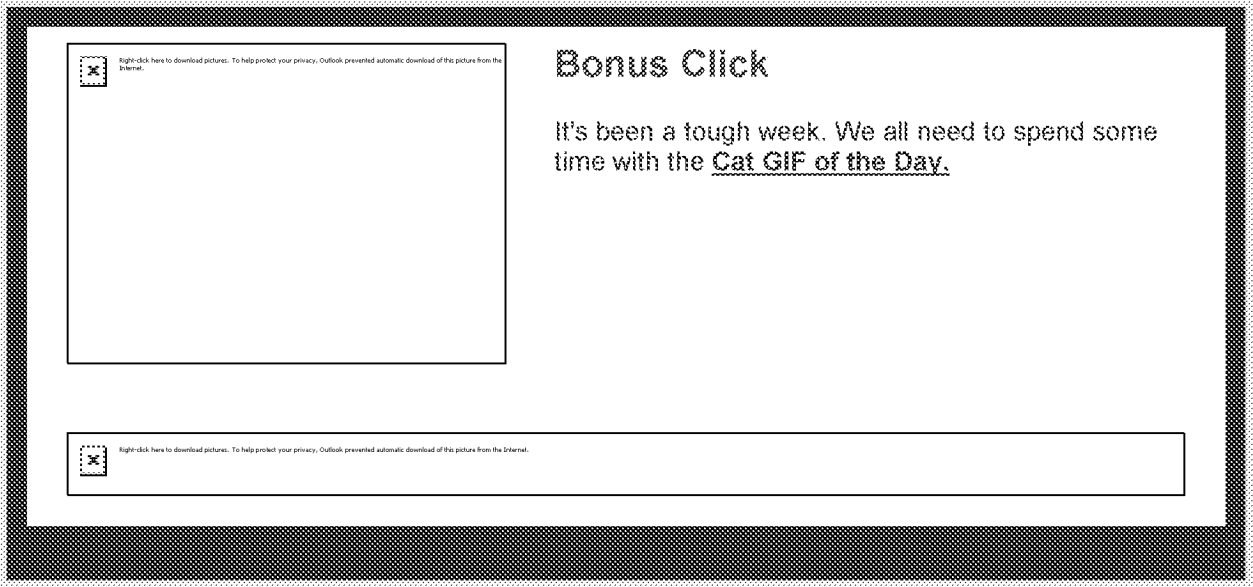
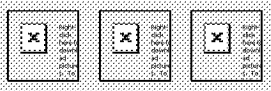


The Dinner Party Download
Sat 3 pm
Master thespian Sir Ian McKellen with etiquette advice and real talk about his least favorite co-stars... supermodel Cindy Crawford recalls her photo shoot with a 40-pound python... Plus, a history of the Pokemon Shockwave of 1997, a kid show-inspired cocktail, and more!





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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Issues & Ale and Detroit Bankruptcy events - CORRECTION

Please note: The day and time indicated for the Detroit Bankruptcy event in our previous newsletter was incorrect. The correct information is shown below.

Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | Support the Station

December 4, 2015

(L to r) Sen. Jim Ananich, Prof. Marc Edwards, Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, Steve Carmody, and Jack Lessenberry

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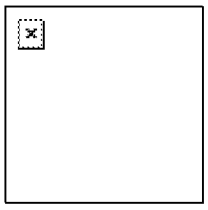
Michigan Radio events



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Bonus Click

It's been a tough week. We all need to spend some time with the **Cat GIF of the Day.**

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Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 3:04 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Special Documentary: Not Safe to Drink

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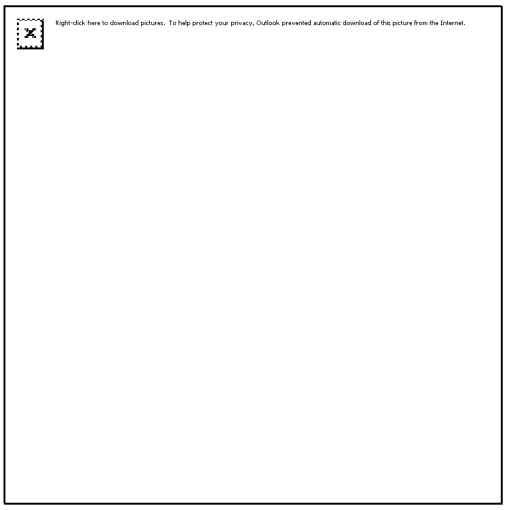
Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | iPhone/Android App

December 11, 2015

Thank you for your support during our December membership drive!

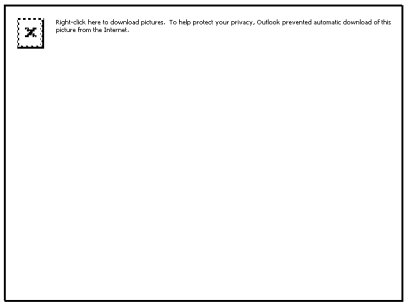


We wrapped up our December membership drive this past Tuesday with over $400,000 raised. With your support, our news teams will continue to dig deeper to gather the news and analysis you are eager to hear. Click here for more details on the drive.

Special Documentary

Not Safe to Drink
Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 3 pm (10 pm repeat)

What would you do if your tap water turned brown? If it gave your children a rash every time they took a bath? Or worse, if it made them really sick? Tune in next Wednesday for a special documentary, hosted by Lindsey Smith...and hear the wild story about how the water in Flint became *Not Safe To Drink.*



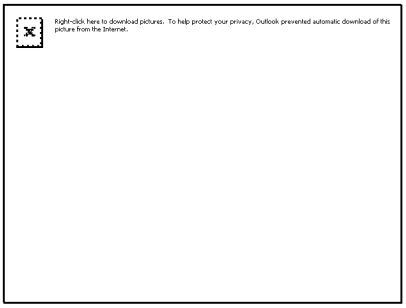
Featured Event

UMMA Fridays After 5
Friday, Dec. 11. 5-8 pm
University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor

Enjoy live music from Michigan Pops Jazz Band and ballroom dancing. With all of UMMA's galleries remaining open until 8 pm, this exciting series provides a festive and interactive atmosphere for all audiences. Admission is free. And, save the date for the next Fridays After 5 event on Feb. 12, 2016. **More information>**

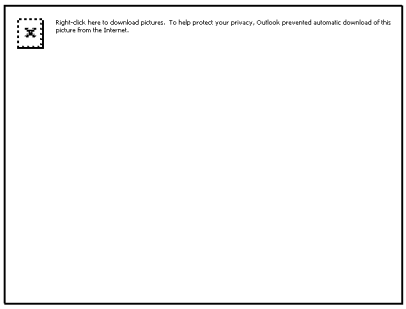
Upcoming Michigan Radio Event

Moth StorySLAM: Joy
Tues., Dec. 15, 7:30 PM (doors open at 6 PM)
Circus Bar, Ann Arbor

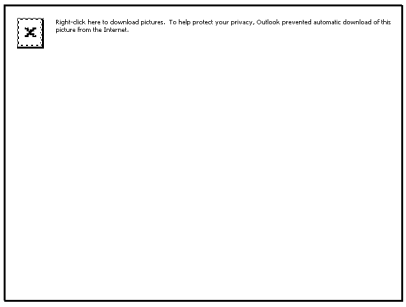


An experience that brought you utter delight, or a time you were able to provide it for somebody else...Sign up to tell a five-minute story, volunteer to be on a judging team or just sit back and listen. **Learn more>**

Stories you might have missed



Here's how you can help Syrian refugees in Michigan Many people in Michigan want to help - and have been helping - refugees arriving from Syria and other countries. **Here's how.**



Where Gun Laws Stand In Your State
President Obama has called for state and local governments to tighten gun laws, which vary widely. These maps **show where states stand** on nine important types of gun measures.

This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features

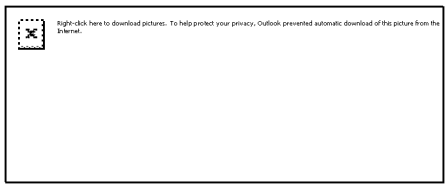
Republican Legislature looks to wrap up 2015 with a political gift to GOP candidates

Why isn't road kill picked up on a timely basis across Michigan?

How one educator brings hip-hop to the classroom

Commentary: Detroit's Dying Public Schools

Stateside Highlights



Searching for a black Santa
For Detroiters, this is going to be the first Christmas without Northland Mall. And that raises a difficult question for the black community -- where will they go to find a black Santa Claus? **More.**

Ann Arbor couple makes "pointless dreams" come true with improv theater
The Pointless Brewery & Theatre is about to open in Ann Arbor nearly two years after the owner's cancer diagnosis. **More.**

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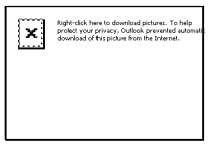
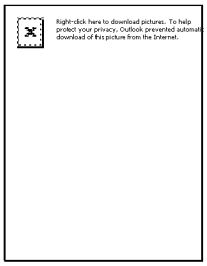
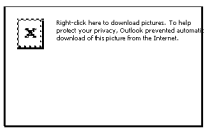
Weekend Highlights



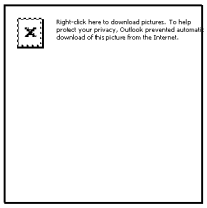
The Moth
Sat 12 pm and 8 pm
"Reality TV, an Egg Timer, and a burglary"
This hour, a reality TV show puts true romance in jeopardy, a speechwriter has an explosive showdown with Bill Clinton and more.



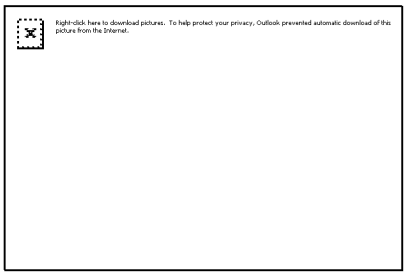
This American Life
Sat 1 pm / Sun 3 pm
"Sinatra's 100th Birthday"
For Frank Sinatra's 100th birthday; stories, tributes and attempts to understand Ol' Blue Eyes.



Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm and 9 pm
"Better Half"
You see it all the time, a couple, hand in hand, and you think to yourself...How is she with him?

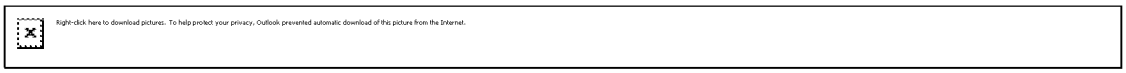


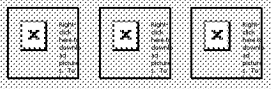
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"One of those Nights"
This week, it's the final live holiday broadcast at The Town Hall in New York city. Keb' Mo' illustrates his modern take on the blues, singing sisters from Brooklyn, and more. Plus the latest News from Lake Wobegon.



Bonus Click

People Are Naming Their Babies After Instagram Filters
Lux, Amaro, Valencia and Juno. Those are names of some of the filters you can use on Instagram to adjust how your picture looks. Those are also popular names for babies in 2015. It's not a coincidence.





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To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Not Safe to Drink; Tiny Desk Contest

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Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | iPhone/Android App

December 18, 2015

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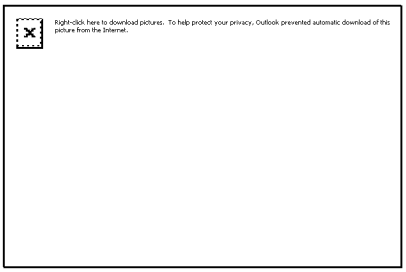
Not Safe to Drink

What would you do if your tap water turned brown? Or worse, if it made your kids really sick? If you missed our documentary about how the water in Flint became ***Not Safe to Drink***, you can listen to it on Michigan Radio this Sunday at 6:00pm, or **find it on our website**, along with extra online content about the city's water crisis.

As part of our coverage, we gave one Flint family a disposable camera and asked them to take photos of the way the Flint water crisis affected their day-to-day life. You can hear from the family themselves **in this video**.

Note: The governor's office contacted Michigan Radio to take issue with a portion of reporting on this story. You can learn more about that in this **Reporter's Notebook from Lindsey Smith.**

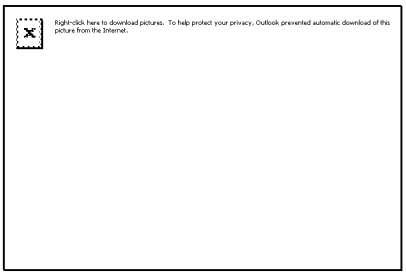
Featured Event



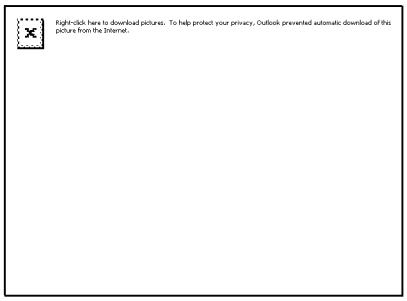
Ira Glass
Sunday, January 24, 3:00pm
Miller Auditorium, Kalamazoo

The creator of *This American Life* talks about his program and how it's put together. **Tickets and information.**

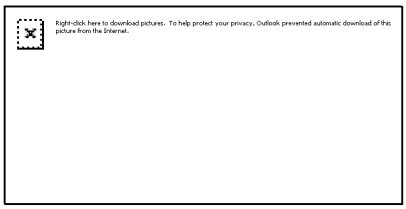
Stories you might have missed



Making a way out of no way
As part of our year-long **Bringing Up Detroit** series, we **catch up with Christina Lumpkin** and her family.

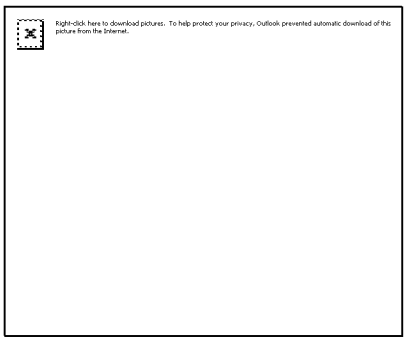


Group pushes alternatives to oil pipeline beneath the Mackinac Straits
An **environmental group says** oil pipelines running beneath the Mackinac Straits could be shut down without disrupting oil supplies.



NPR's 'Tiny Desk' Contest

NPR Music is bringing back their **Tiny Desk** contest, asking unknown bands and musicians all over the country to film themselves performing one song at a desk of their choice. **Learn more.**



Your year-end gift comes back to you

A year-end contribution is a great way to support Michigan Radio while taking advantage of tax savings. Your contribution will count for 2015 tax year credit if you contribute online before midnight on December 31, or send a check that is postmarked by December 31. To make your gift, **click here**.

This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features

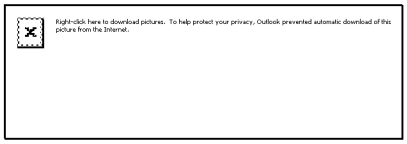
NASA scientists track air pollution from space

Will Gov. Rick Snyder hit the pause button on efforts to take in more Syrian refugees?

Backlash against Muslims takes a toll on imams

Commentary: Worse than Citizens United

Stateside Highlights

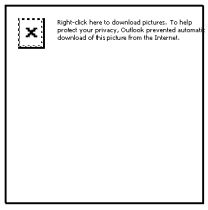


Can a Detroit start-up curb gun violence?
How do we keep guns out of the wrong hands? A Detroit based company may have an answer. **More.**

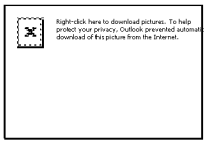
When did we start calling Michigan "the Mitten State?"
Today it's not so hard to see why we call Michigan the mitten state. But people weren't always good at making maps. **More.**

Listen to **Stateside** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.

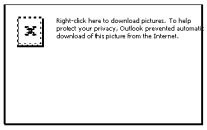
Weekend Highlights



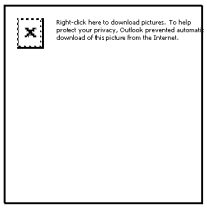
TED Radio Hour
Sat 6 am / Sun 8 pm
"The Hero's Journey"
TED speakers explore what's behind a hero's journey. From The Odyssey to Robinson Crusoe and Star Wars -- why are we drawn to stories about heroes? And what do they tell us about ourselves?



The Moth
Sat 12 pm & 8 pm
"Sing Sing, Ornaments, Car Accidents, and Curses"
In this special holiday edition of The Moth; a family tradition endures scandal, a daughter honor's her mother's last Christmas wish and more.



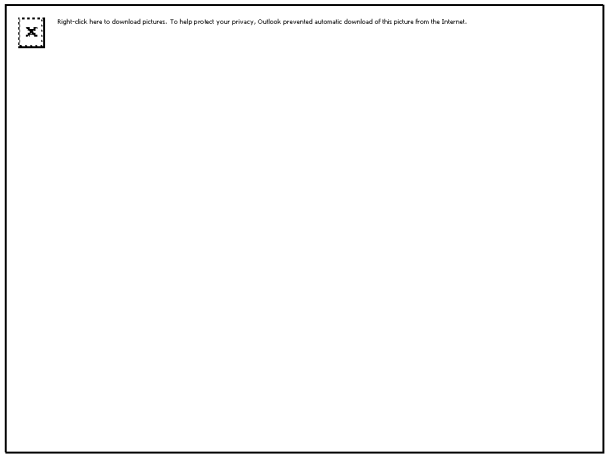
Snap Judgment
Sat 2 pm & 9 pm
"The Fall Guy"
Who are they going to turn to when the dust settles and someone has to take the blame?

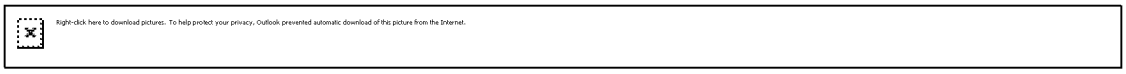


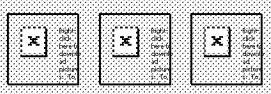
A Prairie Home Companion
Sat 6 pm / Sun 12 pm
"Merry and Bright"
This week, plenty of Holiday Festivities, including songs from Maria Jette and Lynn Peterson. And a showcase of the season's sounds with rare music boxes and pump organs.

Bonus Click

Ten 'Star Wars' Movie Mistakes
Unless you've been living in an ice cave on the planet Hoth, you're probably aware that "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" is now in theaters. Let's go back and view **some of the mistakes** from the original Star Wars movies you may have missed.







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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2015 12:02 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: What the State knew about Flint's water / Our warm winter

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December 22, 2015

This Week on The Environment Report

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People in Flint protest the state and city's handling of the water crisis. Credit: Steve Carmody_Mich Radio

We now know that children in Flint developed elevated levels of lead in their blood after the city

switched to the Flint River for its drinking water. It turns out the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services knew from their own data in July of this year that an increasing number of kids in Flint had elevated levels of lead in their blood. But the agency did not make this information public. In fact, until October, they denied there was any problem. We'll hear more about this **on Tuesday's Environment Report.**

And, on Thursday...El Nino has made this winter unusually warm. While a lot of us don't mind that, it's been terrible for the winter sports industry in Michigan. We'll hear what this means for tourism in our state.

Listen to **The Environment Report** on Michigan Radio, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:50 AM and 5:45 PM.

The Environment Report will be taking a break next week for the holidays. We'll be back on Tuesday, Jan. 5. We wish you a very Happy Holiday Season!

Environmental News from Around the World

Congress OKs Bill Banning Plastic Microbeads in Skin Care Products

NPR: Obama Insists Climate Deal Will Outlast GOP 'Climate Denial'

This Could Be 'One Of The Warmest Christmas Days Of Your Lifetime'

AP investigation: US power grid vulnerable to foreign hacks

Using pocket vetoes, Obama rebuffs GOP attempt to kill Clean Power Plan

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From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 12:34 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Happy Holidays from Michigan Radio / Upcoming holiday specials

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Mich Radio News | Program Schedule | Events Calendar | iPhone/Android App

December 23, 2015

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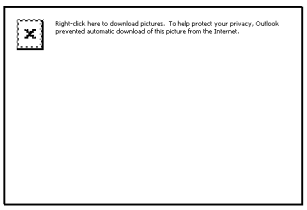
We may not have a white Christmas, but we extend our best wishes for the holiday season and a wonderful 2016!

We hope you'll tune in for these special shows over the holidays

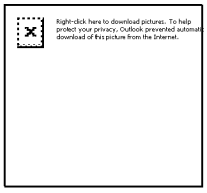
December 24, 3 pm & 10 pm
Mr. Knight's Neighborhood: A *State of Opportunity* Special
Jennifer Guerra brings the story of Cody High School's Coach Knight and the students he's trying to help stay on track.



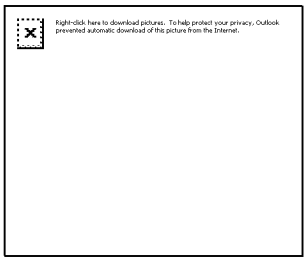
December 24, 8 pm
Tinsel Tales #3
Audie Cornish, Nina Totenberg and other voices from NPR's past and present tell stories of the season in this hour-long special...an NPR holiday tradition.

December 25, 9 am
BBC Newshour 2015 Quiz
It's the annual BBC World Service end-of-year quiz, testing two teams of Newshour presenters on their knowledge of the events and people making news during 2015.

December 25, 4 pm
All Things Considered
Tune in for "Santa for President," an original radio play bringing together the election and the holiday seasons, featuring the voices of Rachel Dratch and Mo Rocca.



January 1, 10 pm
Homemade Stories: The Struggle is Real
Detroit storyteller Shannon Cason takes us on a journey that finds hope in struggle.

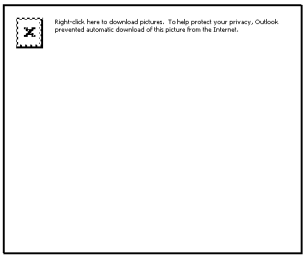


State of Opportunity Changes

Today we bid a fond farewell to Brittany Bartkowiak, who has worked for Michigan Radio's *State of Opportunity* team as Outreach Producer. Besides being SOO's voice in the community, **she has covered a wide range of stories** including college affordability, foster care and juvenile justice reform. Brittany is leaving us to begin work at CARE House of Oakland County.

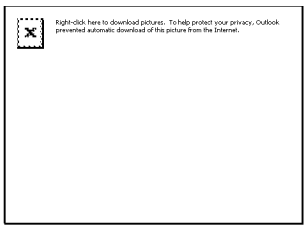
Your year-end gift comes back to you

A year-end contribution is a great way to support Michigan Radio while taking advantage of tax savings. Your contribution will count for 2015 tax year credit if you contribute online before midnight on December 31, or send a check that is postmarked by December 31. **Make your gift here.**



Stories you might have missed

Detroit: First year out of bankruptcy (a Detroit Journalism Cooperative documentary)
Lester Graham hosts this special report looking at the progress, struggles, and failures in Detroit during the city's first year out of bankruptcy. You can find it here.



Recommendations we think you'll love
As the year winds down, here's some recommended reading and listening for *State of Opportunity* fans.

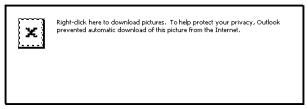
This Week's Top Michigan Radio Features

Virginia Tech researcher accuses state health officials of "hiding" data on Flint's water

1,762 people died from drug overdoses in Michigan in 2014 alone

Commentary: With Trump - we've seen this before

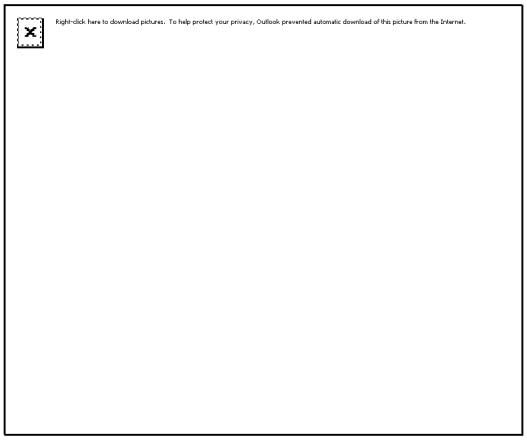
Stateside Highlights



Words of the Year with Anne Curzan
Some of the words in the running for 'Word of the Year' aren't even words. More

Michigan teacher: Before race or religion, come together on a human level
In an environment filled with increasing rhetoric aimed at followers of Islam, the Muslim community has been put on the defensive. More

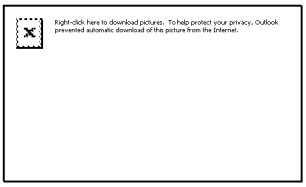
Listen to **Stateside** Monday through Thursday at 3 PM and 10 PM.



Bonus Click

The Science Behind Baking Your Ideal Chocolate Chip Cookie

It's holiday cookie baking time, and NPR's The Salt blog offers these no-fail tips for baking your perfect cookie.



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From: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:53 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Summary for Governor

We're on the phone together now, hammering it out. ☺

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Kangas, Susan (DHHS) <KangasS1@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Flint Water Summary for Governor

Farah just called me – she's working on a response.

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 8:19 AM
To: Kangas, Susan (DHHS)
Subject: FW: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

Susan – I sent this to Tim and Farah this morning, not sure if you're in the loop on this.

Nancy asked me to forward you this message in the hope that you can chase down answers from Tim / Farah. Legislative conversations are taking place.

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:18 AM
To: Becker, Timothy (DCH) (beckert1@michigan.gov)
Cc: Hanley, Farah (DTMB) (hanleyf@michigan.gov)
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Tim – we are working on the FY 16 supplemental this morning.

Your help is needed in identifying:

1. For the $1 million for filters in restricted funds: the name of the line item and what you want to call the funds (just 'Total Other State Restricted Funds' or a specific state restricted fund).

2. For the app. $600,000 (please confirm the exact GF amount) for follow up for children with elevated blood levels, which line item? I assume it will be a different line.

3. A brief, short paragraph summarizing what DHHS will be doing / purchasing (for the supplemental letter).

4. Question – do you need any boilerplate language or not?

Please respond back ASAP this morning – thank you

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:17 PM
To: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Khouri, Nick (TREASURY); Saxton, Thomas (Treasury); Lyon, Nick (DHHS); Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Zimmer, Mike (LARA); Pohl, Allan (LARA); Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Cc: Roberts, John (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
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Attached is a summary of the funding commitments to address the Flint Water situation. The total state commitment is $10.4m; $7.9m of that amount is GF/GP. [The DHHS number needs to be verified tomorrow morning, but the final number should be close to this estimate.]

The funding will address 4 priority areas:

1. Provision of filters for residential service;

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3. Funding for testing water samples; and

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We are preparing a formal supplemental request to transmit to the Legislature tomorrow. John intends to talk with Rep. Pscholka and Sen. Hildenbrand about including this funding in HB 4102, the pending supplemental bill now awaiting House concurrence. Assuming that they agree, we would ask for final action next week.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about our planned approach.

Nancy

From: Michigan Radio <michiganradiomarketing@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 12:05 PM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: EPA Rules on Lead Levels in Water

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.

November 17, 2015

This Week on The Environment Report

The Flint water crisis will be part of a public meeting starting today in Virginia about federal rules on lead. The EPA is working to revise its rules on lead and copper in water, and those rules have gotten extra scrutiny because of Flint's drinking water problems. We'll hear about a water testing protocol that Michigan cities have been using that some critics say can hide lead problems. You can find the story here.

Listen to *The Environment Report* on Michigan Radio, Tuesday and Thursday at 8:50 AM and 5:45 PM.

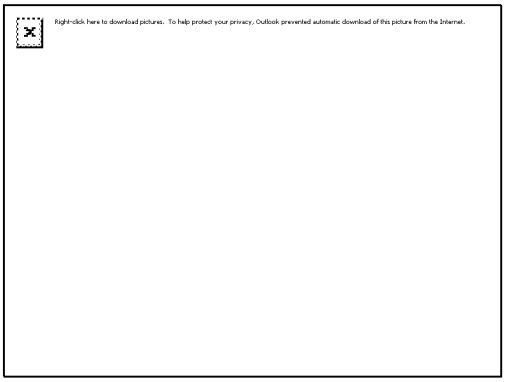

Photo: Steve Carmody_Mich Radio

Environmental News from Around the World

France To Go on With UN Climate Conference Despite Paris Terror Attacks

FDA Finalizes FSMA Produce Safety Rule, Food Import Rules

Brazil's Slow-Motion Environmental Catastrophe Unfolds

When Will a Massive Earthquake, Tsunami Hit the Pacific Northwest?

Manure From Millions of Hogs Fuels Natural Gas Project

Support The Environment Report

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Nancy

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Summary for Governor

Thank you Farah.

From: Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Cc: Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Ray, Patricia (DHHS)
Subject: RE: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

See my answers in RED below

From: Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 7:18 AM
To: Becker, Timothy (DHHS)
Cc: Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Subject: FW: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

Tim – we are working on the FY 16 supplemental this morning.

Your help is needed in identifying:

1. For the $1 million for filters in restricted funds: the name of the line item and what you want to call the funds (just 'Total Other State Restricted Funds' or a specific state restricted fund).

We think it should go in the Emergency Services Local Office Allocations line item and call the fund "total other state restricted funds". This will be the only source of state restricted in that line and we believe it should go in this line because that's where we've already received it, have set up coding, and that's where the work project is paid out of.

2. For the app. $600,000 (please confirm the exact GF amount) for follow up for children with elevated blood levels, which line item? I assume it will be a different line.

As I mentioned to Nancy, it should be $850,000 to contract out the Nurse Assessments and the Environmental Blood Level Investigators. We'd like this paid out of the Childhood Lead Program in the Family and Maternal Child Health Services.

3. A brief, short paragraph summarizing what DHHS will be doing / purchasing (for the supplemental letter).

(I've put in a lot here so you all can condense it down if you'd like)

These funds will be used to conduct visits by nurses and send trained certified Environmental Blood Level Investigators to families in Flint. Nurse visits will monitor child lead levels to determine changes in those levels and communicate with primary care providers if other tests are required due to blood levels. Nurses will also conduct developmental screenings and if necessary make referrals for developmental services in the community. Nurses will also conduct

nutritional assessments and counseling. Funds will also be used to support Environmental Blood Level Investigators who will test the various surfaces in the home for lead, collect dust samples and submit to the lab and conduct detailed visual inspections. Investigators will also prepare detailed reports summarizing the results of the investigations and will coordinate those results with the nurses making visits to the home.

4. Question – do you need any boilerplate language or not?

We are good with NO boilerplate language and would likely use our existing contract with MPHI to coordinate these services. There's also a possibility we could contract with the local Genesee health department.

Please respond back ASAP this morning – thank you

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:17 PM
To: Wyant, Dan (DEQ); Khouri, Nick (TREASURY); Saxton, Thomas (Treasury); Lyon, Nick (DHHS); Becker, Timothy (DHHS); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Zimmer, Mike (LARA); Pohl, Allan (LARA); Hanley, Farah (DHHS)
Cc: Roberts, John (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB); Starr, Scott (DTMB); Fosdick, David (DTMB); Kimmith, Dean (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Water Summary for Governor
Importance: High

Attached is a summary of the funding commitments to address the Flint Water situation. The total state commitment is $10.4m; $7.9m of that amount is GF/GP. [The DHHS number needs to be verified tomorrow morning, but the final number should be close to this estimate.]

The funding will address 4 priority areas:

1. Provision of filters for residential service;

2. 50% of the estimated cost to reconnect temporarily to the Detroit Water System;

3. Funding for testing water samples; and

4. Other state assistance (e.g., home/school/health facility inspections and follow-up for children with elevated blood levels).

We are preparing a formal supplemental request to transmit to the Legislature tomorrow. John intends to talk with Rep. Pscholka and Sen. Hildenbrand about including this funding in HB 4102, the pending supplemental bill now awaiting House concurrence. Assuming that they agree, we would ask for final action next week.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about our planned approach.

Nancy

From: Public Sector Consultants Inc. <donna@www-pscinc.ccsend.com> on behalf of Public Sector Consultants Inc. <psc@pscinc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Kokx, Kris (DTMB)
Subject: Poll: Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

PRESS RELEASE
December 9, 2015

For Immediate Release
Contact: Selma Tucker
Director of Marketing & Communications
(517) 484-4954, stucker@pscinc.com
Public Sector Consultants Inc.

Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

LANSING, Mich. -- In the wake of the Flint water crisis, how concerned are voters about the safety of the water in their home? Enough to agree with each other, according to the latest Michigan's Pulse poll, a partnership of Public Sector Consultants and Michigan Radio.

From November 3 to November 5, 2015, Denno Research surveyed 600 likely voters on a range of topics, including water quality, concealed pistols, prison reform and autonomous vehicles. Beyond increased attention to urban water quality, these highly politicized topics yielded little agreement, with stark differences by political affiliation, race and age.

Water Safety

Ninety-one percent of respondents agree that the State of Michigan should examine the water systems in densely populated areas for signs of failing infrastructure. The vast majority (84 percent) also feel that water should be tested in Michigan's K-12 school buildings at least once a year.

About half of respondents (46 percent) are concerned about the safety of their water, but there are clear differences by subgroups:

- African-American voters (71 percent) are more concerned than white voters (40 percent).
- Democrats (52 percent) are more concerned than Republicans (36 percent).
- Wayne County respondents (61 percent) have higher concerns than those in other parts of the state, with 81 percent of voters in Detroit expressing concern about the safety of their water.

Concealed Pistols and Prison Reform

With the recent coverage of high-profile shootings on college and K-12 school campuses, allowing concealed pistols in these places has become a major topic for the upcoming presidential election. Under state law, those licensed to carry concealed pistols still cannot carry their weapons at schools; at day care centers, sports arenas or stadiums; at entertainment facilities that seat 2,500 or more; at bars, churches, hospitals, casinos and dormitories or classrooms of colleges or universities.

About half of voters (46 percent) support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, while (49 percent) oppose that.

- Of the Republicans polled, 65 percent support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, compared to Democrats, at 33 percent.

Less than half of respondents (40 percent) support lifting the ban in day care centers, K-12 schools and college dormitories and classrooms, with a little over half (55 percent) opposed.

- Almost half of all men polled (47 percent) and almost two-thirds of Republicans polled (62 percent) support lifting the ban; while women (34 percent), Democrats (27 percent) and Independents (34 percent) oppose doing so.

Slightly more than half of Michigan voters (53 percent) support presumptive parole, legislation recently passed by the Michigan House that automatically paroles low-risk felons after they serve their minimum sentence.

- African-Americans (74 percent) and Democrats (67 percent) are more supportive than whites (49 percent) and Republicans (40 percent).

Finally, we asked voters if they think offenders who were convicted of violent crimes under the age of 18 should be eligible for parole. The jury is clearly still out on this issue, with opinion split between yes (41 percent) and no (39 percent), with nearly a quarter (20 percent) saying they don't know or are unsure.

Robot Cars

Autonomous vehicles are currently being developed in Michigan, and some (like the Google Self-Driving Car) are already being road tested in other states. We wondered if people were comfortable with the idea of robots driving cars on Michigan's roads, and more to the point, if people thought they would make our roads safer.

- A solid majority (68 percent) are not comfortable with the idea of having driverless cars on Michigan's roads, with half (51 percent) saying they were very uncomfortable.
- A little more than half of voters (56 percent) feel that driverless cars would be more dangerous than the humans currently driving on Michigan's roads.

Despite this opposition, voters accept that this will be how people get around in the near future. Most respondents (57 percent) think that driverless cars will be common in Michigan sometime in the next five to 20 years. That buys humanity at least a few years to figure out how to prevent the cyborg invasion that is sure to follow.

Legislative Reform

In a previous PSC poll after the failure of Proposal 1, road funding was identified as a critical priority, with voters saying the legislature should work over the summer to resolve the issue. While the poll did not specifically address the merits of the $1.2 billion package recently signed by Gov.

Rick Snyder, voters clearly do not approve of the way this issue was handled, with the vast majority rating the legislature as bad (21 percent) or terrible (58 percent).

We followed this question with a couple of options on how to improve the effectiveness of the Michigan Legislature. All of the ideas appear to have similar appeal, which seems to indicate that voters are ready for a change -- even if they don't know exactly what the change should look like:

- Stricter campaign finance and/or ethics laws (25 percent)
- Switch to a part-time legislature (21 percent)
- Do nothing because legislators can always be voted out of office if they are doing a poor job (21 percent)
- Change the length of term limits by allowing members to serve up to 12 years in either chamber (18 percent)
- Don't know/unsure (15 percent)

Goodbye Halloween

On the heels of the Halloween season, we wondered what had scared voters the most so far in 2015. While a quarter (25 percent) were not willing to express their fears out loud, those that did were scared most by the presidential debates (42 percent), followed by the Detroit Lions (22 percent).

About the Survey

Michigan Radio, an NPR News Station and the state's most listened-to public radio service, and Public Sector Consultants (PSC), the state's premier nonpartisan think tank, are partnering on a yearlong initiative studying Michiganders' attitudes toward policy issues affecting their lives in a series called Michigan's Pulse. Michigan's Pulse will release quarterly in weeklong segments on Michigan Radio's Stateside with Cynthia Canty with in-depth analysis by PSC researchers and other thought leaders.

The Michigan Radio/PSC survey of the Michigan electorate was conducted by Lansing-based Denno Research. Six-hundred respondents, 450 by landline and 150 by cell phone, in the state of Michigan were surveyed from November 3 to 5, 2015, with a margin of error of plus/minus 4 percent. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they would vote, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2016 general election.

Full survey results are available here.

Public Sector Consultants is Michigan's most respected, connected, and dedicated research and program management firm, with specialties in governance and regulation, health care, education, energy, and environmental policy. PSC is committed to providing objective research and sound solutions to the public and private sector.

Michigan Radio is an NPR News Station, and the state's most listened-to public radio service, attracting more than 500,000 listeners each week across Michigan. Licensed to the University of Michigan, Michigan Radio broadcasts at 91.7 FM in southeastern Michigan, 91.1 FM in Flint, and 104.1 in western Michigan, and is available online at michiganradio.org.

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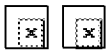

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Public Sector Consultants Inc. ¦ 230 N. Washington Square ¦ Suite 300 ¦ Lansing ¦ MI ¦ 48933

From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 9:27 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 1/4 Newsroom

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, January 4, 2016
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

DEQ changes/Flint water

Flint water prompts state changes: DNR Director Keith Creagh appointed as interim DEQ director (Mlive)
Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh will serve as interim director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality after that director's resignation over the Flint water crisis.

DNR chief to lead DEQ on interim basis (AP)
The head of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources will temporarily become the state's top environmental regulator. Gov. Rick Snyder says Keith Creagh will lead the Department of Environmental Quality on an interim basis. DEQ chief Dan Wyant quit Tuesday after a report on Flint's water crisis put the blame on the agency.

Governor names Interim Director for DEQ (ABC 10 UP)
Governor Rick Snyder announced earlier today that a Michigan Tech alum who works for the state will hold the position of Interim director for the Department of Environmental Quality. Snyder announced Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh will serve in the position effective January 4th.

Shakeup roils DEQ in wake of Flint water crisis (Detroit News)
Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh became the interim head of the DEQ on Wednesday after Gov. Rick Snyder accepted Tuesday the resignation of agency director Dan Wyant — just over five years after he was named to the post. Creagh's former deputy, Bill Moritz, is taking the reins at the DNR.

Snyder names DNR chief Keith Creagh to head DEQ (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder named state Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh as the interim head of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on Wednesday, one day after he accepted the resignation of Dan Wyant as part of the fallout from the Flint drinking water crisis.

DEQ spokesman also resigns over Flint water crisis, says city 'didn't feel like we cared' (Mlive)
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesperson Brad Wurfel has joined director Dan Wyant in resigning

after a task force cited department failures in addressing the Flint water crisis. Wurfel in an email to contacts on Tuesday night said he had been honored to serve under Wyant and was joining his boss in resigning.

Flint water report prompts apologies, resignations (Detroit News)
Michigan's top environmental official resigned Tuesday after an independent task force delivered its initial findings on the Flint water contamination crisis — conclusions that also prompted an apology from Gov. Rick Snyder.

Michigan Environment Chief Resigns Over Flint Water Crisis (Bloomberg BNA)
Dan Wyant resigned as director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality after a governor-appointed task force looking into the crisis stemming from lead in the City of Flint water system laid most of the blame with the department, Gov. Rick Snyder (R) said Dec. 29.

Flint leaders applaud DEQ director's resignation, governor's apology (Mlive)
Mayor Karen Weaver and other local leaders say the resignation of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant and release of Flint Water Task Force findings Tuesday are the first steps toward holding people accountable for Flint's water crisis.

George Weeks: Snyder and the Flint water crisis (Traverse City Record Eagle)
As he enters his final year in office, two-term Gov. Rick Snyder has enjoyed a fairly successful tenure, including the economic bailout of Detroit and some other economic initiatives. But his administration ended 2015 mired in a horrendous mess involving the Flint water contamination crisis.

MDEQ Director Wyant resigns over Flint water crisis, Snyder apologizes (Michigan Radio)
The head of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has resigned over the drinking water crisis in Flint. Gov. Rick Snyder has also now apologized to the community of Flint for his administration's involvement in the situation.

State Rep. Sheldon Neeley calls out, on governor for help over Flint water (Mlive)
The service included guest speaker Sheldon Neeley, the 34th District state House Representative from Flint, who took a hard stance against Gov. Rick Snyder and what he felt was the emergency manager's role over the water issue in Flint.

Economy
5 trends to watch in Michigan's economy (Freep)
If the prognosticators are right, Michigan's still recovering economy is poised for another round of substantial growth by riding an expected banner year for auto sales.

Interviews
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, legislative leaders name biggest disappointments of 2015 (Mlive)
The Flint drinking water crisis was the biggest disappointment of 2015, according to Gov. Rick Snyder and Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who have very different perspectives on the situation.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, legislative leaders describe top priorities for 2016 (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder went 1 for 4 on his top fall priorities in the Michigan Legislature this year, and the three unfinished items now top his agenda for 2016. Snyder is hoping lawmakers will act by March on his plan to relieve Detroit Public Schools from crushing debt by splitting the district in two, a move that could cost the state $715 million over 10 years.

Chief's next gig
Snyder's retiring chief of staff to take position at Honigman (Crain's Detroit Business)
Dennis Muchmore will join Detroit-based law firm Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP next month after retiring as Gov. Rick Snyder's chief of staff. Muchmore, 69, will become chairman of the firm's government relations and regulatory practice group as of Feb. 1, said David Foltyn, Honigman's chairman and CEO. The role will require leading a team of attorneys who specialize in such business policy areas as health care, gaming and hospitality.

DEPARTMENTS

DEQ

Advocates say Dan Wyant's resignation from MDEQ isn't enough (Metro Times)
Dan Wyant, director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, submitted a resignation letter Tuesday following months of controversy surrounding Flint's poisonous water.

Four takeaways from the Flint Water Advisory Task Force preliminary report (MLive)
The Flint Water Advisory Task Force turned in a preliminary report on Flint's water crisis, saying the responsibility ultimately falls to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

MDEQ spokesperson Brad Wurfel resigns too (Metro Times)
Brad Wurfel, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesperson, tendered his resignation Tuesday following news that DEQ director Dan Wyant was resigning.

Michigan to continue working on federal carbon plan despite resignation of DEQ director (Crain's)
Michigan's energy administrators say work on a plan to comply with new federal carbon rules is expected to continue following the resignation of Dan Wyant, the state's top environmental regulator who was helping to lead the project.

DHHS

Rates of lead in Holland's children lower than Muskegon, Grand Rapids (Holland Sentinel)
According to the most recent data available from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the percent of children under the age of 6…

Fish Story: How safe is your catch (MSU Extension)
There is nothing better than going fishing and serving that catch later for dinner. But is the catch of the day safe?

DNR

Deer killed in Clinton County may have Chronic Wasting Disease (FOX 47)
he Michigan Department of Natural Resources says a deer killed by a bow hunter earlier this month may have Chronic Wasting Disease.

24 recruits to attend conservation officers training academy (Huron Daily Tribune)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says 24 recruits are scheduled to attend its conservation officer training academy.

Pure Michigan hunt drawing (WBKB)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources wants to remind hunters that time is running out to apply for a chance to win over $4,000.00 worth of hunting gear and hunting licenses for elk and bear.

Crawford County and DNR near an agreement to improve public safety (Crawford County Avalanche)
A multi-year effort to get road and address signs erected to direct emergency responders to residential areas surrounded by land owned by the State of Michigan is gaining momentum and should be finalized soon

DTMB

Livingston County's jobless rate improves from October to November (WHMI)
After holding mostly steady, Livingston County's jobless rate improved in November. Seasonally unadjusted jobless rates in November declined slightly over the month in most major labor market areas.

Upper Peninsula Jobless rate raises (Daily News)

Unemployment rose in Dickinson and 10 other Upper Peninsula counties in November due to normal job fluctuations and seasonal job cuts, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget in Lansing.

MDE

Bay City Academy board submits $1.3 million debt plan, despite not approving it (MLive)
Dealing with a $1.3 million budget deficit, the Bay City Academy Board of Education has submitted its debt-elimination plan to the state, despite not approving it.

State test results to be released as education officials mull new legislation (Daily Tribune)
As children return to classes after a long holiday break, officials in many area school districts will be receiving results of a new state standardized test that Michigan students took for the first time last spring.

MEDC

Marketplace will serve as a gem to the downtown area (ABC 10)
The former Northern Motors parking lot located on 15th and Ludington will soon become the Escanaba Marketplace. The lot is just under an acre and will harbor a large pavilion. The pavilion will be used to host several events including the Farmers Market.

Pure Michigan beer: Metro Detroit micro-maltery opens (Detroit Free Press)
The malted barley at the heart of your favorite locally-brewed craft beer probably didn't come from Michigan.

MPSC

Renewable energy surcharge disappearing from utility customer bills (Michigan Radio)
A surcharge paid by Michigan utility customers for electricity generated by wind and solar energy is disappearing.

Lawmakers end oversight of cable TV companies (Times Herald)
"I was just reading in the Free Press that the Michigan Public Service Commission has to drop oversight of the cable TV industry. Our legislators decided not to fund that little part of it. The consumer, again, takes it in the ear. I figure our legislators were getting big money toward their campaigns so they let it fall. So we're going to be at the mercy of the cable companies. Our legislators have let everything go to hell in a hand basket."

MSHDA

Village primes for senior housing (Grand Blanc View)
Area seniors, such as resident Emery Bennett, may soon see the fulfillment of his wish of affordable senior housing, within the village boundaries. Land purchased from the United Methodist Church seven years ago will host the apartments.

MSP

New phone rules will help first responders pinpoint emergency location (Oakland Press)
New rules set to go into effect next year will help first responders pinpoint the location of an emergency inside of large buildings.

7% of Michigan adults have a concealed pistol license, and other CPL facts (MLive)
Fifteen years after Michigan changed its law to make it easier to get a license to carry a concealed weapon, there were 497,016 active licenses on file as of Dec. 1, according to data compiled by the Michigan State Police.

Look up the number of concealed pistol licenses in your Michigan county (MLive)
Among Michigan's 10 million residents, almost a half-million had a concealed pistol license as of Dec. 1, according to data collected by the Michigan State Police.

SUPREME COURT

Opinion for openness (City Pulse)

The Michigan Supreme Court, usually so protective of business, hostile to unions and deferential to powerful interests, actually ruled in favor of openness and transparency last week by ordering Michigan State University to release the names of football and basketball athletes identified in crime-related incident reports.

LEGISLATIVE

House speaker rejects city school reforms as priority (Detroit News)
Kevin Cotter has four chief priorities as he prepares to lead a temporarily smaller but more unified Republican caucus into his second and final year as House speaker, and an overhaul and bailout of Detroit's financially and academically failed school district is not among them.

Snyder being pressed to veto bill that would restrict information about local ballot issues (AP)
Lawmakers' unexpected vote to block school districts and municipalities from informing the public about local ballot measures within two months of an election has left opponents pressuring Gov. Rick Snyder to veto the bill, which they say would keep voters in the dark about taxes and other issues.

Sign or veto? Five years in, Snyder faces another test (Freep)
Republican Gov. Rick Snyder completed his fifth year in office on Friday, and he marked the anniversary grappling with yet another contentious bill that awaits his signature and will help shape his legacy.

Michigan's oversight of cable TV firms shuts off in '16 (Freep)
Even more than the IRS and Ohio State, Michiganders love to hate their cable TV providers. "Honestly, I haven't heard anybody say they like their cable company," said Linda Krieger, 71, of Oak Park.

DETROIT

Detroit urban farming prompts career hopes (Freep)
For people working the Hantz Woodlands project on Detroit's east side, it came as a simple request.
"A lot of kids would stop by and say, 'Can I drive your equipment?'" said Mike Score, president of Hantz Farms.

In Detroit school reform debate, focus on accountability (Freep)
Nothing has been the focus of more effort by more people in recent years than the repeated attempts to reform the Detroit Public School System.

Rate-setting for region tops to-do list for Great Lakes Water Authority in 2016 (Macomb Daily)
Setting water and sewerage service rates in the suburbs will be only one item on the Great Lakes Water Authority's agenda as the entity officially takes over Detroit Water and Sewerage Departmentoperations Jan. 1.

Debt payments set to balloon for Detroit Public Schools (Detroit News)
The debt payments of Detroit Public Schools — already the highest of any school district in Michigan — are set to balloon in February to an amount nearly equal to the school district's payroll and benefits as the city school system teeters on the edge of insolvency.

Wayne Co. judge wants to trademark 'Detroit RiverWalk' (Freep)
A judge has applied to trademark the name "Detroit RiverWalk" in hopes of profiting from the sales of merchandise promoting the popular city attraction.

Dennis Handley, Detroit marathon relay director, dies (Freep)
Dennis Handley of Ferndale, a veteran runner and volunteer for running events, died Thursday night on Belle Isle while picking up the last sign that marked the course of the 46th-annual New Year's Eve Family Fun Run.

At Detroit school, it's cool to be green (Freep)

An ocean-themed explosion of color fills a tall atrium, where long tendrils of blue plastic create a flowing waterfall for rainbow-colored fish dangling from the glass ceiling.

OPINION

Milliken: Seek alternatives to Straits pipeline quickly (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan is called the Great Lakes State for a reason. The Great Lakes surround us, they nourish us, and they define us as Michiganders. We therefore have special responsibilities as stewards of these lakes.

Editorial: Snyder should veto campaign finance bill (Detroit News)
We get it. Republican lawmakers want to limit future tax hikes and ease the burden on taxpayers. That's not a bad goal. But an amendment that got added at the last minute to a fairly innocuous campaign finance bill went too far in tying the hands of school districts and local government that want to raise money for various projects.

Jacques: LGBT proposal likely to flop (Detroit News)
Michigan's best chance of adding protections against discrimination for gays and lesbians got shot down a year ago.

Editorial: EPA needs oversight (Detroit News)
Anyone who keeps up with the Environmental Protection Agency's Twitter account won't be surprised to know the agency has been accused of violating several laws by lobbying and organizing grassroots support for proposed environmental regulations.

Susan J. Demas: The Flint water crisis will cause pain for decades to come (Detroit News)
The Flint water crisis is one of those stories that seems too terrible to be true.

Editorial: Plastics ban good move but problem not yet in the bag (TC Record Eagle)
There is no magic pill for our country's growing problem with plastic pollution, but a bill signed into law by the President Barack Obama this week will help keep some microscopic bits out of the Great Lakes.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 9:48 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 7/13 Newsroom
Attachments: 150713 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, July 13, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Bill signings
Snyder signs bill ending incentives for film industry (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation Friday that ends Michigan's film incentive program to grow the state's movie industry, but keeps the Michigan Film Office in tact -- at least for now. House Bill 4122, now Public Act 117 of 2015, means an incentive program that helped attract major Hollywood stars and top directors to Michigan to make movies such as "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Red Dawn" and the "Transformers" franchise, will soon fade to black.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill to kill film incentives (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder's signature today made it official: Michigan film incentives will fade to black. A bill sponsored by Rep. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway Twp., and signed by Snyder puts a stop to state film incentives, which have existed since 2008 and helped Michigan attract major films like "Batman vs Superman" and "Oz The Great and Powerful."

Snyder signs bill ending movie cash incentives (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a bill to eliminate state incentives for film and television productions in Michigan, ending a program that went from bang to bust in seven years. While the state will stop granting subsidies to movie projects at the end of next year, Snyder said, it's important to keep the Michigan Film Office to assist producers who still want to shoot movies in Michigan locations.

Snyder signs bill ending incentives for film industry (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder signed legislation Friday that ends Michigan's film incentive program to grow the state's movie industry, but keeps the Michigan Film Office in tact -- at least for now. House Bill 4122, now Public Act 117 of 2015, means an incentive program that helped attract major Hollywood stars and top directors to Michigan to make movies such as "Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Red Dawn" and the "Transformers" franchise, will soon fade to black.

Snyder signs law to end cash incentives for movie production (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday signed a law to end incentives that encourage the production of movies and TV shows in

Michigan, closing the curtain on a recession-era program that his predecessor had touted for providing an immediate economic boost.

Governor Snyder axes state film incentive program (WHTC)
Michigan's controversial film incentives program will be no more. Governor Snyder signed legislation that phases out this remnant from his predecessor Jennifer Granholm's administration once current incentive deals have expired.

No more film tax credits for Michigan (WLNS)
The controversial tax credits that helped lure Hollywood heavyweights to Michigan are no more. Governor Rick Snyder signed a bill to end the cash rebates given to film companies that produce work in Michigan.

Governor Snyder signs law ending Michigan film incentives (WWMT)
On Friday Governor Rick Snyder signed a law ending Michigan's film incentives. The Michigan Film Office will continue to operate, but it will not be able to offer new cash rebates to filmmakers.

Snyder signs bill removing MI film incentives (MI News 26)
Gov. Rick Snyder, on Friday, signed a bill that will remove all state film incentives. According to reports, The Michigan Film Office will continue operating but will no longer offer cash rebates for companies that produce movies in Michigan.

That's a Wrap! Film Subsidies Terminated (Michigan Capitol Confidential)
On Friday, Gov. Rick Snyder signed House Bill 4122, legislation that phases out Michigan's film subsidy program. The measure, which is now officially Public Act 117 of 2015, prohibits the state film office and the relevant agencies from entering into any new film subsidy agreements or adding to existing ones. Money left over after the last subsidy deal is satisfied will revert to the state's General Fund.

Shepler's Ferry Christening
Gov. Rick Snyder christens Shepler's 'Miss Margy' ferry (Mlive)
We're getting closer to Miss Margy's maiden voyage to Mackinac Island! On Sunday, July 12, Gov. Rick Snyder christened the "Miss Margy," an all-aluminum 85-foot ferry manufactured for Shepler's Ferry by Moran Iron Works in Onaway.

New ferry in Mackinac Island fleet christened by governor (AP)
The newest ferry in a Mackinac Island fleet has been christened by Gov. Rick Snyder and Shepler's Ferry CEO Bill Shepler. The new $3.8 million, 85-foot ship named "Miss Margy" was built at Moran Iron Works in Onaway. It's undergoing final preparations in Mackinaw City before its maiden voyage to Mackinac Island later this summer. The ceremony was held Sunday in Mackinaw City.

Made in Michigan ferry christened in Mackinaw City (Marine Log)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder yesterday christened the newest addition to the Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry fleet, the $3.8 million, 85-foot Miss Margy. It is the first ferry to be built in northern Michigan in recent memory. In the past, a number of ferries were built at now-defunct shipyards in the state.

New Mackinac Island Ferry Christened (9&10 News)
A collaboration between two northern Michigan businesses made for a historic celebration in Mackinaw City today. The new Mackinac Island ferry called "Miss Margy" has been docked in Mackinaw City since May, but a christening ceremony took place at Shepler's Dock in Mackinaw City today.

Mackinac fleet adds a new Margy (Detroit News)
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Give states control over education (Lansing State Journal)
The last time Congress tackled education reform was in 2001 with No Child Left Behind. Its premise was to boost student achievement through an array of metrics that held schools and states accountable for providing them with a quality education. But 14 years later, its one-size-fits-all mandates and arbitrary benchmarks have let many American students down.

Ticket resale ban outdates and frivolous, yet lives on (MLive)
Here we are, heading toward the peak of baseball and summer concert seasons. But in the middle of all the sun and excitement there's a lingering problem: If you try to sell an unused ticket to a sporting event or concert for just $1 above the face value, an 80-year-old Michigan law says you could go to jail.

Donald Trump's immigration remarks were beginning of his end (MLive)
There are two famous Donalds in the world. One is a cartoon duck. The other is a Trump, and some of his harshest critics contend the two are one and the same.

Republican leaders relying on similar strategy to limit funding (MLive)
Republican lawmakers are using the defeat by voters in May of an expansive road-funding ballot issue to achieve a long-sought goal: permanently downsize state government.

Editorial: Don't disrupt state's Medicaid solution (Detroit News)
After convincing the Supreme Court to allow it to hedge on the language of the Affordable Care Act, the Obama administration is trying to hold Michigan to the strict letter of the Medicaid law. In the process it risks blowing a $1.3 billion hole in the state budget.

#####

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In the News

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NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Bill signings

Snyder signs bill ending incentives for film industry (Freep)
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Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill to kill film incentives (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder's signature today made it official: Michigan film incentives will fade to black. A bill sponsored by Rep. Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway Twp., and signed by Snyder puts a stop to state film incentives, which have existed since 2008 and helped Michigan attract major films like "Batman vs Superman" and "Oz The Great and Powerful."

Snyder signs bill ending movie cash incentives (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed a bill to eliminate state incentives for film and television productions in Michigan, ending a program that went from bang to bust in seven years. While the state will stop granting subsidies to movie projects at the end of next year, Snyder said, it's important to keep the Michigan Film Office to assist producers who still want to shoot movies in Michigan locations.

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Snyder signs law to end cash incentives for movie production (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday signed a law to end incentives that encourage the production of movies and TV shows in Michigan, closing the curtain on a recession-era program that his predecessor had touted for providing an immediate economic boost.

Governor Snyder axes state film incentive program (WHTC)
Michigan's controversial film incentives program will be no more. Governor Snyder signed legislation that phases out this remnant from his predecessor Jennifer Granholm's administration once current incentive deals have expired.

No more film tax credits for Michigan (WLNS)

The controversial tax credits that helped lure Hollywood heavyweights to Michigan are no more. Governor Rick Snyder signed a bill to end the cash rebates given to film companies that produce work in Michigan.

Governor Snyder signs law ending Michigan film incentives (WWMT)
On Friday Governor Rick Snyder signed a law ending Michigan's film incentives. The Michigan Film Office will continue to operate, but it will not be able to offer new cash rebates to filmmakers.

Snyder signs bill removing MI film incentives (MI News 26)
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That's a Wrap! Film Subsidies Terminated (Michigan Capitol Confidential)
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Gov. Rick Snyder christens Shepler's 'Miss Margy' ferry (Mlive)
We're getting closer to Miss Margy's maiden voyage to Mackinac Island! On Sunday, July 12, Gov. Rick Snyder christened the "Miss Margy," an all-aluminum 85-foot ferry manufactured for Shepler's Ferry by Moran Iron Works in Onaway.

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The last time Congress tackled education reform was in 2001 with No Child Left Behind. Its premise was to boost student achievement through an array of metrics that held schools and states accountable for providing them with a quality education. But 14 years later, its one-size-fits-all mandates and arbitrary benchmarks have let many American students down.

Ticket resale ban outdates and frivolous, yet lives on (MLive)
Here we are, heading toward the peak of baseball and summer concert seasons. But in the middle of all the sun and excitement there's a lingering problem: If you try to sell an unused ticket to a sporting event or concert for just $1 above the face value, an 80-year-old Michigan law says you could go to jail.

Donald Trump's immigration remarks were beginning of his end (MLive)
There are two famous Donalds in the world. One is a cartoon duck. The other is a Trump, and some of his harshest critics contend the two are one and the same.

Republican leaders relying on similar strategy to limit funding (MLive)
Republican lawmakers are using the defeat by voters in May of an expansive road-funding ballot issue to achieve a long-sought goal: permanently downsize state government.

Editorial: Don't disrupt state's Medicaid solution (Detroit News)
After convincing the Supreme Court to allow it to hedge on the language of the Affordable Care Act, the Obama administration is trying to hold Michigan to the strict letter of the Medicaid law. In the process it risks blowing a $1.3 billion hole in the state budget.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 9:33 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 9/9 Newsroom
Attachments: 150909 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Trade mission
Governor Snyder Embarks on Another Eight-Day Foreign Business "Mission" (WHTC)
For the second time in three weeks, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley is the operational chief executive of Michigan. Governor Snyder embarked on an eight-day investment mission to Japan and Germany in a trip similar to one he made last month to China.

Gov. Snyder promotes Michigan in Japan and Germany (MI 26 News)
Gov. Rick Snyder is traveling the world once again on a mission to promote Michigan. Snyder is leading an investment mission to Japan and Germany with a focus on strengthening trade relationships for Michigan-made goods. Snyder is meeting with government and company leaders from both countries throughout the next week.

Courser/Gamrat/ Special Election
Snyder will decide when lawmakers' replacements chosen (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder will decide when the constituents of former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat will get replacements. The Republican incumbent must decide when to call special primary and general elections to choose replacements for Courser in the 80th District in Lapeer County and Gamrat in the 82nd District in Allegan County.

Snyder welcomes Michigan State Police investigation of Courser, Gamrat (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who has refrained from saying much about the Capitol sex scandal, indicated that he supports opening an MSP investigation into Courser and Gamrat.

Gov. Snyder Supports MSP Decision To Open Criminal Investigation Into Former State Representatives (WILX)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued the following statement Friday regarding the Michigan House of Representatives request for the Michigan State Police to investigate the actions of Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat:

Snyder to call elections to replace Courser, Gamrat (Freep)
It's now up to Gov. Rick Snyder to call elections to replace two tea party lawmakers who lost their seats early Friday in a scandal over misuse of House resources in an attempt to cover up their extramarital affair. Candidates have already expressed interest in replacing Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, and Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell.

Chris Priest new role

Former Snyder adviser Chris Priest named new Michigan Medicaid director (Crain's Detroit Business)
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In the News

Friday, September 11, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Trade mission

Governor Snyder Embarks on Another Eight-Day Foreign Business "Mission" (WHTC)
For the second time in three weeks, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley is the operational chief executive of Michigan. Governor Snyder embarked on an eight-day investment mission to Japan and Germany in a trip similar to one he made last month to China.

Gov. Snyder promotes Michigan in Japan and Germany (MI 26 News)
Gov. Rick Snyder is traveling the world once again on a mission to promote Michigan. Snyder is leading an investment mission to Japan and Germany with a focus on strengthening trade relationships for Michigan-made goods. Snyder is meeting with government and company leaders from both countries throughout the next week.

Courser/Gamrat/ Special Election

Snyder will decide when lawmakers' replacements chosen (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder will decide when the constituents of former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat will get replacements. The Republican incumbent must decide when to call special primary and general elections to choose replacements for Courser in the 80th District in Lapeer County and Gamrat in the 82nd District in Allegan County.

Snyder welcomes Michigan State Police investigation of Courser, Gamrat (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who has refrained from saying much about the Capitol sex scandal, indicated that he supports opening an MSP investigation into Courser and Gamrat.

Gov. Snyder Supports MSP Decision To Open Criminal Investigation Into Former State Representatives (WILX)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued the following statement Friday regarding the Michigan House of Representatives request for the Michigan State Police to investigate the actions of Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat:

Snyder to call elections to replace Courser, Gamrat (Freep)
It's now up to Gov. Rick Snyder to call elections to replace two tea party lawmakers who lost their seats early Friday in a scandal over misuse of House resources in an attempt to cover up their extramarital affair. Candidates have already expressed interest in replacing Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, and Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell.

Chris Priest new role

Former Snyder adviser Chris Priest named new Michigan Medicaid director (Crain's Detroit Business)
Chris Priest, Gov. Rick Snyder's former deputy strategy director, has been named the state's new Medicaid director, the Department of Health and Human Services said Thursday.

New State Medicaid Program Chief Named (WHTC)
Chris Priest, a one-time staffer in both the Granholm and Snyder gubernatorial administrations, was tapped by state Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon to take over the Medical Services Administration.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:37 AM
Subject: 9/15 Newsroom
Attachments: 150915 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Proclamation
How can Michigan welcome immigrants? Let's start with Syria (Crain's Detroit Business)
Part of Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to continue a growth curve for Michigan's economy rests with immigrants. He designated Sept. 14-20 as immigration week — officially Welcoming Week in Michigan — to recognize the economic assets that immigrants, many of them entrepreneurs, play in our economy.

Snyder declares Michigan "Welcoming Week" to honor immigrants (Michigan Radio)
The immigration question is causing turmoil in the Republican presidential primary, but Governor Rick Snyder is standing by his staunchly pro-immigration position. Snyder has declared this "Welcoming Week" with a particular focus on honoring immigrants.

Flag honors
Gov. Snyder orders flags to half staff to honor Lansing firefighter (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder is ordering flags at half-staff on Wednesday at the State Capitol, and all state buildings, in honor of Lansing firefighter Dennis Rodeman. Rodeman died last Wednesday, after police say a man deliberately hit him while he was collecting money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lt. Gov. Calley spends morning with G.R. preschoolers (WZZM)
Lieutenant Governor and West Michigan native Brian Calley was in town Monday. He talked with parents and kids at the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative on Vries Street SW in Grand Rapids. The center got a new playground back in June, thanks to volunteers who built it in just a day. Monday's visit was all about dedicating the pre-school's new outdoor learning center.

Lt. gov. praises Spring Lake leaders (Grand Haven Tribune)

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, speaking at a ceremony behind Village Hall, said the two municipalities sharing space there is a solid example for other state municipalities to follow.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

Schuette touts success of school safety hotline (AP)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is promoting a hotline and online student safety system called OK2SAY.

DEQ

State DEQ to answer questions about Flint's water woes (Michigan Radio)
"The head of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality plans to respond Monday to a demand for answers about Flint's water woes. Last week, State Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, state Rep. Sheldon Neeley, D-Flint, and state Rep. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing, sent a letter to DEQ director Dan Wyant demanding answers to a list of questions about the safety and treatment of Flint's drinking water."

Flint asks Snyder for $30M to upgrade water system (AP)
The mayor of Flint is asking Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder for $30 million to help upgrade the city's water system and replace lead service pipes. The Flint Journal reports Mayor Dayne Walling announced his request while speaking Monday to the City Council. The request was made that day in a letter to Snyder.

Removing Kalamazoo River dams in Otsego topic of Sept. 15 meeting (MLive)
"The Kalamazoo River natural resource trustees are asking for comment from the public on restoration of the river, particularly the proposed removal of the two Otsego-area dams."

DHHS

Bubonic plague case confirmed in Michigan (Freep)
A Michigan resident has contracted the rare, life-threatening bubonic plague — the first documented case in Michigan's public health history, state officials confirmed. The Marquette County adult is recovering after apparently contracting the flea-borne illness during a trip to Colorado. Officials are reassuring the public there is no cause for alarm, despite the disease's connection to the microorganism that caused the Black Death plague in Europe in the 1300s, killing millions and reshaping history.

DNR

DNR: Project to improve access to Lake Huron (Detroit News)
"A $65,000 boat ramp replacement project in Arenac County is designed to improve access to Lake Huron."

Trailhead property purchased for Muskegon link in Grand Rapids-Hart trail (MLive)
"The much-anticipated Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail -- which would link bike trails from Grand Rapids to Muskegon to Hart -- could have a convenient trailhead off of Giles Road."

DNR approves land transactions in the U.P. (Upper Michigan's Source)
"Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh approved several land transactions at the Sept. 10 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in Lansing."

Headlands Dark Sky Park hosting Harvest Moon Total Eclipse viewing event (Up North Live)
"Michigan has five state parks with dark sky preserves, and on the night of Sept. 27, there will be even more of a reason to visit these parks. The night of Sept. 27 will have a Super Harvest Moon Total Eclipse. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says Michigan state parks and state forest campgrounds are ideal viewing locations."

MDE

Teachers on Food Stamps? Not Likely (Capitol Confidential)
"Fran Cullen, a retired Traverse City teacher who blogs and writes for union publications, became the latest union activist to claim that the pay at Michigan schools is so low that some teachers are forced onto food stamps."

Michigan per-pupil spending flatlines, and 6 other facts on K-12 expenditures (Mlive)
Michigan spending on K-12 public school students remained virtually the same between 2008-09 and 2013-14, according to state data.

The 2013-14 average was $9,568 per per pupil for general operations, not including capitol expenditures. That compares to $9,545 in 2008-09, the data shows. The 2013-14 data is the most recent available.

Average teacher pay continues to shrink, study shows (Cadillac News)
"The average salary of public school teachers in the state dropped by $360 in 2013-14 from the previous school year, which already was $84 less than in 2011-12, according to the Michigan Department of Education."

MDOT
Orange barrels: Should there be lights? (Freep)
A controversy over whether the Michigan Department of Transportation should move to brighter construction barrels that cost up to 43% more has raised questions among some suppliers about an earlier decision to remove orange lights from the tops of the barrels in the first place.

MEDC
Group hoping to bring children's museum to the area (Ogemaw County Herald)
"A group of area residents about 20-strong is working together in an attempt to bring a children's museum to West Branch and the surrounding area in the near future. West Branch City Manager Heather Grace is tentatively the president of the committee, and she told the Herald the idea for the museum came from a discussion with Michigan Economic Development Corporation Regional Representative Dan Leonard."

TED/TIA
Class-action lawsuit claims State of Michigan improperly seizing tax refunds (WXYZ)
"The State of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency is improperly seizing the federal and state tax refunds of potentially thousands of men and women, according to a class-action lawsuit served on the state today."

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Legislature: Gun, abortion bills introduced (Detroit Free Press)
While most of the Legislature's attention was focused on expulsion hearings for two lawmakers, representatives and senators still managed to introduce 68 new bills in the first full week of their fall session after being off most of the summer. And the hot-button issues were predominant: from banning abortions after 20 weeks to closing the open carry loophole in Michigan's gun laws.

TV host John Oliver skewers Courser-Gamrat sex scandal (Detroit Free Press)
While this summer's sex scandal between former state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat has kept Lansing reporters busy, it's also functioning as an offering to the comedy gods. Sunday night, John Oliver, host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight" (and Jon Stewart's former protege) devoted a segment of his satirical newscast to cataloging all the salacious details from the Courser-Gamrat affair for a national audience.

Fields of candidates grow for seats of Courser, Gamrat (The Detroit News)
The number of candidates has grown for the state House seats that became vacant when Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat were forced out of the Legislature late last week during a dramatic session.

DETROIT

White House's 'Smart Cities' push includes Detroit (The Detroit News)
The White House on Monday unveiled a new $160 million "Smart Cities" initiative that will boost federal research and leverage more than 25 new technology collaborations to help local communities tackle important issues. The initiative includes a project with Detroit and Wayne State University, and its projects include efforts to reduce traffic congestion, fight crime, foster economic growth, manage the effects of climate change and improve the delivery of city services.

Detroit named one of best cities to be a teacher (Detroit Free Press)
In the latest of a string of random, attention-grabbing national rankings, Detroit has been named one of the top cities in the U.S. to be a teacher – leaving some in the profession scratching their heads. A New York-based research and analytics company called Value Penguin

said Detroit is the third best large city (with a population of more than 500,000) in the U.S. for teachers, behind San Diego and Oakland, Calif. Of 30 cities of various sizes, Detroit was sixth overall.

Ally donates 3,000 new library books to Detroit Public Schools (SubPrime)
In honor of local students going back to school, Ally Financial recently announced that it will be donating 3,000 new library books to schools in the Detroit Public School district. Officials highlighted elementary and middle school libraries throughout the district will receive 50 new books that focus on various financial literacy skills and concepts with selections for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade reading levels.

Cushingberry featured in Belle Isle promotional videos (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit's second-ranking council member was filmed taking a dip in the Detroit River as part of a new video series to promote Belle Isle and its unique mix of attractions. George Cushingberry Jr., the council's president pro tem, wades in the river waist-deep before taking a plunge underwater to show residents it's fit for swimming. The video was posted today on the city of Detroit's YouTube channel.

Hundreds to throw bread crumbs into Detroit River in Rosh Hashanah observance (MLive)
A Detroit-area Jewish congregation plans to observe a Rosh Hashanah tradition at the Detroit riverfront on Tuesday. Hundreds are expected to gather at Hart Plaza to perform a symbolic casting-away of shortcomings in ritual called "Tashlich," the Hebrew word for "to cast." Tashlich is an annual ritual performed during Rosh Hashanah, a two-day observance of the Jewish new year, which began Sunday evening.

Can Dave Bing's voice reconnect the Pistons to Detroit? (Freep)
Thirty-seven years after the Detroit Pistons left Cobo Arena in downtown Detroit for the Oakland County suburbs, Tom Gores — now in his fifth year as team owner — is stepping up efforts to reconnect the Pistons with the city whose name the franchise carries.

$6.5 million Entrepreneurs of Color Fund debuts Tuesday (Detroit News)
A $6.5 million lending program debuts Tuesday for Detroit minority entrepreneurs and businesses that primarily hire minorities. The Entrepreneurs of Color program will provide financing for general contractors, small retailers and other neighborhood service businesses, according to a press release issued Monday. The fund will focus on businesses that traditionally have lower credit availability, lack access to capital and staffing and primarily serve Detroit's neighborhoods.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wage repeal group submits 390,000 petition signatures (Detroit News)
Protecting Michigan Taxpayers, a group with ties to the conservative DeVos family of Grand Rapids and a state organization representing nonunion contractors, has collected 390,000 petition signatures for its proposal to dump Michigan's prevailing wage law.

OPINION

Mackinac pipeline helps power Michigan's industrial comeback (MLive)
For months we've heard the same old rhetoric about the integrity of Enbridge's Line 5, which runs under the Straits of Mackinac. It's time to set the record straight about this important piece of Michigan's energy infrastructure, what it means for the state economy, and the commitment by the company and workers to ensure it continues to safely operate.

Why did the Courser-Gamrat scandal dominate headlines? (MLive)
Nobody outside Lansing really cared about theTodd Courser-Cindy Gamrat scandal, except to giggle about two politicians having sex.

In expulsion affair, social media gave pols feedback at the speed of 'like' (MLive)
Politicians are like everybody else. They want everybody to like them. That is especially important for them because their job security depends on that. But, alas, if you are making tough decisions, not everyone is going to be pleased.

Editorial: Bring them here (Detroit News)
President Barack Obama has signaled the United States will accept at least 10,000 more refugees from Syria during the next year. Michigan should lobby to be the destination for most, if not all of those seeking new homes.

Lund: Unions are chicken Little on prevailing wage (Detroit News)

"Chicken Little" — it's an age-old fable with a compelling lesson for Michigan's modern-day debate over whether to repeal prevailing wage laws. Don't let hysteria over an imagined threat obscure good judgment.

Bush: My tax overhaul will unleash growth (Detroit News)
Under President Barack Obama, Americans have now endured six years of tax increases, endless regulation, vast new federal programs and $8 trillion in added debt. The president told us this "stimulus" would jump-start the economy. Instead, we got an anemic economy growing at barely 2 percent a year. Some call this "the new normal" — but it isn't something we can accept if we are going to restore the opportunity for every American to rise and achieve earned success.

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Gov. Rick Snyder touted Michigan's growth before the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Tokyo at the midway point of an eight-day business mission. Over the weekend, this state's chief executive reaffirmed a nearly 50-year-long sister state agreement with the governor of Shiga Prefecture.

Proclamation
How can Michigan welcome immigrants? Let's start with Syria (Crain's Detroit Business)
Part of Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to continue a growth curve for Michigan's economy rests with immigrants. He designated Sept. 14-20 as immigration week — officially Welcoming Week in Michigan — to recognize the economic assets that immigrants, many of them entrepreneurs, play in our economy.

Snyder declares Michigan "Welcoming Week" to honor immigrants (Michigan Radio)
The immigration question is causing turmoil in the Republican presidential primary, but Governor Rick Snyder is standing by his staunchly pro-immigration position. Snyder has declared this "Welcoming Week" with a particular focus on honoring immigrants.

Flag honors
Gov. Snyder orders flags to half staff to honor Lansing firefighter (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder is ordering flags at half-staff on Wednesday at the State Capitol, and all state buildings, in honor of Lansing firefighter Dennis Rodeman. Rodeman died last Wednesday, after police say a man deliberately hit him while he was collecting money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lt. Gov. Calley spends morning with G.R. preschoolers (WZZM)
Lieutenant Governor and West Michigan native Brian Calley was in town Monday. He talked with parents and kids at the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative on Vries Street SW in Grand Rapids. The center got a new playground back in June, thanks to volunteers who built it in just a day. Monday's visit was all about dedicating the pre-school's new outdoor learning center.

Lt. gov. praises Spring Lake leaders (Grand Haven Tribune)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, speaking at a ceremony behind Village Hall, said the two municipalities sharing space there is a solid example for other state municipalities to follow.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

Schuette touts success of school safety hotline (AP)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is promoting a hotline and online student safety system called OK2SAY.

DEQ

State DEQ to answer questions about Flint's water woes (Michigan Radio)
"The head of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality plans to respond Monday to a demand for answers about Flint's water woes. Last week, State Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, state Rep. Sheldon Neeley, D-Flint, and state Rep. Phil Phelps, D-Flushing, sent a letter to DEQ director Dan Wyant demanding answers to a list of questions about the safety and treatment of Flint's drinking water."

Flint asks Snyder for $30M to upgrade water system (AP)
The mayor of Flint is asking Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder for $30 million to help upgrade the city's water system and replace lead service pipes. The Flint Journal reports Mayor Dayne Walling announced his request while speaking Monday to the City Council. The request was made that day in a letter to Snyder.

Removing Kalamazoo River dams in Otsego topic of Sept. 15 meeting (MLive)
"The Kalamazoo River natural resource trustees are asking for comment from the public on restoration of the river, particularly the proposed removal of the two Otsego-area dams."

DHHS

Bubonic plague case confirmed in Michigan (Freep)
A Michigan resident has contracted the rare, life-threatening bubonic plague — the first documented case in Michigan's public health history, state officials confirmed. The Marquette County adult is recovering after apparently contracting the flea-borne illness during a trip to Colorado. Officials are reassuring the public there is no cause for alarm, despite the disease's connection to the microorganism that caused the Black Death plague in Europe in the 1300s, killing millions and reshaping history.

DNR

DNR: Project to improve access to Lake Huron (Detroit News)
"A $65,000 boat ramp replacement project in Arenac County is designed to improve access to Lake Huron."

Trailhead property purchased for Muskegon link in Grand Rapids-Hart trail (MLive)
"The much-anticipated Fred Meijer Berry Junction Trail -- which would link bike trails from Grand Rapids to Muskegon to Hart -- could have a convenient trailhead off of Giles Road."

DNR approves land transactions in the U.P. (Upper Michigan's Source)

"Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh approved several land transactions at the Sept. 10 meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in Lansing."

Headlands Dark Sky Park hosting Harvest Moon Total Eclipse viewing event (Up North Live)
"Michigan has five state parks with dark sky preserves, and on the night of Sept. 27, there will be even more of a reason to visit these parks. The night of Sept. 27 will have a Super Harvest Moon Total Eclipse. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says Michigan state parks and state forest campgrounds are ideal viewing locations."

MDE
Teachers on Food Stamps? Not Likely (Capitol Confidential)
"Fran Cullen, a retired Traverse City teacher who blogs and writes for union publications, became the latest union activist to claim that the pay at Michigan schools is so low that some teachers are forced onto food stamps."

Michigan per-pupil spending flatlines, and 6 other facts on K-12 expenditures (Mlive)
Michigan spending on K-12 public school students remained virtually the same between 2008-09 and 2013-14, according to state data. The 2013-14 average was $9,568 per per pupil for general operations, not including capitol expenditures. That compares to $9,545 in 2008-09, the data shows. The 2013-14 data is the most recent available.

Average teacher pay continues to shrink, study shows (Cadillac News)
"The average salary of public school teachers in the state dropped by $360 in 2013-14 from the previous school year, which already was $84 less than in 2011-12, according to the Michigan Department of Education."

MDOT
Orange barrels: Should there be lights? (Freep)
A controversy over whether the Michigan Department of Transportation should move to brighter construction barrels that cost up to 43% more has raised questions among some suppliers about an earlier decision to remove orange lights from the tops of the barrels in the first place.

MEDC
Group hoping to bring children's museum to the area (Ogemaw County Herald)
"A group of area residents about 20-strong is working together in an attempt to bring a children's museum to West Branch and the surrounding area in the near future. West Branch City Manager Heather Grace is tentatively the president of the committee, and she told the Herald the idea for the museum came from a discussion with Michigan Economic Development Corporation Regional Representative Dan Leonard."

TED/TIA
Class-action lawsuit claims State of Michigan improperly seizing tax refunds (WXYZ)

"The State of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency is improperly seizing the federal and state tax refunds of potentially thousands of men and women, according to a class-action lawsuit served on the state today."

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Legislature: Gun, abortion bills introduced (Detroit Free Press)
While most of the Legislature's attention was focused on expulsion hearings for two lawmakers, representatives and senators still managed to introduce 68 new bills in the first full week of their fall session after being off most of the summer. And the hot-button issues were predominant: from banning abortions after 20 weeks to closing the open carry loophole in Michigan's gun laws.

TV host John Oliver skewers Courser-Gamrat sex scandal (Detroit Free Press)
While this summer's sex scandal between former state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat has kept Lansing reporters busy, it's also functioning as an offering to the comedy gods. Sunday night, John Oliver, host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight" (and Jon Stewart's former protege) devoted a segment of his satirical newscast to cataloging all the salacious details from the Courser-Gamrat affair for a national audience.

Fields of candidates grow for seats of Courser, Gamrat (The Detroit News)
The number of candidates has grown for the state House seats that became vacant when Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat were forced out of the Legislature late last week during a dramatic session.

DETROIT

White House's 'Smart Cities' push includes Detroit (The Detroit News)
The White House on Monday unveiled a new $160 million "Smart Cities" initiative that will boost federal research and leverage more than 25 new technology collaborations to help local communities tackle important issues. The initiative includes a project with Detroit and Wayne State University, and its projects include efforts to reduce traffic congestion, fight crime, foster economic growth, manage the effects of climate change and improve the delivery of city services.

Detroit named one of best cities to be a teacher (Detroit Free Press)
In the latest of a string of random, attention-grabbing national rankings, Detroit has been named one of the top cities in the U.S. to be a teacher – leaving some in the profession scratching their heads. A New York-based research and analytics company called Value Penguin said Detroit is the third best large city (with a population of more than 500,000) in the U.S. for teachers, behind San Diego and Oakland, Calif. Of 30 cities of various sizes, Detroit was sixth overall.

Ally donates 3,000 new library books to Detroit Public Schools (SubPrime)
In honor of local students going back to school, Ally Financial recently announced that it will be donating 3,000 new library books to schools in the Detroit Public School district. Officials highlighted elementary and middle school libraries throughout the district will receive 50 new books that focus on various financial literacy skills and concepts with selections for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade reading levels.

Cushingberry featured in Belle Isle promotional videos (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit's second-ranking council member was filmed taking a dip in the Detroit River as part of a new video series to promote Belle Isle and its unique mix of attractions. George Cushingberry Jr., the

council's president pro tem, wades in the river waist-deep before taking a plunge underwater to show residents it's fit for swimming. The video was posted today on the city of Detroit's YouTube channel.

Hundreds to throw bread crumbs into Detroit River in Rosh Hashanah observance (MLive)
A Detroit-area Jewish congregation plans to observe a Rosh Hashanah tradition at the Detroit riverfront on Tuesday. Hundreds are expected to gather at Hart Plaza to perform a symbolic casting-away of shortcomings in ritual called "Tashlich," the Hebrew word for "to cast." Tashlich is an annual ritual performed during Rosh Hashanah, a two-day observance of the Jewish new year, which began Sunday evening.

Can Dave Bing's voice reconnect the Pistons to Detroit? (Freep)
Thirty-seven years after the Detroit Pistons left Cobo Arena in downtown Detroit for the Oakland County suburbs, Tom Gores — now in his fifth year as team owner — is stepping up efforts to reconnect the Pistons with the city whose name the franchise carries.

$6.5 million Entrepreneurs of Color Fund debuts Tuesday (Detroit News)
A $6.5 million lending program debuts Tuesday for Detroit minority entrepreneurs and businesses that primarily hire minorities. The Entrepreneurs of Color program will provide financing for general contractors, small retailers and other neighborhood service businesses, according to a press release issued Monday. The fund will focus on businesses that traditionally have lower credit availability, lack access to capital and staffing and primarily serve Detroit's neighborhoods.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wage repeal group submits 390,000 petition signatures (Detroit News)
Protecting Michigan Taxpayers, a group with ties to the conservative DeVos family of Grand Rapids and a state organization representing nonunion contractors, has collected 390,000 petition signatures for its proposal to dump Michigan's prevailing wage law.

OPINION

Mackinac pipeline helps power Michigan's industrial comeback (MLive)
For months we've heard the same old rhetoric about the integrity of Enbridge's Line 5, which runs under the Straits of Mackinac. It's time to set the record straight about this important piece of Michigan's energy infrastructure, what it means for the state economy, and the commitment by the company and workers to ensure it continues to safely operate.

Why did the Courser-Gamrat scandal dominate headlines? (MLive)
Nobody outside Lansing really cared about the**Todd Courser-Cindy Gamrat scandal**, except to giggle about two politicians having sex.
In expulsion affair, social media gave pols feedback at the speed of 'like' (MLive)
Politicians are like everybody else. They want everybody to like them. That is especially important for them because their job security depends on that. But, alas, if you are making tough decisions, not everyone is going to be pleased.

Editorial: Bring them here (Detroit News)

President Barack Obama has signaled the United States will accept at least 10,000 more refugees from Syria during the next year. Michigan should lobby to be the destination for most, if not all of those seeking new homes.

Lund: Unions are chicken Little on prevailing wage (Detroit News)
"Chicken Little" — it's an age-old fable with a compelling lesson for Michigan's modern-day debate over whether to repeal prevailing wage laws. Don't let hysteria over an imagined threat obscure good judgment.

Bush: My tax overhaul will unleash growth (Detroit News)
Under President Barack Obama, Americans have now endured six years of tax increases, endless regulation, vast new federal programs and $8 trillion in added debt. The president told us this "stimulus" would jump-start the economy. Instead, we got an anemic economy growing at barely 2 percent a year. Some call this "the new normal" — but it isn't something we can accept if we are going to restore the opportunity for every American to rise and achieve earned success.

#####

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
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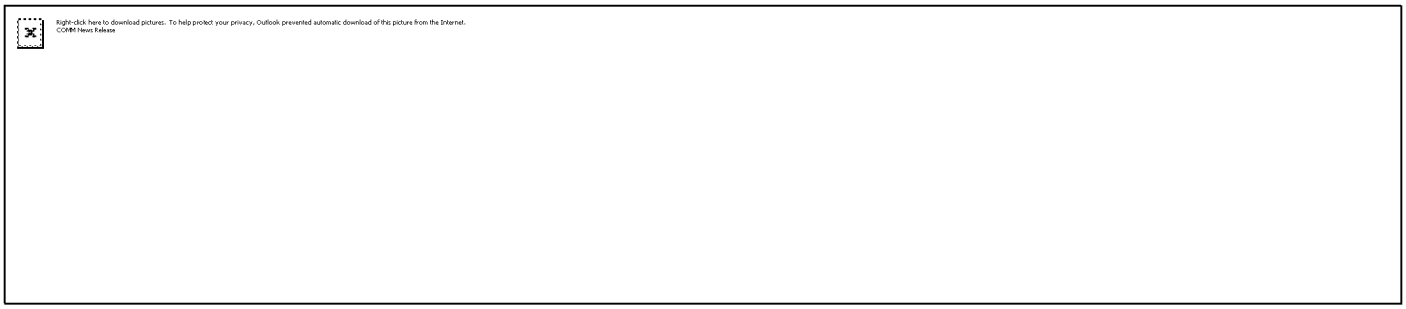

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Department of Health and Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 2, 2015

Editor's Note: Click here for infographic and action plan.

Gov. Rick Snyder: Comprehensive action plan will help Flint residents address water concerns

Collaborative effort with state, federal and city leaders focuses on testing, assistance

FLINT, Mich. – Flint residents need to have access to safe, clean, water now and long into the future, Gov. Rick Snyder said, announcing a comprehensive action plan created with state, federal and city leaders to address concerns about drinking water.

The water leaving Flint's drinking water system is safe to drink, but some families with lead plumbing in their homes or service connections could experience higher levels of lead in the water that comes out of their faucets.

The action plan focuses on increasing water testing, offering additional precautions for families with lead plumbing in their homes, and providing long-term solutions to address the city's water infrastructure challenges. The plan was created at Snyder's direction by the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Health and Human Services (DHHS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the city of Flint.

"We are focused on helping ensure safe, clean, accessible drinking water and addressing and mitigating concerns and protecting public health," Snyder said. "Today's action plan builds upon ongoing work with local, state and federal agencies and our partnership with city and community leaders. Together, we are working to ensure that all Flint residents have accurate information and know that help is available to address potential problems."

The city and the state also are working together to gather more data to ensure the water that leaves the treatment plant as well as the water that arrives in Flint homes is safe for all residents. The plan includes:

- Testing in Flint public schools immediately to ensure that drinking water is safe, with testing also available at no cost to any other school in Flint.
- Offering free water testing to Flint residents to assure their drinking water is safe.
- Providing free water filters to residents.
- Expanding health exposure testing of individual homes.
- Accelerating corrosion controls in the Flint drinking water system.
- Accelerating water system improvements to address replacing lead service lines.
- Expediting the completion of the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline.
- Expanding a Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee to ensure the best technology, practices and science are being followed by adding an expert from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development to the group.
- Naming Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as the Flint drinking water public health adviser.
- Boosting a comprehensive lead education program to make sure residents have detailed information about how to protect themselves and their homes.

Residents can have their water tested by calling 810-787-6537 and pressing 1, or emailing flintwater@cityofflint.com. The DEQ is covering the cost of this testing.

State leaders have been working closely with state and federal lawmakers to tap resources at all levels of government to address concerns.

State health experts said there has been an increase in elevated childhood blood lead levels in some specific communities. Initial analysis of MDHHS data found that blood lead levels of children in Flint have followed an expected seasonal trend. While this analysis for Flint as a whole remains true, a comprehensive and detailed review breaking down data by ZIP codes with the city revealed that MDHHS data is consistent with a study presented recently by Hurley Children's Hospital.

"While we cannot conclusively say that the water source change is the sole cause of the increase, this analysis supports our efforts as we take active steps to reduce all potential lead exposures in Flint," MDHHS Director Nick Lyon said. "As part of this, we are working closely with our public and private partners to provide Flint residents on MDHHS assistance programs with free water filters and inform families about the steps they can take to reduce all lead exposures in their home."

As a part of the action plan, National Sanitation Foundation certified water filters will be made available to Flint residents through emergency state funds and coordinated efforts with local community agencies and donors. Information about how to obtain the filters will soon be available.

"This action plan offers concrete steps we will take in a local, state and federal partnership to ensure all Flint residents have safe water to drink," DEQ Director Dan Wyant said. "The DEQ will work closely with the city to gather further data to ensure the water that leaves Flint's system as

well as the water that arrives in Flint homes is safe to drink."

Additional information is available at www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

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Daily update - October 16, 2015

NEWS

Beware Claims of State Budget Cuts

Michigan Capitol Confidential

A common refrain heard from policymakers is that there is no extra money in the **budget** for roads, or for most any other priority. **Michigan's** continued ...

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Michigan state employees would see raises under deals

Detroit Free Press

... over how a federal health care tax would affect the **state budget**. If union ... The **Michigan** Corrections Organization, the **Michigan State** Employees ...

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Ask Nick: Is there room for both Michigan and Michigan State at the top?

MLive.com

In football, **Michigan's** recruiting **budget** is going to be larger, the Wolverines will continue to push their brand into areas of the country that **Michigan** ...

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What's the state of the rainy-day fund?

Michigan Radio

The **Michigan** Legislature has approved $9 million to deal with the fallout ... Demas says as of the last **budget** cycle there's about $386 million in the ...

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Michigan House approves literacy bill that would hold back third-graders who lag in reading

WDIV Detroit

The **state budget** that took effect Oct. 1 includes about $28 million for added instructional time, screening, reading coaches and professional ...

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For the record: Water crisis in Flint, Michigan, an obscene failure of government

Wisconsin Gazette

There's good news: The City of Flint, **Michigan**, ould soon reconnect to the Detroit Water and ... To lead a **state**, a balanced **budget** is not sufficient.

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Daily update - October 16, 2015

NEWS

Ann Arbor angst creeps into Michigan State fan base

USA TODAY

Michigan hadn't even put its finishing touches on its 38-0 thrashing of Northwestern last weekend, and **Michigan State** fans were already assuming the ...

Ask Nick: Is there room for both Michigan and Michigan State at the top? - MLive.com

Michigan vs. Michigan State: Once Again, It Matters to the Rest of Us - RollingStone.com

Chip on its shoulder, green in its heart, Michigan State visits Michigan as an underdog - Washington Post

Full Coverage

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Vandals strike ahead of Michigan State-Michigan game

Washington Times

Tracy Harris cleans a statue of Earvin "Magic" Johnson on the campus of **Michigan State** University, Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015, in East Lansing, Mich.

Michigan State again hit by vandalism ahead of football game - USA TODAY

Izzo denounces 'idiots' who vandalized Magic statue - Detroit Free Press

Blue paint hits Michigan State as vandals strike again during rivalry week with UM - MLive.com

Full Coverage

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ESPN's Kirk Herbstreit breaks down the Michigan State-Michigan game

MLive.com

ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit, shown here during a previous ESPN College GameDay appearance in East Lansing, provided MLive.com with an ...

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Police search home of **Michigan** doctor after finding what seems to be fetus parts in car trunk

Fox News

Police in **Michigan** raided the home and office of an allegedly rogue ... The **state** Attorney General's Office suspects Roth may be performing illegal ...

Local, **state**, and federal authorities investigate **Michigan** abortionist after human tissue found in car ... - National Right to Life News

Full Coverage

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Shilique Calhoun Finds a Good Fit in **Michigan State's** Pass Rush

New York Times

Gill, who was the defensive line coach at **Michigan State** at the time, was expecting Shilique Calhoun to be the next elite pass-rusher to join the ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State graffiti spotted on U-M campus

MLive.com

Michigan State fans are officially making their mark on the University of **Michigan's** campus. A day after the U-M fans hit MSU landmarks — including ...

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Recruiting: **Michigan State** keeps moving up 2016 rankings

Detroit Free Press

Michigan State has benefited from this situation and jumped up a few spots. The fact that a few of the recent decommitted prospects are looking at ...

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ESPN's College GameDay set up ahead of **Michigan**-**Michigan State** game

MLive.com

ESPN's College GameDay has set up on the north end of the Diag at the University of **Michigan** on Friday, October 16, 2015. Melanie Maxwell | The ...

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What's the **state** of the rainy-day fund?

Michigan Radio

The **Michigan** Legislature has approved $9 million to deal with the fallout from the Flint water crisis. That price tag has turned attention to how the ...

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I'm Shmacked coming to U-M to film party culture during Michigan-Michigan State game

MLive.com

This weekend, I'm Shmacked---- a group that films such party culture, including drinking and drug use, on college campuses across the nation ---- will ...

Ann Arbor's hour-by-hour forecast for Michigan, Michigan State game - MLive.com

Full Coverage

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, December 3, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

DC Visit
Snyder: investing in relationships key to China trade (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder said investing in relationships with Chinese companies and people is a means not only for boosting business and jobs but moving toward solving more complex U.S.-Chinese issues, such as national security and intellectual property.

Proclamations
Gov. Rick Snyder names Dec. 7-11 as Computer Science Education Week (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently named Dec. 7-13 as Computer Science Education Week and encouraged schools and students across the state to engage in the Hour of Code initiative.

Bill Signing
Snyder signs measure to consolidate March election (Pioneer Tribune)
Local governments will be able to include candidates for local office and other questions on ballots for the March 2016 presidential primary election, under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Recall Petition
Detroit pastor submits revised Snyder recall petition (Detroit Free Press)
A Detroit pastor has submitted revised wording for a petition to recall Gov. Rick Snyder over the Flint water crisis, but an attorney for the governor says the new wording still fails to meet standards required under state law.

DEPARTMENTS

MDE
Michigan audit faults EAA for poor budget controls (The Detroit News)
The state-created Educational Achievement Authority suffered from a "consistent lack of controls" in information technology that resulted in poorly maintained budgets, vendors being paid without contracts and a lack of oversight in purchasing, a state audit concluded.

MSP
Michigan cops fume over loss of U.S. military vehicles (Detroit Free Press)

Michigan law enforcement agencies are returning donated surplus military equipment to the federal government this month — including tracked armored vehicles that metro Detroit sheriff's offices have had for more than a decade— under orders of the White House, and they are not happy about it.

Project Blue Light pledges to 'never forget' (Daily Tribune)

Police, firefighters, and first responders from around southeastern Michigan gathered in Hazel Park Tuesday evening to honor the memory and survivors of fellow officers killed in the line of duty. Five Michigan police officers, and three firefighters who died while on the job over the past year, were honored during the hour-long service.

MEDC

St. Johns industrial park adding technology, 100 jobs (Lansing State Journal)

The city has announced a partnership with Frontier Communications to bring fiber-optic technology services to the city's certified industrial park, a move that will add 100 jobs, according to local officials. The Clinton County Economic Alliance and Quest Software are also partners in the program, which will upgrade the technology available to customers inside the industrial park.

DNR

Restoration of Lake Michigan reef seeks to help native fish (AP)

About 450 tons of limestone have been dumped into Lake Michigan in a project to rehabilitate a northern Michigan reef and boost native fish populations. The Traverse City Record-Eagle reports the dumping location in Grand Traverse Bay is in a reef complex where lake trout, lake whitefish and lake herring are known to spawn. MLive.com reports the limestone was put in the water this summer.

Milkweed planted on Mackinac Island to aid monarch butterflies (MLive)

A new grassland habitat area has been established on Mackinac Island to aid the migratory North American monarch butterfly population. About 400,000 common milkweed seeds were scattered in November on roughly three acres of land at the east end of the island's airport by Mackinac State Historic Parks, a division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Michigan DNR targets illegal importation of deer in fight against chronic wasting disease (AP)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers are targeting the illegal importation of deer into the state as part of an effort to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease. The state says Tuesday that officers recently seized six deer being transported into the state along the Interstate 94 corridor of the border with Indiana in southwestern Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE

Reps. Liberati, Chang introduces reforms to emergency manager law (The News Herald)

State Reps. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) and Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) announced Nov. 30 they have both introduced legislation to reform the laws governing emergency financial managers. If passed, their bills would amend the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act.

Switch data center tax break bills clear committee, head to Michigan House (Mlive)

The Michigan House Tax Policy committee on Wednesday advanced legislation that would provide large tax breaks to cloud-computing data center companies, including a Nevada-based firm that plans to open a Grand Rapids campus if the package is signed into law. Three House bills, approved in a series of 8-5 votes that blurred party lines, would exempt data centers from state sales, use and personal property taxes. As amended, local governments would have to sign off on any property tax reduction.

Election bills: No-reason absentee injected into debate over straight-ticket voting ban (Mlive)

A bill that would allow voters to cast absentee ballots at a local clerk's office without a reason was swiftly approved by the House Elections Committee on Wednesday, making it part of a broader discussion on changes to election law. Under current law, a person can only request an absentee ballot for one of six reasons: being over 60; being unable to vote without assistance at the polls; expecting to be out of town on election day; in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; unable to attend the polls for religious reasons; or being appointed to work as a precinct worker in a different precinct.

House to take up absentee, straight-party voting today (Detroit Free Press)

The House is poised to take up legislation that will make it easier to vote by absentee ballot, but eliminate straight-party ticket voting at the same time. Republicans in the Senate have already passed the elimination of straight-ticket voting, which Democrats believe is a partisan ploy to skew elections toward the GOP. The House Elections Committee will take up the legislation today after it voted Wednesday to pass a bill that would allow people to get an absentee ballot without providing a reason for needing to vote on a day other than Election Day.

Michigan officials should ignore gay marriage ruling, lawmakers say at religious freedom rally (Mlive)
Michigan officials should "reclaim this state's sovereignty by not recognizing or enforcing" the U.S. Supreme Court decision that gave same-sex couples the right to marry, according to a resolution set to be introduced in the state House. State Rep. Tom Hooker, R-Byron Center, read his pending resolution out loud Wednesday during a "rally to protect religious people and stop persecution of religious people" outside the Michigan Capitol.

DETROIT

Patterson lavishes Detroit lawmakers with rare praise (The Detroit News)
Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson lavished state representatives from Detroit with rare praise earlier this week for their continued opposition to Mayor Mike Duggan's auto insurance plan. Patterson sent all members of the Legislature a two-page letter on Wednesday warning against a Senate-passed no-fault auto insurance reform bill that has languished in the House since April.

Poverty up in third of Detroit area communities (The Detroit News)
Metro Detroit continues to stagger through its recovery from the Great Recession, even as auto sales soar to a record and the state jobless rate plummets. The pain lingers not just in the region's biggest cities, but also in some of its smallest suburbs, where household incomes are stagnant, if not smaller, and poverty is creeping up.

OPINION

Census: Few Michigan communities see income growth (Detroit Free Press)
Only 31 Michigan communities saw incomes rise over the 10-year period from 2005 to 2014, according to Census data released today.

Specialty courts cut costs, improve lives (Detroit Free Press)
Regionalism in government is a wonderful concept that is sometimes difficult to implement. Wayne County alone has 20 separate district courts and four municipal courts, each with its own judge or judges, funding source, court administrator and probation department. Many of these courts were created in times when government in general was expanding, not shrinking as it is now.

Finley: Today's campus protesters all about themselves (Detroit News)
A friend offered an intriguing take on the unrest present on many of America's college campuses.
Editorial: Debt is crushing state's schools (Detroit News)
The education financial crisis in Michigan extends well beyond Detroit Public Schools, as a new report from a major credit rating service confirms. The findings should move the talk about fixing school finances well beyond the state's largest district.

Editor's note: Dereliction of duty at DPS (Detroit News)
A lot of teachers probably mean it when they say it's all about the kids. I know they do. I've had great teachers. My brother is an inspiring public school teacher in Texas. My mom taught for a long time.

Letter: Area Muslim community promotes harmony (Detroit News)
The recent spate of violence conducted by the Islamic State in France, Lebanon and Sinai is a cause of deep concern for all. The extremists have committed outrageous acts that bring disrepute to Muslims over the world. There is a false perception that some media outlets have promoted that all Muslims are passively sitting and do not condemn atrocities by Jihadi groups. Nothing could be further from the truth.

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, December 3, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

DC Visit
Snyder: investing in relationships key to China trade (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder said investing in relationships with Chinese companies and people is a means not only for boosting business and jobs but moving toward solving more complex U.S.-Chinese issues, such as national security and intellectual property.

Proclamations
Gov. Rick Snyder names Dec. 7-11 as Computer Science Education Week (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently named Dec. 7-13 as Computer Science Education Week and encouraged schools and students across the state to engage in the Hour of Code initiative.

Bill Signing
Snyder signs measure to consolidate March election (Pioneer Tribune)
Local governments will be able to include candidates for local office and other questions on ballots for the March 2016 presidential primary election, under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Recall Petition
Detroit pastor submits revised Snyder recall petition (Detroit Free Press)
A Detroit pastor has submitted revised wording for a petition to recall Gov. Rick Snyder over the Flint water crisis, but an attorney for the governor says the new wording still fails to meet standards required under state law.

DEPARTMENTS

MDE
Michigan audit faults EAA for poor budget controls (The Detroit News)
The state-created Educational Achievement Authority suffered from a "consistent lack of controls" in information technology that resulted in poorly maintained budgets, vendors being paid without contracts and a lack of oversight in purchasing, a state audit concluded.

MSP
Michigan cops fume over loss of U.S. military vehicles (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan law enforcement agencies are returning donated surplus military equipment to the federal government this month — including tracked armored vehicles that metro Detroit sheriff's offices have had for more than a decade— under orders of the White House, and they are not happy about it.
Project Blue Light pledges to 'never forget' (Daily Tribune)
Police, firefighters, and first responders from around southeastern Michigan gathered in Hazel Park Tuesday evening to honor the memory and survivors of fellow officers killed in the line of duty. Five

Michigan police officers, and three firefighters who died while on the job over the past year, were honored during the hour-long service.

MEDC

St. Johns industrial park adding technology, 100 jobs (Lansing State Journal)
The city has announced a partnership with Frontier Communications to bring fiber-optic technology services to the city's certified industrial park, a move that will add 100 jobs, according to local officials. The Clinton County Economic Alliance and Quest Software are also partners in the program, which will upgrade the technology available to customers inside the industrial park.

DNR

Restoration of Lake Michigan reef seeks to help native fish (AP)
About 450 tons of limestone have been dumped into Lake Michigan in a project to rehabilitate a northern Michigan reef and boost native fish populations. The Traverse City Record-Eagle reports the dumping location in Grand Traverse Bay is in a reef complex where lake trout, lake whitefish and lake herring are known to spawn. MLive.com reports the limestone was put in the water this summer.

Milkweed planted on Mackinac Island to aid monarch butterflies (MLive)
A new grassland habitat area has been established on Mackinac Island to aid the migratory North American monarch butterfly population. About 400,000 common milkweed seeds were scattered in November on roughly three acres of land at the east end of the island's airport by Mackinac State Historic Parks, a division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Michigan DNR targets illegal importation of deer in fight against chronic wasting disease (AP)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officers are targeting the illegal importation of deer into the state as part of an effort to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease. The state says Tuesday that officers recently seized six deer being transported into the state along the Interstate 94 corridor of the border with Indiana in southwestern Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE

Reps. Liberati, Chang introduces reforms to emergency manager law (The News Herald)
State Reps. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) and Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit) announced Nov. 30 they have both introduced legislation to reform the laws governing emergency financial managers. If passed, their bills would amend the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act.

Switch data center tax break bills clear committee, head to Michigan House (Mlive)
The Michigan House Tax Policy committee on Wednesday advanced legislation that would provide large tax breaks to cloud-computing data center companies, including a Nevada-based firm that plans to open a Grand Rapids campus if the package is signed into law. Three House bills, approved in a series of 8-5 votes that blurred party lines, would exempt data centers from state sales, use and personal property taxes. As amended, local governments would have to sign off on any property tax reduction.

Election bills: No-reason absentee injected into debate over straight-ticket voting ban (Mlive)
A bill that would allow voters to cast absentee ballots at a local clerk's office without a reason was swiftly approved by the House Elections Committee on Wednesday, making it part of a broader discussion on changes to election law. Under current law, a person can only request an absentee ballot for one of six reasons: being over 60; being unable to vote without assistance at the polls; expecting to be out of town on election day; in jail awaiting arraignment or trial; unable to attend the polls for religious reasons; or being appointed to work as a precinct worker in a different precinct.

House to take up absentee, straight-party voting today (Detroit Free Press)
The House is poised to take up legislation that will make it easier to vote by absentee ballot, but eliminate straight-party ticket voting at the same time. Republicans in the Senate have already passed the elimination of straight-ticket voting, which Democrats believe is a partisan ploy to skew elections toward the GOP. The House Elections Committee will take up the legislation today after it voted Wednesday to pass a bill that would allow people to get an absentee ballot without providing a reason for needing to vote on a day other than Election Day.

Michigan officials should ignore gay marriage ruling, lawmakers say at religious freedom rally (Mlive)
Michigan officials should "reclaim this state's sovereignty by not recognizing or enforcing" the U.S. Supreme Court decision that gave same-sex couples the right to marry, according to a resolution set to be introduced in the state House. State Rep. Tom Hooker, R-Byron Center, read his pending resolution out loud Wednesday during a "rally to protect religious people and stop persecution of religious people" outside the Michigan Capitol.

DETROIT

Patterson lavishes Detroit lawmakers with rare praise (The Detroit News)
Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson lavished state representatives from Detroit with rare praise earlier this week for their continued opposition to Mayor Mike Duggan's auto insurance plan. Patterson sent all members of the Legislature a two-page letter on Wednesday warning against a Senate-passed no-fault auto insurance reform bill that has languished in the House since April.

Poverty up in third of Detroit area communities (The Detroit News)
Metro Detroit continues to stagger through its recovery from the Great Recession, even as auto sales soar to a record and the state jobless rate plummets. The pain lingers not just in the region's biggest cities, but also in some of its smallest suburbs, where household incomes are stagnant, if not smaller, and poverty is creeping up.

OPINION

Census: Few Michigan communities see income growth (Detroit Free Press)
Only 31 Michigan communities saw incomes rise over the 10-year period from 2005 to 2014, according to Census data released today.

Specialty courts cut costs, improve lives (Detroit Free Press)
Regionalism in government is a wonderful concept that is sometimes difficult to implement. Wayne County alone has 20 separate district courts and four municipal courts, each with its own judge or judges, funding source, court administrator and probation department. Many of these courts were created in times when government in general was expanding, not shrinking as it is now.

Finley: Today's campus protesters all about themselves (Detroit News)
A friend offered an intriguing take on the unrest present on many of America's college campuses.
Editorial: Debt is crushing state's schools (Detroit News)
The education financial crisis in Michigan extends well beyond Detroit Public Schools, as a new report from a major credit rating service confirms. The findings should move the talk about fixing school finances well beyond the state's largest district.

Editor's note: Dereliction of duty at DPS (Detroit News)
A lot of teachers probably mean it when they say it's all about the kids. I know they do. I've had great teachers. My brother is an inspiring public school teacher in Texas. My mom taught for a long time.

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Attachments: 151211 Newsroom.docx

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MDARD

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Tuesday, December 15, 2015
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state of Michigan

Daily update - December 15, 2015

NEWS

Lead in kids' blood causes Flint, Michigan to declare state of emergency

The Verge

The city of Flint, **Michigan**, has declared a **state** of emergency because of high levels of lead in children's blood, reports The Washington Post. Many ...

Lead levels in water prompt state of emergency in Flint, Michigan - Reuters

Lead levels in water prompt state of emergency in Flint, Michigan - Yahoo News

In Flint, Mich., there's so much lead in children's blood that a state of emergency is declared - Washington Post

Full Coverage

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At Michigan State and Oklahoma, revenue sports are four of a kind

USA TODAY

A little more than a month ago in early November, **Michigan State** athletic director Mark Hollis and Oklahoma's Joe Castiglione were together in ...

Michigan State season review: A-plus coaching effort leads to playoff berth - ESPN (blog)

Alabama vs. Michigan State 2015: Early Prediction, Betting Odds For College Football Playoff ... - International Business Times

Alabama Crimson Tide Ready to Roll Over Michigan State - ExaminerPress.com (blog)

Full Coverage

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MSU recruits get to see what success looks like

Lansing State Journal

DEARBORN -- Brandon Randle and Demetric Vance are watching **Michigan State's** run to the College Football Playoff from afar, waiting for their time ...

Michigan State edges Iowa for Big Ten title - Seating Chair

Michigan State's last-minute TD topples Iowa - ObserverVoice.com (blog)

Iowa loses heartbreaker to Michigan State 16-13 - The Voice Herald (blog)
Full Coverage

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Michigan State stays No. 1, Oklahoma climbs to No. 3: AP Top 25 Basketball Poll

cleveland.com

Michigan State got 64 first-place votes and 1,621, followed by Kansas with the remaining first-place vote and 1,499 points. Oklahoma moves from No.

Michigan State remains No. 1 in AP poll, gets nearly every first-place vote - MLive.com

Michigan State, Kansas remain 1-2 in AP Top 25 Poll - WXYZ

My AP basketball top-25 ballot: Michigan State remains No. 1 - San Jose Mercury News (blog)
Full Coverage

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Michigan State's allotment of 13000 Cotton Bowl tickets sells out

MLive.com

Two-time **Michigan State** team captain Shilique Calhoun and the Spartans left AT&T Stadium smiling last Jan. 1 after rallying for a 42-41 win over ...

MSU sells out Cotton Bowl ticket allotment - Detroit Free Press
Full Coverage

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Comparing recruiting rankings of current Michigan State and Alabama players

MLive.com

Michigan State football coach Mark Dantonio looked on as the football team was honored for winning the 2015 Big Ten championship in the first half of ...

Iowa falls to Michigan State in final minutes of Big 10 Championship - The Voice Herald (blog)

Nike Releases Photo Of Michigan State's Uniform For Cotton Bowl - PressOracle.com (blog)

No. 5 Michigan State edges No. 4 Iowa for Big Ten title - Recorderpost.com (satire) (registration) (blog)
Full Coverage

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Michigan State notes: Connor Cook 'feeling a lot better,' prep begins for Alabama

MLive.com

Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook has been nursing a sprained throwing shoulder since the Nov. 14 win over Maryland. (Mike Mulholland ...

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Value of GM's state tax credits remain secret

The Detroit News

General Motors Co. said Tuesday it will invest another $1 billion in **Michigan** facilities through 2030 as part of a deal with Gov. Rick Snyder's ...

GM to invest $1 billion in Michigan by 2030, agrees to state cap on MEGA tax credits - Crain's Detroit Business

Full Coverage

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King cornerback Hill plans Michigan State official

247Sports

A source close to the situation confirmed with Spartan Tailgate that 2016 Detroit (Mich.) King cornerback Lavert Hill plans to take an official visit to ...

Barton relieved to have walk-on plans at Michigan State - 247Sports

Full Coverage

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5 things to watch: Michigan State one win away from matching best start in program history

MLive.com

Michigan State guard Denzel Valentine (45) shoots a 3-pointer in the first half of their NCAA basketball game against Florida at the Breslin Center in ...

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GM to invest $1B in Michigan after credits amended

Detroit Free Press

Michigan economic development officials said they could not release the ... of the tax program that helped blow a hole in this year's **state budgets**. Gov.

GM to invest $1 billion in **Michigan** by 2030, agrees to **state** cap on MEGA tax credits - Crain's Detroit Business

Michigan, GM Agree to Cap Tax Credits, Won't Specify Amount - ABC News

GM to invest $1B in **Michigan** after tax credits amended - Miami Herald

Full Coverage

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"The agreement with GM on MEGA credits helps **Michigan's budget** forecast. And today's announcement that it is investing in Saginaw, Flint and Grand ...

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ThinkProgress

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Michigan Planned Parenthoods to receive $1M in grant money

WLNS

The **State** Administrative Board Approved the grant transfer includes ... local revenue, meaning the entire deal is in line with current **state budget** laws.

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Automotive News

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES
Interviews
A Refreshing Approach to Politics in Michigan (National Journal)
If Rick Snyder is a faux reformer, he disguises it well behind gobs of data and the passion of an evangelist.

Bill signing
Governor Snyder Repeals Old Crimes (AP)
Outdated crimes such as cursing in front of women or children and trampling blackberry bushes are no longer be on Michigan's books under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.
Snyder said in a statement Tuesday that the criminal laws "no longer make sense in the 21st century."

Michigan eliminating outdated laws (ABC 57)
In an effort to get with the times and modernize Michigan's government, Governor Rick Snyder signed several bills on Tuesday, eliminating outdated laws. On Tuesday, Governor Rick Snyder signed multiple bills eliminating those types of outdated laws.

Michigan scraps old laws banning cursing in front of women, trash talking during duels (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed a package of bills to repeal a series of outdated and unenforceable laws, including a prohibition against cursing in front of women or kids. Gone from the books are criminal statutes that had banned people from embellishing the national anthem, hosting walkathons or talking trash during a duel.

Gov. Snyder analyzes old laws that don't apply to the 21st Century (WLNS)
Go ahead and trample a blackberry bush or accept a challenge to a duel. Believe it or not, those laws were still on the books 24 hours ago but not anymore.

Gov. Snyder signs bills eliminating laws on dueling, cursing and trampling blackberry bushes (UP Matters/TV 3)
Cursing in front of women or children or playing the national anthem out of tune will no longer be criminal acts punishable by jail time in Michigan, under legislation signed today by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Cursing in front of women is no longer illegal in Michigan (Arab American News)
Gov. Snyder signed a legislation Tuesday repealing several outdated laws. Cursing in front of women or children or playing the national anthem out of tune will no longer be criminal acts punishable by jail time in Michigan. "Modernizing state government is an ongoing effort," Snyder said. "I appreciate the work of the legislature in analyzing the criminal code and eliminating statutes that no longer make sense in the 21st century."

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bills repealing outdated laws (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed several house bills that will repeal several outdated criminals laws. Acts such as cursing in front of women and children or playing the national anthem out of tune, among others, will no longer be punishable by jail time.

Cursing in front of women? Trampling blackberry bushes? Michigan Gov. gets rid of archaic laws (Fox 28)
If you have a bad habit of cursing in front of women or children you might be in luck. Although not an acceptable social norm, at the very least where children are concerned, at least your potty mouth won't land you in a Michigan jail. Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation Tuesday eliminating some of the more "quaint" laws still on the books that were criminal acts punishable by jail time, such as playing the national anthem out of tune (all aspiring high school marching band members, take note).

Governor Snyder Repeals Strange and Outdated Michigan Laws (9&10 News)
Weird and outdated laws are now officially off the books in Michigan. Governor Snyder signed legislation Tuesday that ends laws he says make no sense in the 21st century. The repealed laws include bans on advertisements about STDs, dueling, and embellishing the national anthem.

Governor Rick Snyder strikes strange and outdated laws from Michigan books (Boyne Gazette)
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GM to invest $1 billion in Michigan by 2030, agrees to state cap on MEGA tax credits (Crain's)
General Motors Co. today said it plans to spend $1 billion in Michigan over the next 15 years while reaching a pact with the Snyder administration to cap the value of state business tax credits it receives.

GM announces $356M investment for three Michigan projects (MLive)
General Motors is planning to make $356 million in investments for a new engine line in Flint and other projects in Michigan that are expected to create at least 50 jobs and retain nearly 500 jobs, the company is announcing today, Dec. 15.

Big Three automaker plans $43M investment in plant (GRBJ)
A Big Three automaker is planning to invest more than $43 million in a plant in the area to support a new components line.k

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DEQ
Flint mayor declares disaster in hopes of getting federal aid (WSJ)
Officials in Flint, Mich., are seeking funding from the federal government to address the effects of contamination in the city's drinking supply, which has nearly doubled the percentage of children showing elevated levels of lead.

How people in Flint were stripped of a basic human need: safe drinking water (Michigan Radio)

The tap water in Lee Ann Walters' home in Flint was causing her family's health problems. Tests show her water had extremely high lead levels. Her son Gavin was diagnosed with lead poisoning.

DHHS

Michigan offering grants to support fluoridation equipment (AP)

Flint mayor declares state of emergency over contaminated water (CBS)
The mayor of Flint, Michigan, has declared a state of emergency due to problems with the city's water system caused by the earlier use of Flint River water.

State officials emphasize need for vaccination following recent chickenpox outbreaks (AP)
Following recent reports of varicella outbreaks around the state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is advising parents to make sure their children are up to date on vaccinations against the disease, also known as chickenpox.

MDHHS promotes chickenpox vaccine (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is advising parents to have children vaccinated after recent reports of varicella outbreaks — also known as chickenpox — in the state.

Wayne one of four Mich. counties with chickenpox outbreak (Detroit News)
Wayne County is one of four counties in Michigan that have seen a recent outbreak of chickenpox.

Chickenpox outbreak in Michigan sparks warning (WOOD TV)
State health officials are urging parents to ensure their children are up-to-date on vaccines after chickenpox outbreaks in several counties, including two in West Michigan.

Health officials say unvaccinated kids cause of Chickenpox outbreak (WMUK)
State health officials say a recent wave of chickenpox cases has been caused primarily by unvaccinated children contracting the illness at school.

State board approves Planned Parenthood grant despite conservative objections (MLive)
The State Administrative Board on Tuesday approved a grant transfer and funding increase for Planned Parenthood of Mid and South Michigan to provide low-cost family planning services in Detroit.

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#####

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES
Interviews
A Refreshing Approach to Politics in Michigan (National Journal)
If Rick Snyder is a faux reformer, he disguises it well behind gobs of data and the passion of an evangelist.

Bill signing
Governor Snyder Repeals Old Crimes (AP)
Outdated crimes such as cursing in front of women or children and trampling blackberry bushes are no longer be on Michigan's books under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.
Snyder said in a statement Tuesday that the criminal laws "no longer make sense in the 21st century."

Michigan eliminating outdated laws (ABC 57)
In an effort to get with the times and modernize Michigan's government, Governor Rick Snyder signed several bills on Tuesday, eliminating outdated laws. On Tuesday, Governor Rick Snyder signed multiple bills eliminating those types of outdated laws.

Michigan scraps old laws banning cursing in front of women, trash talking during duels (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed a package of bills to repeal a series of outdated and unenforceable laws, including a prohibition against cursing in front of women or kids. Gone from the books are criminal statutes that had banned people from embellishing the national anthem, hosting walkathons or talking trash during a duel.

Gov. Snyder analyzes old laws that don't apply to the 21st Century (WLNS)
Go ahead and trample a blackberry bush or accept a challenge to a duel. Believe it or not, those laws were still on the books 24 hours ago but not anymore.

Gov. Snyder signs bills eliminating laws on dueling, cursing and trampling blackberry bushes (UP Matters/TV 3)
Cursing in front of women or children or playing the national anthem out of tune will no longer be criminal acts punishable by jail time in Michigan, under legislation signed today by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Cursing in front of women is no longer illegal in Michigan (Arab American News)
Gov. Snyder signed a legislation Tuesday repealing several outdated laws. Cursing in front of women or children or playing the national anthem out of tune will no longer be criminal acts punishable by jail time in Michigan. "Modernizing state government is an ongoing effort," Snyder said. "I appreciate the work of the legislature in analyzing the criminal code and eliminating statutes that no longer make sense in the 21st century."

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bills repealing outdated laws (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed several house bills that will repeal several outdated criminals laws. Acts

such as cursing in front of women and children or playing the national anthem out of tune, among others, will no longer be punishable by jail time.

Cursing in front of women? Trampling blackberry bushes? Michigan Gov. gets rid of archaic laws (Fox 28)
If you have a bad habit of cursing in front of women or children you might be in luck. Although not an acceptable social norm, at the very least where children are concerned, at least your potty mouth won't land you in a Michigan jail. Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation Tuesday eliminating some of the more "quaint" laws still on the books that were criminal acts punishable by jail time, such as playing the national anthem out of tune (all aspiring high school marching band members, take note).

Governor Snyder Repeals Strange and Outdated Michigan Laws (9&10 News)
Weird and outdated laws are now officially off the books in Michigan. Governor Snyder signed legislation Tuesday that ends laws he says make no sense in the 21st century. The repealed laws include bans on advertisements about STDs, dueling, and embellishing the national anthem.

Governor Rick Snyder strikes strange and outdated laws from Michigan books (Boyne Gazette)
Cursing in front of women or children or playing the national anthem out of tune will no longer be criminal acts punishable by jail time in Michigan, under legislation signed today by Gov. Rick Snyder.

GM
Value of GM's state tax credits remains secret (Detroit News)
General Motors Co. said Tuesday it will invest another $1 billion in Michigan facilities through 2030 as part of a deal with Gov. Rick Snyder's administration to cap the value of its business income tax credits.

GM to invest $1 billion in Michigan by 2030, agrees to state cap on MEGA tax credits (Crain's)
General Motors Co. today said it plans to spend $1 billion in Michigan over the next 15 years while reaching a pact with the Snyder administration to cap the value of state business tax credits it receives.

GM announces $356M investment for three Michigan projects (MLive)
General Motors is planning to make $356 million in investments for a new engine line in Flint and other projects in Michigan that are expected to create at least 50 jobs and retain nearly 500 jobs, the company is announcing today, Dec. 15.

Big Three automaker plans $43M investment in plant (GRBJ)
A Big Three automaker is planning to invest more than $43 million in a plant in the area to support a new components line.k

DEPARTMENTS

DEQ
Flint mayor declares disaster in hopes of getting federal aid (WSJ)
Officials in Flint, Mich., are seeking funding from the federal government to address the effects of contamination in the city's drinking supply, which has nearly doubled the percentage of children showing elevated levels of lead.

How people in Flint were stripped of a basic human need: safe drinking water (Michigan Radio)
The tap water in Lee Ann Walters' home in Flint was causing her family's health problems. Tests show her water had extremely high lead levels. Her son Gavin was diagnosed with lead poisoning.

DHHS
Michigan offering grants to support fluoridation equipment (AP)

Flint mayor declares state of emergency over contaminated water (CBS)
The mayor of Flint, Michigan, has declared a state of emergency due to problems with the city's water system caused by the earlier use of Flint River water.

State officials emphasize need for vaccination following recent chickenpox outbreaks (AP)
Following recent reports of varicella outbreaks around the state, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is advising parents to make sure their children are up to date on vaccinations against the disease, also known as chickenpox.

MDHHS promotes chickenpox vaccine (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is advising parents to have children vaccinated after recent reports of varicella outbreaks — also known as chickenpox — in the state.

Wayne one of four Mich. counties with chickenpox outbreak (Detroit News)
Wayne County is one of four counties in Michigan that have seen a recent outbreak of chickenpox.

Chickenpox outbreak in Michigan sparks warning (WOOD TV)
State health officials are urging parents to ensure their children are up-to-date on vaccines after chickenpox outbreaks in several counties, including two in West Michigan.

Health officials say unvaccinated kids cause of Chickenpox outbreak (WMUK)
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Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

state of Michigan

Daily update - December 16, 2015

NEWS

Flint, Michigan, Declares State of Emergency Amid Lead in Drinking Water Scare

NBCNews.com

In trying to solve one water crisis, the city of Flint, **Michigan**, has inadvertently created a new, even bigger one — and it's coming at the cost of ...

Flint, Michigan, mayor declares state of emergency over lead levels in water - Daily Kos

State of emergency declared in Flint, Michigan, over amount of lead in water - ABA Journal

'A manmade disaster': Michigan city declares state of emergency after widespread water ... - Raw Story

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Connor Cook says Michigan State must beat Alabama at its own game

MLive.com

Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook ran for a first down on a fourth-and-2 from the Iowa 5-yard line, extending the game-winning touchdown ...

Five Bold Predictions About Michigan State That Were Completely Wrong - CBS Local

Spartans' Connor Cook: Throwing shoulder feels 'really good' - ESPN

Michigan State Football Recruiting: George Hill to announce Friday night - isportsweb.com (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

State of Michigan employees to receive pay hikes, lump-sum payments

Midland Daily News

LANSING (AP) — The **Michigan** Civil Service Commission has approved contracts with five unions representing about 33,000 **state** workers that ...

Flag as irrelevant

Spartans come together to help star Denzel Valentine survive & thrive

Sports Illustrated

EAST LANSING, Mich. — After a 10 p.m. ET tip-off in California and a red-eye charter flight across three time zones that hit the ground in East Lansing ...

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Michigan State notes: Jack Conklin selected Sporting News 1st team All-American

MLive.com

Michigan State offensive tackle Jack Conklin, shown here warming up in Lucas Oil Stadium the day before the Spartans' 16-13 win over Iowa, has ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's bottom-line mentality for Alabama: 'They're beatable'

MLive.com

EAST LANSING — **Michigan State's** football players were respectful of Alabama at their Cotton Bowl media day. The Spartans qualified their answers ...

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Michigan State basketball by the numbers: How other early season No. 1s have fared

MLive.com

Michigan State guard Bryn Forbes (5) watches his 3-point shot rim out in the second half of their NCAA basketball game against Louisville at the ...

Flag as irrelevant

Tuesday's AM Hot Clicks: Amberleigh West; A Michigan State Christmas

Sports Illustrated

Follow Andy Gray on Twitter | Email Andy | Extra Mustard on Facebook. Mustard Minute: Spartan Christmas. Mustard Minute: **Michigan State** fan's ...

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Bullet grazes Michigan State Police dog as troopers stop pit bull attack

MLive.com

Watch Lt. Kaiser talk MSP K-9 injury **Michigan State** Police Lt. David Kaiser said K-9 officer Zeke was injured while tracking a suspect in Flint. The K-9 ...

Flag as irrelevant

Alabama, Kirby Smart prep for Michigan State, College Football Playoff

NCAA.com

TUSCALOOSA -- After a wild seven days during which Alabama lost one longtime defensive coordinator only to replace him with an equally familiar ...

Alabama starts preparing for Michigan State - The Decatur Daily

Full Coverage

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state of Michigan

Daily update - December 17, 2015

NEWS

Rewinding Nick Saban's thoughts on Jeremy Pruitt, Connor Cook and Michigan State

AL.com

--Saban says Connor Cook might be the best quarterback Alabama has faced all season. He thinks **Michigan State** is a "very, very good team" and that ...

Henry, No. 2 Alabama start preparation for Michigan State - USA TODAY

Derrick Henry, No. 2 Alabama start preparation for Michigan State - Tulsa World

Henry, No. 2 Alabama Start Preparation for Michigan State - ABC News

Full Coverage

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Michigan Mayor Declares State of Emergency Over Lead Levels

NPR

The mayor of Flint, **Michigan** says her city is experiencing a "man-made ... And the only way that we were going to happen was to declare a **state** of ...

Lead in kids' blood causes Flint, Michigan to declare state of emergency - Heraldvoice.com (blog)

Lead in kids' blood causes Flint, Michigan to declare state of emergency - Wakey Wakey News

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Top running back recruit Kareem Walker commits to UM

Detroit Free Press

1 overall in the country and has **Michigan** in the mix. ... the process, he was reportedly down to the same final two as Bush: **Michigan** and Florida **State**, ...

Four-star RB Kareem Walker commits to Michigan - MLive.com

Michigan, Florida State, Arizona State, Alabama or Auburn for Kareem Walker - Scout

Kareem Walker picks Michigan: No. 1-ranked RB solidifies future amid more N.J. inroads for UM - NJ.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's Jack Conklin undecided on future, embraces Alabama challenge

MLive.com

Michigan State left tackle Jack Conklin has gone from being a relatively anonymous walk-on from Plainwell to a projected first-round NFL draft pick ...

The best quotes from MSU's Cotton Bowl media day - Detroit Free Press

College Football Podcast: Preview, picks for Alabama-Michigan State - Sports Illustrated

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State notes: Tales of Jack Conklin's fresh squirrel, Jack Allen's cat

MLive.com

EAST LANSING — There was plenty of serious football talked about at **Michigan State's** Cotton Bowl media day Wednesday morning, but the players ...

Jack Allen's Craigslist cat is 'almost like a dog' - USA TODAY

Michigan St. C Jack Allen has a cat from Craigslist - Yardbarker

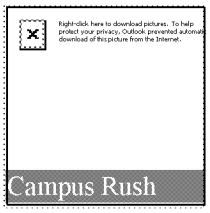
Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Armed with confidence: Connor Cook has heard all the questions, and he plans to answer in the ...

Campus Rush

EAST LANSING, Mich.—Connor Cook walked into the **Michigan State** media center at 8:22 a.m. on Wednesday, seven minutes past his appointed ...



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MSU's Conklin focused on winning title, not NFL

Detroit Free Press

EAST LANSING – The answer will be the same until **Michigan State** is done playing and Jack Conklin actually focuses on something other than ...

Michigan State's success is no surprise to Saban - The Detroit News

Michigan State looking forward to return of starter in secondary - FOXSports.com

Michigan State Has Come 'Full Circle' Since Last Cotton Bowl - CBS Local

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State Police raid Dearborn city clerk's office

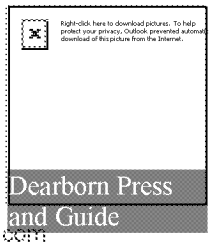
Dearborn Press and Guide

Michigan State Police raided the office of Dearborn City Clerk Kathy Buda on Wednesday morning in connection with an embezzlement investigation.

Michigan State Police Raid Dearborn City Clerk's Office - CBS Local

Michigan State Police raid Dearborn city office - Detroit Free Press

Michigan State police conduct embezzlement investigation at Dearborn City Hall - MLive.com



Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Poison Water Prompts State of Emergency in Michigan City

The Takeaway (blog)

Residents in Flint, **Michigan** have been dealing with the aftermath of lead-tainted water for over a year now, something that's lead to brain damage in ...

Flint, Michigan Mayor Declares State of Emergency over Lead Poisoning - JD Supra (press release)

Flint, Michigan, Declares State Of Emergency Over Lead In Water - PressOracle.com (blog)

Michigan in State Of Emergency After Contaminated Water Causes High Levels Of Lead In Kids - Medical Daily

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State happy to get a shot at stopping Derrick Henry

ESPN (blog)

Lawrence Thomas and a few of his **Michigan State** teammates tuned in last Saturday night to see Alabama's Derrick Henry win the Heisman Trophy.

Preparing for Alabama Heisman Trophy winner Derrick Henry no easy task for Michigan State - MLive.com

Full Coverage

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Governor Rick Snyder
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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, December 22, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Local students invited to submit design for State of the State program cover (Midland Daily News)
Mid-Michigan students are invited to submit a design to Gov. Rick Snyder for the 2016 State of the State program cover. The winner and one guest will be invited to Lansing to meet Gov. Snyder and attend the 2016 State of the State address. Michigan high school, junior high and elementary students can submit original designs for the State of the State program.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Tribute concert yields over $5,000 for community organizations (Sentinel Standard)
The 6th Annual Christmas in Ionia concert took place on Dec. 13 in downtown Ionia, and record numbers for attendees and funds raised are being celebrated by event organizers. The event was hosted as a means to pay tribute to veterans throughout Ionia County, featuring local talent. According to Tracy Hodgkins, event organizer, this year's concert yielded the largest crowd in the event's history, as well as the largest payout.

DEPARTMENTS

DEQ
Strongest link yet between Flint's water, kids' lead levels (AP)
A pediatrician who raised concerns about elevated lead levels in children's blood in Flint, Michigan, says a new study provides the strongest evidence yet of a link between those levels and the cash-strapped city's water system.

Will the water in Flint, Michigan, ever be safe again? (Al Jazeera America)
The head of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality says he hasn't regained the public's trust after a water crisis in the city of Flint left tens of thousands of residents at risk of lead exposure.

'Political cowardice' tops readers' fave 2015 quotes (LSJ)
Democrat Curtis Hertel Jr. had been in the Legislature for just days when his colleagues from across the aisle started to push a repeal of the state's prevailing wage laws.

Michigan ignored 'conclusive evidence' of Flint lead poisoning, researcher says (Huffington Post)
Michigan state officials insisted that the water supply in Flint was safe even though they knew an unusual number of children had suffered lead poisoning, according to a scientist who helped blow the whistle on Flint's water crisis.

Virginia Tech researcher accuses state health officials of "hiding" data on Flint's water (Michigan Radio)

Virginia Tech researchers accuse Michigan health officials of trying to "stonewall" the investigation into lead in Flint's drinking water.

DHHS

Lead poisoning threatens Michigan kids: What are the risks? (Live Science)
The mayor of Flint, Michigan, declared a state of emergency last week after elevated levels of lead were detected in the city's drinking water. Experts say that young children are especially susceptible to even low levels of lead because their brains are still developing.

Youth suicide prevention grant awarded to MCHD (Upper Michigans Source)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Injury and Violence Prevention Unit has awarded a grant to the Marquette County Health Department.

Suicide prevention grant awarded to Marquette County health Department (Michigan Public Radio)
The Marquette County Health Department has received a grant to fund a four-year youth suicide prevention project.

DNR

Communities get share of $1.3 million for outdoor recreation (AP)
Michigan says 33 communities will share more than $1.3 million in grants funded by the sale of the annual pass for access to state parks and recreation areas.

Second DNR officer added in Branch County (WTVB)
Branch County now has two, instead of only one Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers, and one of the new officers, Isaac Tyson, introduced himself at last night's meeting of the Branch County Township Supervisor's Association. Tyson's partner is Joshua Jackson and they just started working in the county this fall after nearly a year of training since joining the DNR January 1, 2015.

MDE

Programs give students a voice of change for healthy school environments (MSU Extension)
Michigan State University Extension staff are working with students throughout the state that are interested in healthier cafeterias and school environments

MDOT

MACC director optimistic on federal road bill (Holland Sentinel)
Congress' transportation bill got a positive review from a top area road official on Monday.

MDCR

Oakland Community College program gets national recognition (AP)
Oakland Community College's sign language interpreter program has been awarded national accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Interpreter Education.

MPSC

Dearborn Chamber backs energy-efficiency standards (Detroit News)
If any community understands the benefits of efficiency, it's Dearborn — home to Henry Ford, whose introduction of the assembly line changed the world.

DTE Energy building two solar sites planned to be largest in Michigan (MLive)
DTE Energy plans to build what would be Michigan's largest solar array in Lapeer this spring, the company announced.

DTE Energy announces biggest solar project yet (Michigan Radio)
DTE Energy is taking its biggest plunge into solar power yet, with a Lapeer County project announced Monday.

MSHDA

Michigan economic development on track, leaders say (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan's economic development is on track despite cutbacks, but more needs to be done to boost training to improve job skills, according to three of the state's top workforce and housing leaders.

Allegan seeks grant for Griswold (Allegan Co. News)
To complete $106,288 worth of restoration at Griswold Auditorium, Allegan is applying for a grant.

MSP
MSP have six new canine teams (Midland Daily)
Michigan citizens will soon benefit from the services of six new canine teams that graduated from the Michigan State Police 2015 Basic Canine School on Friday.

MSP encourage Michiganders to report suspicious activity (UP Matters)
This month, the Michigan State Police is seeking to remind Michiganders of the important and critical role they play in keeping our state safe by reporting suspicious activity.

SOS
Michigan Supreme Court re-evaluating its laws about the punishments sex offenders get; other states follow suit (Lawyer Herald)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to take a second look at a man's case that was convicted and is in the list of sex offenders for life. The court has decided to review their registry because of cases like this.

Sex offender registry appeal (FOX 32)
Should a man's name now be taken off the sex offender registry because his conviction was erased 18 years ago? Why or why not?

DETROIT

Detroit City Hall jobs up for grabs (Detroit News)
The hiring sign is out for the city of Detroit, but some unions and City Council members are worried it will leave some municipal employees on the street.

Judge swears in 103 new Americans in Detroit ceremony (Detroit News)
Kadhum Swailem entered the federal courthouse in Detroit Monday morning as one of 103 immigrants from 32 countries taking the final step to become a naturalized American.

Final plans for Hudson's site could be ready in 30 days (Detroit News)
Billionaire Dan Gilbert's final plans for the vacant Hudson's site in downtown Detroit could be revealed in 30 days or sooner.

Utilities ramp up tree cutting to curb power outages (Freep)
This year was a contentious one for Michigan's electric utilities -- over trees. The state's big electric providers, under federal and state mandates to reduce outages, this year ramped up their forestry programs, an effort they plan to increase even more in coming years.

Mapping project lists info about Detroit organizations (AP)
A new project is listing information about Detroit's community development organizations, neighborhood associations, block clubs and neighborhood service providers.

OPINION

Our view: Snyder should veto straight-ticket legislation (Midland Daily News)
Gov. Rick Snyder still has a chance to do the right thing for Michigan voters who enjoy or prefer having the option of voting straight-ticket for a political party in elections. He can veto the legislation passed by the state Senate and House this week.

Editor's note: Governor tries to stall Uber (Detroit News)
Government always thinks it can make things better. Yet that's rarely true, especially in the business world. Case in point: app-based ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft. These companies are flourishing in cities all over the country, including Detroit. The businesses are giving people a reliable, competitively-priced alternative for getting around.

Editorial: Communities should seek police cost savings (Detroit News)
Milford is a case study in how local communities should address public safety, and how they shouldn't. The village and township have formed a committee to study the needs of their joint police department over the next 10 years.

Mich. lawmakers need to do more for Detroit's public schools (Toledo Blade)
As the clock ticked down the last days of this year's legislative session, majority Republicans mounted a full-court press to give their party more partisan advantage in coming elections.

Susan J. Demas: From Trump to Clinton, voters don't like most of presidential field (MLive)
There are currently 13 major presidential candidates, and voters only like three of them.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2015 9:07 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/23 Newsroom
Attachments: 151223 Newsroom.docx

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To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/28 Newsroom
Attachments: 151228 Newsroom.docx

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City Of Lincoln Park Free From Emergency Management (Michigan Radio)
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Bill signings
Gov. Rick Snyder signs bills to simplify court paperwork with e-filing (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed six bills that aim to modernize the Michigan court filing system by taking it online. House Bills 5208, 5029 and 5030 define the terms of the electronic filing system and lay out the fees for electronic filings, including a provision exempting indigent filers from fees if they are exempt from regular filing fees.

Gov. Snyder approves tax breaks to entice tech company, help existing data centers in Michigan (AP)
A tech company's expansion into western Michigan will be ensured through tax breaks that Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law on Wednesday, exempting it and in-state data centers from sales and use taxes for 20 years as long as the industry adds 1,000 jobs.

Snyder signs tax break bill to lure data center (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday signed into law measures that give tax breaks to data centers and are expected to draw what's been touted as a $5-billion investment in western Michigan by Nevada-based Switch Corp.

Snyder signs data center legislation (MiBiz)
Gov. Rick Snyder today signed legislation exempting co-located data centers from state sales and use tax, paving the way for the largest data center east of the Mississippi River to locate on a site south of Grand Rapids.

Gov. Snyder signs off on major tax breaks for data centers (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed bills giving major tax breaks to data centers in Michigan. All data centers will no longer have

to pay sales and use tax. But the new laws are in place in order to lure a single, massive server farm to the Grand Rapids area.

Gov. Snyder signs tax breaks for $5B Switch data center (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder today signed tax-reform legislation designed to attract the largest data center in the eastern United States to an empty building outside Grand Rapids. Switch, a Nevada-based company that wants to use the old Steelcase "pyramid" building as the hub for a new 2 million-square-foot campus, will be exempt — along with other data centers — from sales and use taxes on equipment like computers, servers and cabling through 2035, if the industry meets collective job-creation goals.

Gov. Snyder signs bills designed to bring Switch data center to W. Mich. (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder announced Wednesday that he has signed a pair of bills designed to help a major Internet data center developer expand into West Michigan. Gov. Snyder's office announced that he had signed Senate Bills 616 and 617, which allow exemptions from sales and use taxes for items in a qualified data center, such as computers, servers, routers, cabling, and wiring used in operating, managing, or maintaining the business. SB 616 was sponsored by Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs data center legislation (WZZM)
Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation on Wednesday granting tax policy changes for data centers which opens the door for a major new industry here in West Michigan.

Tax breaks signed, clearing way for Switch (WOOD-TV)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed two bills designed to bring a multi-billion dollar investment from a cloud data storage company to West Michigan. Nevada-based Switch will invest $5 billion to transform the former Steelcase pyramid in Gaines Township into a cloud data storage facility that would eventually employ around 1,000 people.

Gov. Snyder signs bills modernizing tax structure to adapt to emerging technology (UP Matters/TV 3)
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Michigan poultry exhibition ban lifted (Record Eagle)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development this week lifted the statewide ban on poultry exhibitions. The state implemented the ban in June 2015 as a precautionary measure in response to the Avian Influenza outbreak across the Midwest.

Michigan Agriculture officials lift poultry exhibition ban (AP)
A ban on poultry exhibitions in Michigan that was introduced in June to prevent the spread of bird flu has been lifted. The decision to remove the ban came after an evaluation of the disease risk and status of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza — HPAI — outbreak, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development officials said Wednesday.

Farmer says food inspection looked like a 'raid' (Interlochen Public Radio)
Food inspectors used a warrant signed by a judge to visit a farm near Cadillac last week. State police troopers were also on hand for the inspection of Bakers Green Acres last Thursday. A spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Jennifer Holton, called the inspection "routine."

MDOT
Road agencies: We're ready for whatever winter brings (Freep)
MDOT's Detroit maintenance garage handles 300 lane miles in metro Detroit with 13 plow trucks that have underbody blades, and 11 are equipped with a front plow, said MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross. She said the garage salt barn holds 3,000 ton of salt and a 5,000 gallon tank containing calcium chloride with boost.

Overhaul of I-75 bridge slated (Monroe Evening News)
State transportation officials have announced an overhaul of the I-75 bridge over the Rouge River in Detroit. The Michigan Department of Transportation announced it plans to replace the bridge deck that officials have spent more than $1 million repairing since 2011. The $80 million project is scheduled to begin in 2017.

Audit Finds MDOT Broke its Own Rule on Road Safety Studies (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) broke its own rule on road safety studies. That's according to a new report from the Michigan auditor general's office.

MEDC
State Agency Says '#MichiganIsAuto,' But the Economy Has Changed (Capitol Confidential)
The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the state government agency in charge of giving selective tax breaks and subsidies to certain corporations and developers, publishes short messages on the social media platform Twitter. They include the hashtag "#MichiganIsAuto."

Dilworth Hotel project gets $1 million grant (Petoskey News Review)
City of Boyne City officials and the developer behind an effort to restore and reopen the landmark Dilworth Hotel recently received word that the project has be officially approved for a $1 million state grant to offset certain costs associated with the project.

MSHDA
Local nonprofit seeks to help home buyers at every level (Midland Daily News)
With a new $40,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Mid Michigan Community Action Agency will continue to offer its Homeowner Empowerment Program, which provides education and resources to those looking to achieve financial stability and attain success as homeowners.

MSP

Michigan State Police gives safety tips for driving on slick roads (WLNS)
Michigan State Police say there are many ways to avoid some of those slips, starting with increasing driving distance. Officials say it's important to give some space between your car and the car in front of you.

Michigan State Police: Prepare For Hazardous Winter Storm (Fox 2 Detroit)
The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) encourages citizens and visitors to prepare for a hazardous winter storm expected to affect most of the Lower Peninsula from noon Monday, Dec. 28, and into Tuesday, Dec. 29.

Michigan State Police warn residents of hazardous winter storm (TV 7&4)
The Michigan State Police and the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division are encouraging residents and visitors to prepare for a hazardous winter storm.

Michigan State Police adds 6 canine teams (County Press)
Michigan State Police (MSP) Director Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue is pleased to announce that Michigan citizens will soon benefit from the services of six new canine teams that graduated from the MSP 2015 Basic Canine School on Friday.

New 'revolutionary' DNA test finds the shoe fits (WOOD-TV)
In fact, Michigan State Police officials say they spent $135,000 in federal funds to buy the STRmix program in March. That also covered the cost of training a dozen lab technicians. They hope to start using the program in a few months.

MVAA
State and regional coalition work to help veterans get the benefits and services they need (Iosco County News-Herald)
Since 2002, about 2.6 million service members have separated from the active military and the reserve component, transitioning to civilian life after serving in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Nearly 700,000 of those veterans, 7.1 percent of the state population, live in Michigan, making it 11th in the nation in terms of its number of veteran residents.

Supreme Court
Convicts paying for courts as lawmakers trump ruling (AP)
Without a comma of dissent, the Michigan Supreme Court struck down an enduring practice that had brought millions of dollars to local courts from people convicted of crimes.

Michigan State loses appeal in records fight with ESPN (Detroit News)
The Michigan Supreme Court denied a request for appeal from Michigan State on Wednesday, a decision stemming from a suit filed by ESPN after names of students were redacted from incident reports the network requested. It means Michigan State will have to disclose the names of suspects who were among the 301 student-athletes that ESPN had identified in its original request under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Michigan State released those reports but the names were redacted. ESPN then sued to have the information released.

LEGISLATIVE

Convicts paying for courts as Michigan lawmakers trump major ruling (AP)
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Top 10 — No. 9 Roads make headlines in 2015 (Huron Daily Tribune)
Roads. You probably heard more talk than ever this year about a plan to fix them.
Yet an agreeable solution to pay for crumbling Michigan roads seemed nearly impossible.

2015: A list of state legislative achievements, inaction (Freep)
Michigan's Legislature was dominated in 2015 with trying to find a solution for Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges.

Data centers, roads, film incentives among targets of business-related bills Michigan lawmakers OK'd in 2015 (Crain's)
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DETROIT

Detroit area Syrians hope to shake stereotypes (Detroit News)
Bashar Imam says he loves America, his home since late 1979, when he left his native Syria for what he deemed a better, prosperous life.

Exiting chief judge Rosen: I'll miss living on edge (Detroit News)
Detroit's federal courthouse has hosted some of America's most significant and sensational criminal and civil cases in the last seven years.

Goodwill cashes in as auto supplier in Detroit area (Detroit News)
Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit is doing more than spreading cheer, operating thrift stores and training those in need this holiday season. The nonprofit is producing millions of dollars through its growing automotive parts operations.

OPINION

Rick Haglund: Michigan economic future is optimistic (MLive)
Michigan's six-year-long economic recovery should continue at cruising speed through 2016 as auto sales keep climbing and job growth maintains a healthy pace. But major long-term challenges in improving the education of the workforce, boosting incomes and attracting new talent remain.

Editorial: Private dollars could boost Port Huron span (Detroit News)
While most of the international bridge conversation in Michigan has been focused on the proposed Gordie Howe Bridge across the Detroit River, southeast Michigan has an existing, vitally important span in Port Huron that could use some support.

Blame term limits for Lansing's lack of sense (Times Herald)
So, fellow Michiganders, how's that term limits thingy working out for you? If you've been paying any attention lately, probably not so well. All those promises supporters of term limits made to the electorate two decades ago about how wonderfully efficient state government would become have not quite panned out.

Banning pit bulls is a knee-jerk response to a larger problem (MLive)
When faced with complex social problems, we tend to go for the easy solution. Terrorism? Prohibit Muslims from entering the country. Undocumented immigrants? Build a big wall and deport everyone who might be Mexican. Mixed-breed dogs kill a child? Prohibit the ownership of pit bulls.

Bizon: I heard constituents and voted against SB13 (Battle Creek Enquirer)
The people of Michigan are passionate about what they believe in. They want their voices to be heard in their government on the issues that mean the most to them.

What is the right path for U.S. foreign policy? (Freep)
American voters will demand a fresh start for U.S. foreign policy when the next president is sworn into office on January 20, 2017.

'Prejudiced' Trump can't win, senior Michigan pol says (MLive)
This guy has forgotten more politics than Donald Trump has ever learned, and when asked what he thought of the Trump juggernaut, his response was swift and to the point: "Not much."

Michigan's Medicaid victory (Toledo Blade)
Two years ago, the Michigan Legislature grudgingly accepted the federal government's offer to extend the Medicaid program of low-income health insurance to adults who earn as much as one-third more than the federal poverty level. That expansion has been an amazingly good thing for both citizens and their employers, especially since Washington is absorbing nearly all the costs.

Michigan Citizen Action: Bring oversea profits home (Detroit News)
As end of the year budget discussions continue to unfold in Washington and the holiday season gets roaring, we need our elected leaders to look overseas.

Senate Bill 571 censors factual election information (Detroit News)
In today's busy world, we need more information about the important things going on around us — not less.

Our Editorial: New test scores set benchmark (Detroit News)
The Michigan Department of Education took its time releasing comprehensive testing data from this spring, but at least school districts now have a benchmark to judge future test results. Next year, the department must make sure it releases testing scores in a more timely manner if they are to be useful in the classroom.

Gov. Snyder Signs Bill That Makes 'Guilty Mind' Necessary For Convictions (Capitol Confidential)
House Bill 4713, a measure to prevent people from being convicted for unknowingly violating the law — something that has become increasingly likely as the number of regulations has increased — has been signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The bill was passed unanimously by both chambers of the Michigan Legislature.

Christmas story urges us to find compassion for exiled (Freep)
There are two Christmas stories. There is the romanticized antiseptic tale that has taken hold in our popular culture. It is the "Silent Night"/"Oh! Little Town of Bethlehem" version. Mary is smiling; Joseph is hovering protectively over mother and child. Animals provide warmth; angels are singing; and shepherds come to see the new born "Babe in the Manger". In this version, all is pure and all is bright.

Our Editorial: And on Earth, peace (Detroit News)
As we together enjoy a holiday marked by family, friends and faith, we turn to some familiar passages to find both cheer and comfort.

Michigan Gave Away Tens of Millions for Little in Return (Capitol Confidential)
In mid-December when the Michigan Legislature passed a law giving data centers tax exemptions, it set a job creation requirement of 400 jobs by 2022 and 1,000 by 2026. That gives the entire data center industry in Michigan 10 years to create roughly as many jobs as would be expected if just four new big box stores, such as Sam's Club, Meijer, or a Super Target store opened for business.

Susan J. Demas: How Republicans are emboldening Donald Trump (MLive)
Politics is full of choices. And for now, it's a free country — at least until President Donald Trump trashes the First Amendment and shuts down parts of the Internet.

What Michigan leaders hope for in the New Year (Freep)
It's the season for celebrating and starting anew. So with 2016 only days away, I asked luminaries across Michigan to share some of their New Year's resolutions and wishes.

Rochelle Riley: Yes Santa, Virginia acted on guns (Freep)

Thirty-two deaths in a single tragic instance can push a state to take drastic measures. Perhaps that is why the State of Virginia has given America a drastic Christmas gift that could save lives.

Our editorial: Transparency is job One in demo work (Detroit News)
Detroit hopes to get another bundle of money from Washington to help it keep tearing down blighted buildings. The expanded federal pipeline of funds makes it all the more urgent that the city's demolition programs operate under absolute transparency.

Letter: Finley column points to key social challenge (Detroit News)
Re: Nolan Finley's Dec. 20 column "Black inclusion in Detroit's comeback still lagging": The column makes the important point, as Finley did a year ago ("Where are all the black people"), that African-Americans are benefiting far less than whites in the city's turnaround. His point is evident from the many whites that are filling new jobs, tables at new restaurants, seats at entertainment venues and lines at new retail outlets in the city's core.

Flint water probe may unleash flood of findings on mistakes (MLive)
It was very revealing how some readers responded to the post that the first lady thought her husband might die from a blood clot. Instead of reflecting on the gravity of that story, lots of folks wanted to beat up on the governor for allegedly poisoning the kids in Flint with lead.

#####

Governor Rick Snyder
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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, December 28, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lincoln Park/EM exit
City Of Lincoln Park Free From Emergency Management (Michigan Radio)
Lincoln Park was officially released from state control yesterday. This marks the first time in 15 years no Michigan city is being run by an emergency manager. Rick Pluta reports.

Bill signings
Gov. Rick Snyder signs bills to simplify court paperwork with e-filing (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed six bills that aim to modernize the Michigan court filing system by taking it online. House Bills 5208, 5029 and 5030 define the terms of the electronic filing system and lay out the fees for electronic filings, including a provision exempting indigent filers from fees if they are exempt from regular filing fees.

Gov. Snyder approves tax breaks to entice tech company, help existing data centers in Michigan (AP)
A tech company's expansion into western Michigan will be ensured through tax breaks that Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law on Wednesday, exempting it and in-state data centers from sales and use taxes for 20 years as long as the industry adds 1,000 jobs.

Snyder signs tax break bill to lure data center (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday signed into law measures that give tax breaks to data centers and are expected to draw what's been touted as a $5-billion investment in western Michigan by Nevada-based Switch Corp.

Snyder signs data center legislation (MiBiz)
Gov. Rick Snyder today signed legislation exempting co-located data centers from state sales and use tax, paving the way for the largest data center east of the Mississippi River to locate on a site south of Grand Rapids.

Gov. Snyder signs off on major tax breaks for data centers (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed bills giving major tax breaks to data centers in Michigan. All data centers will no longer have to pay sales and use tax. But the new laws are in place in order to lure a single, massive server farm to the Grand Rapids area.

Gov. Snyder signs tax breaks for $5B Switch data center (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder today signed tax-reform legislation designed to attract the largest data center in the eastern United States to an empty building outside Grand Rapids. Switch, a Nevada-based company that wants to use the old Steelcase "pyramid" building as the hub for a new 2 million-square-foot campus, will be exempt — along with other data centers — from sales and use taxes on equipment like computers, servers and cabling through 2035, if the industry meets collective job-creation goals.

Gov. Snyder signs bills designed to bring Switch data center to W. Mich. (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder announced Wednesday that he has signed a pair of bills designed to help a major Internet data center developer expand into West Michigan. Gov. Snyder's office announced that he had signed Senate Bills 616 and 617, which allow exemptions from sales and use taxes for items in a qualified data center, such as computers, servers, routers, cabling, and wiring used in operating, managing, or maintaining the business. SB 616 was sponsored by Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs data center legislation (WZZM)
Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation on Wednesday granting tax policy changes for data centers which opens the door for a major new industry here in West Michigan.

Tax breaks signed, clearing way for Switch (WOOD-TV)
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Officials with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources said they are closely studying the dwindling deer herd in the Upper Peninsula, where some areas have lost more than half of their normal population.

MDARD
Michigan poultry exhibition ban lifted (Record Eagle)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development this week lifted the statewide ban on poultry exhibitions. The state implemented the ban in June 2015 as a precautionary measure in response to the Avian Influenza outbreak across the Midwest.

Michigan Agriculture officials lift poultry exhibition ban (AP)
A ban on poultry exhibitions in Michigan that was introduced in June to prevent the spread of bird flu has been lifted. The decision to remove the ban came after an evaluation of the disease risk and status of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza — HPAI — outbreak, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development officials said Wednesday.

Farmer says food inspection looked like a 'raid' (Interlochen Public Radio)
Food inspectors used a warrant signed by a judge to visit a farm near Cadillac last week. State police troopers were also on hand for the inspection of Bakers Green Acres last Thursday. A spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Jennifer Holton, called the inspection "routine."

MDOT
Road agencies: We're ready for whatever winter brings (Freep)
MDOT's Detroit maintenance garage handles 300 lane miles in metro Detroit with 13 plow trucks that have underbody blades, and 11 are equipped with a front plow, said MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross. She said the garage salt barn holds 3,000 ton of salt and a 5,000 gallon tank containing calcium chloride with boost.

Overhaul of I-75 bridge slated (Monroe Evening News)
State transportation officials have announced an overhaul of the I-75 bridge over the Rouge River in Detroit. The Michigan Department of Transportation announced it plans to replace the bridge deck that officials have spent more than $1 million repairing since 2011. The $80 million project is scheduled to begin in 2017.

Audit Finds MDOT Broke its Own Rule on Road Safety Studies (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) broke its own rule on road safety studies. That's according to a new report from the Michigan auditor general's office.

MEDC

State Agency Says '#MichiganIsAuto,' But the Economy Has Changed (Capitol Confidential)
The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the state government agency in charge of giving selective tax breaks and subsidies to certain corporations and developers, publishes short messages on the social media platform Twitter. They include the hashtag "#MichiganIsAuto."

Dilworth Hotel project gets $1 million grant (Petoskey News Review)
City of Boyne City officials and the developer behind an effort to restore and reopen the landmark Dilworth Hotel recently received word that the project has be officially approved for a $1 million state grant to offset certain costs associated with the project.

MSHDA

Local nonprofit seeks to help home buyers at every level (Midland Daily News)
With a new $40,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, Mid Michigan Community Action Agency will continue to offer its Homeowner Empowerment Program, which provides education and resources to those looking to achieve financial stability and attain success as homeowners.

MSP

Michigan State Police gives safety tips for driving on slick roads (WLNS)
Michigan State Police say there are many ways to avoid some of those slips, starting with increasing driving distance. Officials say it's important to give some space between your car and the car in front of you.

Michigan State Police: Prepare For Hazardous Winter Storm (Fox 2 Detroit)
The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) encourages citizens and visitors to prepare for a hazardous winter storm expected to affect most of the Lower Peninsula from noon Monday, Dec. 28, and into Tuesday, Dec. 29.

Michigan State Police warn residents of hazardous winter storm (TV 7&4)
The Michigan State Police and the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division are encouraging residents and visitors to prepare for a hazardous winter storm.

Michigan State Police adds 6 canine teams (County Press)
Michigan State Police (MSP) Director Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue is pleased to announce that Michigan citizens will soon benefit from the services of six new canine teams that graduated from the MSP 2015 Basic Canine School on Friday.

New 'revolutionary' DNA test finds the shoe fits (WOOD-TV)
In fact, Michigan State Police officials say they spent $135,000 in federal funds to buy the STRmix program in March. That also covered the cost of training a dozen lab technicians. They hope to start using the program in a few months.

MVAA

State and regional coalition work to help veterans get the benefits and services they need (Iosco County News-Herald)
Since 2002, about 2.6 million service members have separated from the active military and the reserve component, transitioning to civilian life after serving in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Nearly 700,000 of those veterans, 7.1 percent of the state population, live in Michigan, making it 11th in the nation in terms of its number of veteran residents.

Supreme Court

Convicts paying for courts as lawmakers trump ruling (AP)
Without a comma of dissent, the Michigan Supreme Court struck down an enduring practice that had brought millions of dollars to local courts from people convicted of crimes.

Michigan State loses appeal in records fight with ESPN (Detroit News)
The Michigan Supreme Court denied a request for appeal from Michigan State on Wednesday, a decision stemming from a suit filed by ESPN after names of students were redacted from incident reports the network requested. It means Michigan State will have to disclose the names of suspects who were among the 301 student-athletes that ESPN had identified in its original request under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. Michigan State released those reports but the names were redacted. ESPN then sued to have the information released.

LEGISLATIVE

Convicts paying for courts as Michigan lawmakers trump major ruling (AP)
Without a comma of dissent, the Michigan Supreme Court struck down an enduring practice that had brought millions of dollars to local courts from people convicted of crimes.

Top 10 — No. 9 Roads make headlines in 2015 (Huron Daily Tribune)
Roads. You probably heard more talk than ever this year about a plan to fix them.
Yet an agreeable solution to pay for crumbling Michigan roads seemed nearly impossible.

2015: A list of state legislative achievements, inaction (Freep)
Michigan's Legislature was dominated in 2015 with trying to find a solution for Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges.

Data centers, roads, film incentives among targets of business-related bills Michigan lawmakers OK'd in 2015 (Crain's)
The state Legislature capped 2015 by approving tax breaks for data centers that operate in Michigan, a decision that paves the way for a Nevada data center developer to open one near Grand Rapids.

DPS reform, energy, medical pot: Legislative issues to watch in 2016 (Crain's)
When state lawmakers return from holiday recess Jan. 13, they will have plenty of business-related policy issues to think about as they look to the year ahead.

DETROIT

Detroit area Syrians hope to shake stereotypes (Detroit News)
Bashar Imam says he loves America, his home since late 1979, when he left his native Syria for what he deemed a better, prosperous life.

Exiting chief judge Rosen: I'll miss living on edge (Detroit News)
Detroit's federal courthouse has hosted some of America's most significant and sensational criminal and civil cases in the last seven years.

Goodwill cashes in as auto supplier in Detroit area (Detroit News)
Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit is doing more than spreading cheer, operating thrift stores and training those in need this holiday season. The nonprofit is producing millions of dollars through its growing automotive parts operations.

OPINION

Rick Haglund: Michigan economic future is optimistic (MLive)
Michigan's six-year-long economic recovery should continue at cruising speed through 2016 as auto sales keep climbing and job growth maintains a healthy pace. But major long-term challenges in improving the education of the workforce, boosting incomes and attracting new talent remain.

Editorial: Private dollars could boost Port Huron span (Detroit News)
While most of the international bridge conversation in Michigan has been focused on the proposed Gordie Howe Bridge across the Detroit River, southeast Michigan has an existing, vitally important span in Port Huron that could use some support.

Blame term limits for Lansing's lack of sense (Times Herald)
So, fellow Michiganders, how's that term limits thingy working out for you? If you've been paying any attention lately, probably not so well. All those promises supporters of term limits made to the electorate two decades ago about how wonderfully efficient state government would become have not quite panned out.

Banning pit bulls is a knee-jerk response to a larger problem (MLive)
When faced with complex social problems, we tend to go for the easy solution. Terrorism? Prohibit Muslims from entering the country. Undocumented immigrants? Build a big wall and deport everyone who might be Mexican. Mixed-breed dogs kill a child? Prohibit the ownership of pit bulls.

Bizon: I heard constituents and voted against SB13 (Battle Creek Enquirer)
The people of Michigan are passionate about what they believe in. They want their voices to be heard in their government on the issues that mean the most to them.

What is the right path for U.S. foreign policy? (Freep)
American voters will demand a fresh start for U.S. foreign policy when the next president is sworn into office on January 20, 2017.

'Prejudiced' Trump can't win, senior Michigan pol says (MLive)
This guy has forgotten more politics than Donald Trump has ever learned, and when asked what he thought of the Trump juggernaut, his response was swift and to the point: "Not much."

Michigan's Medicaid victory (Toledo Blade)
Two years ago, the Michigan Legislature grudgingly accepted the federal government's offer to extend the Medicaid program of low-income health insurance to adults who earn as much as one-third more than the federal poverty level. That expansion has been an amazingly good thing for both citizens and their employers, especially since Washington is absorbing nearly all the costs.

Michigan Citizen Action: Bring oversea profits home (Detroit News)
As end of the year budget discussions continue to unfold in Washington and the holiday season gets roaring, we need our elected leaders to look overseas.

Senate Bill 571 censors factual election information (Detroit News)
In today's busy world, we need more information about the important things going on around us — not less.

Our Editorial: New test scores set benchmark (Detroit News)

The Michigan Department of Education took its time releasing comprehensive testing data from this spring, but at least school districts now have a benchmark to judge future test results. Next year, the department must make sure it releases testing scores in a more timely manner if they are to be useful in the classroom.

Gov. Snyder Signs Bill That Makes 'Guilty Mind' Necessary For Convictions (Capitol Confidential)
House Bill 4713, a measure to prevent people from being convicted for unknowingly violating the law — something that has become increasingly likely as the number of regulations has increased — has been signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The bill was passed unanimously by both chambers of the Michigan Legislature.

Christmas story urges us to find compassion for exiled (Freep)
There are two Christmas stories. There is the romanticized antiseptic tale that has taken hold in our popular culture. It is the "Silent Night"/"Oh! Little Town of Bethlehem" version. Mary is smiling; Joseph is hovering protectively over mother and child. Animals provide warmth; angels are singing; and shepherds come to see the new born "Babe in the Manger". In this version, all is pure and all is bright.

Our Editorial: And on Earth, peace (Detroit News)
As we together enjoy a holiday marked by family, friends and faith, we turn to some familiar passages to find both cheer and comfort.

Michigan Gave Away Tens of Millions for Little in Return (Capitol Confidential)
In mid-December when the Michigan Legislature passed a law giving data centers tax exemptions, it set a job creation requirement of 400 jobs by 2022 and 1,000 by 2026. That gives the entire data center industry in Michigan 10 years to create roughly as many jobs as would be expected if just four new big box stores, such as Sam's Club, Meijer, or a Super Target store opened for business.

Susan J. Demas: How Republicans are emboldening Donald Trump (MLive)
Politics is full of choices. And for now, it's a free country — at least until President Donald Trump trashes the First Amendment and shuts down parts of the Internet.

What Michigan leaders hope for in the New Year (Freep)
It's the season for celebrating and starting anew. So with 2016 only days away, I asked luminaries across Michigan to share some of their New Year's resolutions and wishes.

Rochelle Riley: Yes Santa, Virginia acted on guns (Freep)
Thirty-two deaths in a single tragic instance can push a state to take drastic measures. Perhaps that is why the State of Virginia has given America a drastic Christmas gift that could save lives.

Our editorial: Transparency is Job One in demo work (Detroit News)
Detroit hopes to get another bundle of money from Washington to help it keep tearing down blighted buildings. The expanded federal pipeline of funds makes it all the more urgent that the city's demolition programs operate under absolute transparency.

Letter: Finley column points to key social challenge (Detroit News)
Re: Nolan Finley's Dec. 20 column "Black inclusion in Detroit's comeback still lagging": The column makes the important point, as Finley did a year ago ("Where are all the black people"), that African-Americans are benefiting far less than whites in the city's turnaround. His point is evident from the many whites that are filling new jobs, tables at new restaurants, seats at entertainment venues and lines at new retail outlets in the city's core.

Flint water probe may unleash flood of findings on mistakes (MLive)
It was very revealing how some readers responded to the post that the first lady thought her husband might die from a blood clot. Instead of reflecting on the gravity of that story, lots of folks wanted to beat up on the governor for allegedly poisoning the kids in Flint with lead.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 9:39 AM
Subject: 12/29 Newsroom
Attachments: 151229 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, December 29, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Interviews

Snyder plan to fix Detroit schools slow to gain steam (AP)
Michigan Gov's Republican governor Rick Snyder is proposing another pricey state bailout and a sweeping reorganization that could lead to closing independent, publicly funded charter schools, where an increasing number of city students are enrolled.

Michigan criminal justice reforms, shelved in 2015, are on the radar for first half of next year (Mlive)
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SEOC activation/state offices closing

Storm prompts state to activate Emergency Operations Center (AP)
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Snyder activates emergency operations center (WOOD Radio)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said hazardous conditions for Monday prompted him to activate a state emergency operations center.

Gov. Rick Snyder: State Emergency Operations Center ready to assist communities in need (UP Matters/TV 3)
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Governor activates State Emergency Operations Center (ABC 10 UP)
With the National Weather Service predicting a foot of heavy, wet snow here in the U.P. and significant ice accumulation downstate, Governor Rick Snyder activated the State Emergency Operations Center in Lansing at noon Monday.

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Top Michigan laws of 2015 led by road funding plan (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder and lawmakers have enacted nearly 270 laws this year, topped by the approval of fuel tax and vehicle registration fee increases to improve deteriorating roads.

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Flags At Half Staff For Former State Representative (WILX)
Flags are at half staff today to honor a former state representative who died last week. Daisy Elliot served in the Michigan House of Representatives for 18 years.

APPOINTMENTS

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DEPARTMENTS

DEQ
Independent report confirms state made mistakes, but not 'intentional' ones in Flint (Michigan Radio)

Preliminary findings from Michigan's independent Auditor General give more details about the Flint water crisis.

Auditor: State erred with Flint water, didn't mislead feds (AP)
Michigan's auditor says state officials should have required the city of Flint to treat its water for corrosion earlier but didn't purposely mislead federal regulators.

Auditor General's report says Flint water should have gotten corrosion control (MLive)
A letter dated Dec. 23 from the Office of State Auditor General responding to a series of questions asked by Michigan Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, in October made it clear that corrosion control should have been maintained during Flint's transition from Detroit water to Flint River water.

Michigan's auditor general points finger at state, DEQ over Flint water crisis (WTVB)
Michigan's auditor general says their investigation of the Flint water contamination issue finds the state, in particular, the Department of Environmental Quality, responsible for the decision to use water from the Flint River.

Auditor general findings set off Flint water debate (Detroit News)
Findings compiled by Michigan's Office of the Auditor General have set off another debate about who is to blame for Flint's 18-month-long water crisis.

Obama signs into law Upton's bill banning microbeads (Detroit News)
President Barack Obama signed into law Monday a bill championed by southwest Michigan Congressman Fred Upton to phase out the production and sale of tiny bits of plastic called microbeads.

DIFS
SDL offers insurance talk (Argus Press)
The Owosso branch of the Shiawassee District Library will host a program on long-term care insurance at 7 p.m. Jan. 12.

DNR
Successful Elk season in Michigan (WHTC)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says most hunters found success during the late elk season in the northern lower peninsula, despite warm weather putting them at a disadvantage.

Sebewaing in line for DNR park grant (Huron Daily Tribune)
The Village of Sebewaing received some good news recently when it was recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

MDARD
Michigan small farmer who went up against DNR makes major announcement (Inquisitr)
Mark Baker, the now-nationally-known small farmer in Michigan who went up against the DNR for the right to raise his heritage pigs has made a startling announcement on his Baker's Green Acres YouTube channel. The announcement comes just days after the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development conducted what spokesperson Jennifer Holton termed a "routine" inspection and days after Baker announced the loss of a dear friend who advocated with Baker on issues brought before the Michigan Small Farm Council.

MDOC
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MDOT
Faster Michigan roads possible by summer (WOOD Radio)
It took several committee hearings and sit-downs with the state police and state department of transportation, but it

appears Michigan's speed limit is poised to increase in 2016 under legislation before a House committee.

FAST Act could provide about $1 billion a year to Michigan (Crain's)
On Dec. 4, President Barack Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act reauthorized the federal gas tax that pays for some (but not all) of the nation's transportation programs and provides additional funding for the next five years for a variety of transportation-related projects. Included among its provisions is an increase in state funding for roads, which should provide an average of a little more than $1 billion a year to Michigan.

No major crashes reported as sleet-snow mix covers Detroit roadways (MLive)
As of 1 p.m. Monday, as a winter storm passed through the Detroit area into the northers suburbs, highway trouble seemed to be minimal.

Crashes increase on slick Detroit-area highways with onset of rush hour traffic (MLive)
While all remained relatively quiet as sleet and freezing rain covered Detroit highways early this afternoon, that changed by rush hour.

Slippery going as storm ices up metro Detroit roads (Detroit Free Press)
Call it global warming or a fluke — Michiganders enjoyed a pass on winter right up until this week.

MPSC
MPSC authorizes 5% DTE rate hike (Energy Manager Today)
The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) authorized DTE Electric (DTE) on December 11 (Case No. U-17767) to increase its electric rates by $238.2 million annually – a figure 36 percent below the $370 million that the utility initially had requested a year ago.

MSP
Plan ahead to avoid drinking and driving this New Year's Eve (Oakland Press)
As New Year's Eve approaches, motorists can be thankful that awareness campaigns over the past several years have led to an overall drop in drunken driving in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Medical marijuana lawyers want state crime lab moved out of Michigan State Police (Michigan Radio)
A group of criminal defense attorneys says the Michigan State Police (MSP) should no longer oversee the state crime lab.

State police urge caution on the roads (WSJM)
Michigan State Police want drivers to be prepared if they have to be on the roadways today. With snow, freezing rain and high winds expected to make for some hazardous road conditions, Captain Chris Kelenske of the MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, is encouraging people to stay home during the storm. But for those who have to go out, he says they should have an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicle.

Winter weather safety reminders (ABC 10)
With winter weather causing power outages and hazardous driving conditions, the Michigan State Police would like to pass along some safety reminders.

Driving tips for your hazardous winter commute (WLNS)
Hazardous winter weather has arrived with freezing rain, high winds and icy roads.

Support grows for slow Lakeshore Drive campaign (Holland Sentinel)
According to the Michigan State Police, factors used to help set speeds include traffic crash data and the driving environment, and a speed study to…

Police, emergency management prepare to keep you safe during storm (UP North Live)

While crews take care of road conditions, State Police and emergency coordinators are working to make sure that people stay safe during the storm.

LEGISLATIVE

More than 1,000 votes missed by members of State House and Senate in 2015 (News Herald)
Michigan's 38 senators and 110 representatives missed a combined 1,055 recorded roll call votes in 2015 according to the Missed Votes Report compiled by Jack McHugh, editor of MichiganVotes.org.

State Rep. Gary Glenn named 'freshman lawmaker of the year' by news service (MLive)
Almost a full year into his first term in the Michigan House of Representative, Midland-area lawmaker Gary Glenn has been named the Michigan Legislature's "freshman of the year" for 2015.

MIRS names Glenn Freshman Legislator of the Year (Midland Daily)
Glenn's selection from among 44 first-term state representatives and 10 first-time state senators was announced on MIRS Monday, a weekly podcast featuring a round table discussion by MIRS state Capitol reporters that focused primarily on Glenn's bipartisan leadership on this year's energy policy debate in Lansing.

DETROIT

Detroit to job-hunting felons: We can help (Detroit Free Press)
At 52, Edward Jackson of Detroit has what he says is his first real job. Jackson has spent 20 years in prison on drug and weapons charges over his lifetime, and every time he was freed, he eventually fell back into trouble because he could never find gainful work. Like millions of Americans with criminal histories, whom advocates call returning citizens, he found himself turned away quickly by employers.

Detroit chief urges change after 7-year-old- killed (Detroit Free Press)
Three bullet holes in the picture window stood in grim contrast Monday to the flashing Christmas lights behind a drawn curtain in the two-story brick home in northwest Detroit side where 7-year-old Chanell Berry was shot and killed the previous night.

OPINION

Bieda: Bills would leave voters in dark (Detroit News)
Lawmakers in Lansing recently worked late into the night to pass a series of controversial bills, one of which grew from 12 to 53 pages in the span of an hour. Republicans barred Democrats' staff from the Senate floor to make it harder for us to review the amended legislation, and immediately forced a vote.

Skubick: 'Prejudiced' Trump can't win, senior Michigan pol says (Mlive)
This guy has forgotten more politics than Donald Trump has ever learned, and when asked what he thought of the Trump juggernaut, his response was swift and to the point: "Not much. The reference here is to former Democratic Attorney General Frank Kelley, who has been on seven book-signing gigs since they published his "The People's Lawyer." At age 90, with a birthday set for New Year's Eve, the nation's longest-serving A.G. is still as sharp as he was when he was tapped for the job.

Skubick: Snyder hits 'pause' again - on flak for immigration statements (Mlive)
One of the worst things to happen to politicians was the invention of videotape. The problem with recording political remarks is that they can come back to bite you in the you-know-where when you change those remarks. Think the master flip-flopper Mitt Romney and work down from there to Gov. Rick Snyder.

Editorial: More answers needed for Wayne Co. jail mess (Detroit News)

If a corporation intentionally fails to disclose to investors material information about its financial condition, it is subject to lawsuits and even criminal charges against its officers. The same fate should await public officials who knowingly deceive taxpayers and their representatives.

Hamilton: Tough time for politicians (Detroit News)
This is a very tough time to be a politician. The women and men who've undertaken to represent us face circumstances that make campaigning and governing unusually challenging right now.

#####

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, December 29, 2015
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Michigan's auditor says state officials should have required the city of Flint to treat its water for corrosion earlier but didn't purposely mislead federal regulators.

Auditor General's report says Flint water should have gotten corrosion control (MLive)
A letter dated Dec. 23 from the Office of State Auditor General responding to a series of questions asked by Michigan Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, in October made it clear that corrosion control should have been maintained during Flint's transition from Detroit water to Flint River water.

Michigan's auditor general points finger at state, DEQ over Flint water crisis (WTVB)
Michigan's auditor general says their investigation of the Flint water contamination issue finds the state, in particular, the Department of Environmental Quality, responsible for the decision to use water from the Flint River.

Auditor general findings set off Flint water debate (Detroit News)
Findings compiled by Michigan's Office of the Auditor General have set off another debate about who is to blame for Flint's 18-month-long water crisis.

Obama signs into law Upton's bill banning microbeads (Detroit News)
President Barack Obama signed into law Monday a bill championed by southwest Michigan Congressman Fred Upton to phase out the production and sale of tiny bits of plastic called microbeads.

DIFS

SDL offers insurance talk (Argus Press)
The Owosso branch of the Shiawassee District Library will host a program on long-term care insurance at 7 p.m. Jan. 12.

DNR

Successful Elk season in Michigan (WHTC)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says most hunters found success during the late elk season in the northern lower peninsula, despite warm weather putting them at a disadvantage.

Sebewaing in line for DNR park grant (Huron Daily Tribune)
The Village of Sebewaing received some good news recently when it was recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

MDARD

Michigan small farmer who went up against DNR makes major announcement (Inquisitr)

Mark Baker, the now-nationally-known small farmer in Michigan who went up against the DNR for the right to raise his heritage pigs has made a startling announcement on his Baker's Green Acres YouTube channel. The announcement comes just days after the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development conducted what spokesperson Jennifer Holton termed a "routine" inspection and days after Baker announced the loss of a dear friend who advocated with Baker on issues brought before the Michigan Small Farm Council.

MDOC

Michigan criminal justice reforms, shelved in 2015, are on the radar for first half of next year (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder listed criminal justice reform as one of four things he wanted to accomplish in 2015, but with session officially over he's eyeing the first half of 2016 for progress.

MDOT

Faster Michigan roads possible by summer (WOOD Radio)
It took several committee hearings and sit-downs with the state police and state department of transportation, but it appears Michigan's speed limit is poised to increase in 2016 under legislation before a House committee.

FAST Act could provide about $1 billion a year to Michigan (Crain's)
On Dec. 4, President Barack Obama signed the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act reauthorized the federal gas tax that pays for some (but not all) of the nation's transportation programs and provides additional funding for the next five years for a variety of transportation-related projects. Included among its provisions is an increase in state funding for roads, which should provide an average of a little more than $1 billion a year to Michigan.

No major crashes reported as sleet-snow mix covers Detroit roadways (MLive)
As of 1 p.m. Monday, as a winter storm passed through the Detroit area into the northers suburbs, highway trouble seemed to be minimal.

Crashes increase on slick Detroit-area highways with onset of rush hour traffic (MLive)
While all remained relatively quiet as sleet and freezing rain covered Detroit highways early this afternoon, that changed by rush hour.

Slippery going as storm ices up metro Detroit roads (Detroit Free Press)
Call it global warming or a fluke — Michiganders enjoyed a pass on winter right up until this week.

MPSC

MPSC authorizes 5% DTE rate hike (Energy Manager Today)
The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) authorized DTE Electric (DTE) on December 11 (Case No. U-17767) to increase its electric rates by $238.2 million annually – a figure 36 percent below the $370 million that the utility initially had requested a year ago.

MSP

Plan ahead to avoid drinking and driving this New Year's Eve (Oakland Press)
As New Year's Eve approaches, motorists can be thankful that awareness campaigns over the past

several years have led to an overall drop in drunken driving in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

Medical marijuana lawyers want state crime lab moved out of Michigan State Police (Michigan Radio)
A group of criminal defense attorneys says the Michigan State Police (MSP) should no longer oversee the state crime lab.

State police urge caution on the roads (WSJM)
Michigan State Police want drivers to be prepared if they have to be on the roadways today. With snow, freezing rain and high winds expected to make for some hazardous road conditions, Captain Chris Kelenske of the MSP Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, is encouraging people to stay home during the storm. But for those who have to go out, he says they should have an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicle.

Winter weather safety reminders (ABC 10)
With winter weather causing power outages and hazardous driving conditions, the Michigan State Police would like to pass along some safety reminders.

Driving tips for your hazardous winter commute (WLNS)
Hazardous winter weather has arrived with freezing rain, high winds and icy roads.

Support grows for slow Lakeshore Drive campaign (Holland Sentinel)
According to the Michigan State Police, factors used to help set speeds include traffic crash data and the driving environment, and a speed study to...

Police, emergency management prepare to keep you safe during storm (UP North Live)
While crews take care of road conditions, State Police and emergency coordinators are working to make sure that people stay safe during the storm.

LEGISLATIVE

More than 1,000 votes missed by members of State House and Senate in 2015 (News Herald)
Michigan's 38 senators and 110 representatives missed a combined 1,055 recorded roll call votes in 2015 according to the Missed Votes Report compiled by Jack McHugh, editor of MichiganVotes.org.

State Rep. Gary Glenn named 'freshman lawmaker of the year' by news service (MLive)
Almost a full year into his first term in the Michigan House of Representative, Midland-area lawmaker Gary Glenn has been named the Michigan Legislature's "freshman of the year" for 2015.

MIRS names Glenn Freshman Legislator of the Year (Midland Daily)
Glenn's selection from among 44 first-term state representatives and 10 first-time state senators was announced on MIRS Monday, a weekly podcast featuring a round table discussion by MIRS state Capitol reporters that focused primarily on Glenn's bipartisan leadership on this year's energy policy debate in Lansing.

DETROIT

Detroit to job-hunting felons: We can help (Detroit Free Press)
At 52, Edward Jackson of Detroit has what he says is his first real job. Jackson has spent 20 years in prison on drug and weapons charges over his lifetime, and every time he was freed, he eventually fell back into trouble because he could never find gainful work. Like millions of Americans with criminal histories, whom advocates call returning citizens, he found himself turned away quickly by employers.

Detroit chief urges change after 7-year-old- killed (Detroit Free Press)
Three bullet holes in the picture window stood in grim contrast Monday to the flashing Christmas lights behind a drawn curtain in the two-story brick home in northwest Detroit side where 7-year-old Chanell Berry was shot and killed the previous night.

OPINION

Bieda: Bills would leave voters in dark (Detroit News)
Lawmakers in Lansing recently worked late into the night to pass a series of controversial bills, one of which grew from 12 to 53 pages in the span of an hour. Republicans barred Democrats' staff from the Senate floor to make it harder for us to review the amended legislation, and immediately forced a vote.

Skubick: 'Prejudiced' Trump can't win, senior Michigan pol says (Mlive)
This guy has forgotten more politics than Donald Trump has ever learned, and when asked what he thought of the Trump juggernaut, his response was swift and to the point: "Not much. The reference here is to former Democratic Attorney General Frank Kelley, who has been on seven book-signing gigs since they published his "The People's Lawyer." At age 90, with a birthday set for New Year's Eve, the nation's longest-serving A.G. is still as sharp as he was when he was tapped for the job.

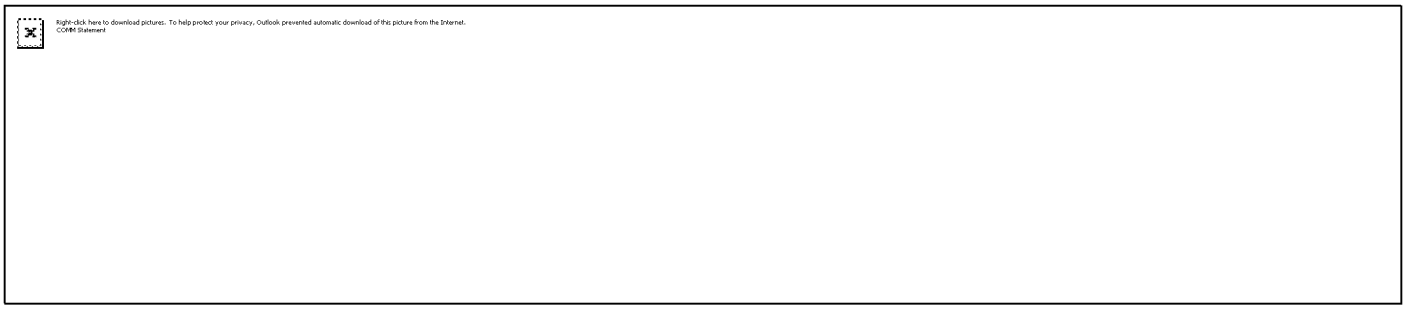
Skubick: Snyder hits 'pause' again - on flak for immigration statements (Mlive)
One of the worst things to happen to politicians was the invention of videotape. The problem with recording political remarks is that they can come back to bite you in the you-know-where when you change those remarks. Think the master flip-flopper Mitt Romney and work down from there to Gov. Rick Snyder.

Editorial: More answers needed for Wayne Co. jail mess (Detroit News)
If a corporation intentionally fails to disclose to investors material information about its financial condition, it is subject to lawsuits and even criminal charges against its officers. The same fate should await public officials who knowingly deceive taxpayers and their representatives.

Hamilton: Tough time for politicians (Detroit News)
This is a very tough time to be a politician. The women and men who've undertaken to represent us face circumstances that make campaigning and governing unusually challenging right now.

#####

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder takes action on initial findings from Flint Water Task Force



Contacts: Dave Murray, Anna Heaton or Laura Biehl

517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder takes action on initial findings from Flint Water Task Force

Changes to take place at DEQ, meeting planned with Mayor Karen Weaver

In response to initial findings from the Flint Water Task Force, Gov. Rick Snyder today issued the following statement:

"When I became aware that the city of Flint's water showed elevated lead levels and that the state's handling of the situation was being questioned, I requested funding to switch the source back to the Great Lakes Water Authority and appointed an independent task force to identify possible missteps and areas for improvement.

"The task force has done an exceptional job, reviewing stacks of documents and interviewing scores of Flint, Genesee County, state and federal officials. Although the task force's final report is not yet completed, members have made me aware of some interim findings and corrective steps that I have decided to take immediately in order to restore trust in how the state keeps its citizens safe and informed.

"We'll continue to work with the community members to make sure we hear and

respond to their concerns.

“In addition, MDEQ Director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation, and I’ve determined that it’s appropriate to accept it. I’m also making other personnel changes at MDEQ to address problems cited by the task force.

“But changes in leadership and staff are not enough. I understand there can be disagreements within the scientific community. That is why I have directed both the departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services to invite every external scientist who has worked on this issue to be our partners in helping us improve Flint water. Let’s share research on water and blood lead level testing so we can arrive at accurate and mutually supported conclusions. Together, we should work to affirm that we’re using the very best testing protocols to ensure Flint residents have safe drinking water and that we’re taking steps to protect their health over the short and long term.

“I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this has happened. And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure.

“I know many Flint citizens are angry and want more than an apology. That’s why I’m taking the actions today to ensure a culture of openness and trust. We’ve already allocated $10 million to test the water, distribute water filters, and help in other ways. Last week, I called Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and we’re going to meet soon to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance.

“These are only initial steps - we fully expect to take more actions following the recommendations of our task force. When it comes to matters of health and quality of life, we’re committed to doing everything we can to protect the well-being of our citizens.”

# # #

STAY CONNECTED:

This email was sent to leedsl@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: Norlock, Linda (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: FW: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

The heads are beginning to roll.

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_updates@gongwer.com
Subject: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

Tuesday, December 29, 2015, 02:53 PM

Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant has resigned in response to the water crisis that erupted three months ago in Flint.

"MDEQ Director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation, and I've determined that it's appropriate to accept it. I'm also making other personnel changes at MDEQ to address problems cited by the task force," Governor Rick Snyder said in a statement.

"But changes in leadership and staff are not enough. I understand there can be disagreements within the scientific community. That is why I have directed both the departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services to invite every external scientist who has worked on this issue to be our partners in helping us improve Flint water," Mr. Snyder said. "Let's share research on water and blood lead level testing so we can arrive at accurate and mutually supported conclusions. Together, we should work to affirm that we're using the very best testing protocols to ensure Flint residents have safe drinking water and that we're taking steps to protect their health over the short and long term."

The DEQ has come under major criticism for how it handled testing for lead in Flint drinking water after the city switched to the Flint River as its water source. The water was not properly treated for corrosion, causing lead to leach from service lines into the drinking water.

"I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this has happened. And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure," Mr. Snyder said. "I know many Flint citizens are angry and want more than an apology. That's why I'm taking the actions today to ensure a culture of openness and trust. We've already allocated $10 million to test the water, distribute water filters, and help in other ways. Last week, I called Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and we're going to meet soon to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance."

Gongwer News Service will have more on this story in today's Michigan Report.

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer.com This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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From: Norlock, Linda (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: RE: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

Ditto

From: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Norlock, Linda (DTMB) <norlockl@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

I'm surprised it took that long! :O

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Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:59 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: FW: NEWS UPDATE--Wyant Resigns In Wake Of Flint Water Crisis

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 10:48 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/30 Newsroom
Attachments: 151230 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, December 30, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint water

Snyder apologizes, Wyant resigns in Flint water crisis (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder apologized to the City of Flint Tuesday for the Flint drinking water crisis that has left children poisoned by lead and announced he has accepted to resignation of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant.

Michigan Regulator Resigns Amid Flint's Lead-in-Water Crisis (AP)
Michigan's top environmental regulator resigned Tuesday in the wake of Flint's drinking water crisis, which began when the city switched its supply but was not required to immediately keep corrosive river water from leaching lead from service pipes into residents' homes.

DEQ director Wyant resigns due to Flint water crisis (Detroit News)
Michigan's environment director resigned Tuesday after an independent committee delivered its findings on the Flint water contamination crisis to Gov. Rick Snyder.

Gov. Rick Snyder says he's sorry for Flint's lead-in-water crisis (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has issued a statement saying he's sorry for Flint's water crisis. "I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this happened," said Snyder in an email. "And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure."

Director Dan Wyant resigns after task force blasts MDEQ over Flint water crisis (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday accepted a resignation from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant after a task force laid responsibility for the Flint water crisis at the feet of the department.

Flint water crisis prompts DEQ resignation, personnel changes (Metro Times)
Today, the Detroit Free Press reports that Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation in the wake of the crisis. The resignation was announced by Gov. Rick Snyder in a news release.

Snyder issues statement about Flint water (ABC 10 UP)
Governor Rick Snyder issued a statement regarding the initial findings from the Flint Water Task Force. Based on those findings, Snyder stated that he has requested funding to switch Flint's water source back to the Great Lakes Water Authority. In addition, the Department of Environmental Quality director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation, which Snyder has accepted. Snyder plans to make other personnel changes as well.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder Apologizes For Flint's Water Crisis (Reuters)
Michigan's governor apologized on Tuesday for the state's mishandling of lead contamination in the city of Flint's water supply and accepted the resignation of the state official whose department was responsible.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder apologizes for lead levels in Flint water (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued an apology Tuesday as Dan Wyant, his head of the Department of Environmental Quality, resigned after a task force lead by the state's auditor general blasted the DEQ for it's role in Flint's water crisis.

MISC.
State board rejects recall petitions for Snyder, senators (AP)
People attempting longshot efforts to recall Gov. Rick Snyder and two lawmakers from office will have to try again with state election officials.

Snyder's choice on voter options: Experts or lawmakers? (MLive)
Depending on your political predilections, this may be a grand case of "don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up."

DEPARTMENTS

AG
Apples v. Oranges: Attorney General gambles on Wolverine victory (Oakland County One)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi today entered into a friendly wager over the upcoming Citrus Bowl in which the University of Michigan Wolverines will face the University of Florida Gators.

Oranges vs. apples: Florida AG Pam Bondi bets Gators beat Wolverines (Tampa Bay Times)
The attorneys general of Florida and Michigan have made a friendly wager on the outcome of this year's Citrus Bowl.

Schuette: Apples and oranges at stake for UM in Citrus Bowl (WLNS)
While the Michigan State Spartans are playing Alabama for a shot at the national championship, there is a crate of apples at stake when the University of Michigan plays in the Citrus Bowl.

Michigan and Florida attorney generals make wager on game (WILX)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is betting the Wolverines will beat the Gators in the Citrus Bowl. A box of fruit is at stake.

DEQ
DEQ spokesman also resigns over Flint water crisis, says city 'didn't feel like we cared' (MLive)
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesperson Brad Wurfel has joined director Dan Wyant in resigning after a task force cited department failures in addressing the Flint water crisis.

DHHS
Worksite wellness in progress: Part One (MSU Extension)

Employers recognize that employee health impacts their bottom line and this has generated increased interest in worksite wellness programs. Over 50 percent of US employers offer some type of worksite health promotion program and these employers employ over 75 percent of the American workforce according to the 2013 RAND report (pdf). Employers are looking to wellness programs to contain the rising health care costs of an aging, sedentary American workforce and the need to entice and retain talented employees in competitive hiring markets such as technology.

Holland Public Schools, city team up to investigate lead levels (Holland Sentinel)
Davis is raising a red flag about the number of children living in the city with elevated levels of lead in their blood.

DNR

24 recruits to attend conservation officer training academy (AP)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says 24 recruits are scheduled to attend its conservation officer training academy.

DNR sees increase in successful hunters during 2015 season (Alpena News)
There is a lot more venison in deer hunters' freezers this winter as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reports increased deer kills in the Lower Peninsula during the 2015 deer hunting season.

DTMB

West Michigan's jobless rate close to 15-year low (MLive)
West Michigan's job market set new records for employment in November while the unemployment rate closed in on a 15-year low, according to figures released by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

Four things to know about November unemployment rates: Ottawa, Allegan counties hit new lows (Holland Sentinel)
Ottawa County is tied with Kent County for the best unemployment rate in the state at 2.9 percent among the state's 83 counties, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget, or DTMB. Allegan County is fifth with a rate of 3.2 percent. The worst rate is 10.5 percent in Mackinac County.

Unemployment rate up from previous month, down from previous year (ABC 10)
While many areas across Michigan have seen a slight decrease in unemployment rates in November, the U.P. has risen a bit month-to-month.

MDARD

Habitat provided by eastern hemlock forests may be in jeopardy (MSU Extension)
Landowners and forest recreation enthusiasts should be on the lookout for signs of the hemlock woolly adelgid when they get out to enjoy Michigan forests this winter.

Poultry ban uplifted (WBKB)
In June, Michigan developed a statewide ban on poultry exhibitions at fairs and other events.

MDOT

States implement plow trackers, dash cams to improve snow removal operations (AccuWeather)
State transportation officials around the United States have implemented new tools to help keep drivers safe this winter.

Top 20 driving danger zones in MI revealed (WOOD TV)
Three quarters of the roads with the most winter-weather crashes statewide are located in West Michigan.

Road crews keeping up with winter weather (Upper Michigan's Source)
Most of the Upper Peninsula experienced an accumulation of snow on Tuesday.

MDOT completes road survey in St. Ignace (The St. Ignace News)
From mid-November until Wednesday, December 23, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) conducted surveying work in St. Ignace alongside the Interstate 75 Business Loop to prepare for an upcoming road project in 2017.

Emmet County tests green lights on plow trucks (Up North Live)
Several county road commissions in northern Michigan are interested in using a new lighting system for their plow trucks. The new system aims to make drivers safer during winter weather conditions.

MPSC
New rules for multi-line phone systems will improve emergency response (Up North Live)
When emergencies happen, every second counts. That is why a new rule goes into effect soon to require special phone systems in Michigan to improve emergency response.

SOS
Promoting walking and walkable communities: part three (MSU Extension)
US Surgeon General's Step It Up! 2015 call to action urges individuals to use walking as a form of exercise. Walkers who follow simple rules (see part 2 two) of the road are more likely to stay safe. However, those of us who drive cars to and from our destination often find ourselves sharing the road with walkers who do not always follow the rules.

SUPREME COURT
Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly advocates for Juvenile Justice (WDET)
Mary Beth Kelly now works for Bodman PLC, but she still has a unique perspective on Michigan's juvenile justice laws.

LEGISLATIVE

New legislation limits transparency, according to local officials (News-Herald)
While no timeline is present, Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to sign legislation that local school officials say will prohibit them from being transparent with voters.

Legislation authored by Representative Leutheuser signed by Governor Snyder (WTVB)
Governor Snyder has signed legislation authored by GOP lawmaker Eric Leutheuser, Branch County's Representative in the State House. The measure expands the scope of private or non-profit services that townships can contract with.

Board of State Canvassers Reject Recall Petitions for Gov. Snyder, Two Michigan Lawmakers (9&10 News)
An attempt at recalling Governor Rick Snyder and two Michigan lawmakers from office has been rejected.

DETROIT

Governor pitches plan to fix Detroit schools (AP)
Detroit needs more than a revitalized downtown with new office workers to spur its rebirth following the largest public bankruptcy in U.S. history. It needs to upgrade a public school system that's considered the worst of its size in the nation.
GOV
Thousands take advantage of ticket amnesty program (Detroit News)

More than a thousand people lined up this week to take advantage of a late Christmas gift from Detroit's 36th District Court: a chance at amnesty.

Hillary Clinton plans Jan. 12 fundraiser in Detroit (Detroit News)
Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton is coming to Detroit on Jan. 12 for a fundraiser, her campaign confirmed Tuesday.

OPINION

Editorial: Emergency management law working for cities (Detroit News)
Michigan will start the year with not one of its local communities under emergency management, with the emergence of Lincoln Park from state control last week. While Detroit Public Schools and other school districts, as well as Wayne County, still are operating under some form of state financial oversight, for the first time in 15 years no cities have emergency managers.

State must pay for justice, not defendants (Times Herald)
We thought we were making progress when Lansing moved to eliminate one of the state's most outrageous taxes. Beginning Oct. 1, Michigan began phasing out the "driver responsibility fees" that the Granholm administration invented in 2003 to plug a hole in the state budget. Driver responsibility fees are a tax on those convicted of reckless driving, drunken driving or driving without a valid license.

Gov. Rick Snyder still doesn't get it when it comes to Flint water crisis (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder still doesn't get it. Three months after the state finally acknowledged there was a problem with Flint water, Snyder issued a statement Tuesday, Dec. 29, apologizing for the situation and announcing actions to "ensure a culture of openness and trust."

Look back: What's it like to own the train station? (Freep)
What's it like to own the train station? I'm not going to say that question keeps me up at night, but driving around Detroit with Matt Moroun — the son of Manuel (Matty) Moroun, the 87-year-old industrialist and Ambassador Bridge owner (and dilapidated train station owner, vast property owner and billionaire) — I couldn't help but wonder.

Editorial: Tell Snyder to veto majority's election 'reforms' (Battle Creek Enquirer)
We wrote in November that a bill to strip Michigan voters of the ability to vote straight ticket was beneath the dignity of the Legislature. In hindsight, we over-estimated the Legislature.

Black lives, Tamir Rice and America's uncivil history (Freep)
I was struck with a wide range of emotional responses to the failure of Ohio prosecutors to charge Cleveland police officers for their hasty and thoughtless killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice — as an African American, as a parent, as a human being.

Another View: Election reform laws headed in wrong direction (Gaylord Herald Times)
State lawmakers recently passed another law designed to reform elections in Michigan.
With 2015 winding down, a bill heads to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk prohibiting local governments from spending money to inform the public about ballot proposals within 60 days of an election.

Helping our veterans in Michigan and beyond (Oakland Press)
Though it feels like partisan bickering in politics is the norm, there are some issues that should always rise above party politics; the care, safety, and well-being of our nation's troops and veterans. As we celebrate the holiday season, the spirit of caring for one another and wishes for peace on Earth are strong. In this spirit, let's make sure as we begin a new year, we hold Congress and the Pentagon responsible for caring for our veterans.

Bieda: Bills would leave voters in dark (Detroit News)

Lawmakers in Lansing recently worked late into the night to pass a series of controversial bills, one of which grew from 12 to 53 pages in the span of an hour. Republicans barred Democrats' staff from the Senate floor to make it harder for us to review the amended legislation, and immediately forced a vote. It's ironic that they eliminated straight-ticket voting on the pretext of helping voters make educated decisions, and yet failed to allow educated voting in their own chambers.

#####

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, December 30, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint water

Snyder apologizes, Wyant resigns in Flint water crisis (Freep)
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Michigan Regulator Resigns Amid Flint's Lead-in-Water Crisis (AP)
Michigan's top environmental regulator resigned Tuesday in the wake of Flint's drinking water crisis, which began when the city switched its supply but was not required to immediately keep corrosive river water from leaching lead from service pipes into residents' homes.

DEQ director Wyant resigns due to Flint water crisis (Detroit News)
Michigan's environment director resigned Tuesday after an independent committee delivered its findings on the Flint water contamination crisis to Gov. Rick Snyder.

Gov. Rick Snyder says he's sorry for Flint's lead-in-water crisis (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has issued a statement saying he's sorry for Flint's water crisis. "I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this happened," said Snyder in an email. "And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure."

Director Dan Wyant resigns after task force blasts MDEQ over Flint water crisis (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday accepted a resignation from Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant after a task force laid responsibility for the Flint water crisis at the feet of the department.

Flint water crisis prompts DEQ resignation, personnel changes (Metro Times)
Today, the Detroit Free Press reports that Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation in the wake of the crisis. The resignation was announced by Gov. Rick Snyder in a news release.

Snyder issues statement about Flint water (ABC 10 UP)
Governor Rick Snyder issued a statement regarding the initial findings from the Flint Water Task Force. Based on those findings, Snyder stated that he has requested funding to switch Flint's water source back to the Great Lakes Water Authority. In addition, the Department of Environmental Quality director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation, which Snyder has accepted. Snyder plans to make other personnel changes as well.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder Apologizes For Flint's Water Crisis (Reuters)

Michigan's governor apologized on Tuesday for the state's mishandling of lead contamination in the city of Flint's water supply and accepted the resignation of the state official whose department was responsible.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder apologizes for lead levels in Flint water (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued an apology Tuesday as Dan Wyant, his head of the Department of Environmental Quality, resigned after a task force lead by the state's auditor general blasted the DEQ for it's role in Flint's water crisis.

MISC.
State board rejects recall petitions for Snyder, senators (AP)
People attempting longshot efforts to recall Gov. Rick Snyder and two lawmakers from office will have to try again with state election officials.

Snyder's choice on voter options: Experts or lawmakers? (MLive)
Depending on your political predilections, this may be a grand case of "don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up."

DEPARTMENTS
AG
Apples v. Oranges: Attorney General gambles on Wolverine victory (Oakland County One)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi today entered into a friendly wager over the upcoming Citrus Bowl in which the University of Michigan Wolverines will face the University of Florida Gators.

Oranges vs. apples: Florida AG Pam Bondi bets Gators beat Wolverines (Tampa Bay Times)
The attorneys general of Florida and Michigan have made a friendly wager on the outcome of this year's Citrus Bowl.

Schuette: Apples and oranges at stake for UM in Citrus Bowl (WLNS)
While the Michigan State Spartans are playing Alabama for a shot at the national championship, there is a crate of apples at stake when the University of Michigan plays in the Citrus Bowl.

Michigan and Florida attorney generals make wager on game (WILX)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette is betting the Wolverines will beat the Gators in the Citrus Bowl. A box of fruit is at stake.

DEQ
DEQ spokesman also resigns over Flint water crisis, says city 'didn't feel like we cared' (MLive)
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokesperson Brad Wurfel has joined director Dan Wyant in resigning after a task force cited department failures in addressing the Flint water crisis.

DHHS
Worksite wellness in progress: Part One (MSU Extension)
Employers recognize that employee health impacts their bottom line and this has generated increased interest in worksite wellness programs. Over 50 percent of US employers offer some type of worksite health promotion program and these employers employ over 75 percent of the American workforce

according to the 2013 RAND report (pdf). Employers are looking to wellness programs to contain the rising health care costs of an aging, sedentary American workforce and the need to entice and retain talented employees in competitive hiring markets such as technology.

Holland Public Schools, city team up to investigate lead levels (Holland Sentinel)
Davis is raising a red flag about the number of children living in the city with elevated levels of lead in their blood.

DNR
24 recruits to attend conservation officer training academy (AP)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says 24 recruits are scheduled to attend its conservation officer training academy.

DNR sees increase in successful hunters during 2015 season (Alpena News)
There is a lot more venison in deer hunters' freezers this winter as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reports increased deer kills in the Lower Peninsula during the 2015 deer hunting season.

DTMB
West Michigan's jobless rate close to 15-year low (MLive)
West Michigan's job market set new records for employment in November while the unemployment rate closed in on a 15-year low, according to figures released by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

Four things to know about November unemployment rates: Ottawa, Allegan counties hit new lows (Holland Sentinel)
Ottawa County is tied with Kent County for the best unemployment rate in the state at 2.9 percent among the state's 83 counties, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget, or DTMB. Allegan County is fifth with a rate of 3.2 percent. The worst rate is 10.5 percent in Mackinac County.

Unemployment rate up from previous month, down from previous year (ABC 10)
While many areas across Michigan have seen a slight decrease in unemployment rates in November, the U.P. has risen a bit month-to-month.

MDARD
Habitat provided by eastern hemlock forests may be in jeopardy (MSU Extension)
Landowners and forest recreation enthusiasts should be on the lookout for signs of the hemlock woolly adelgid when they get out to enjoy Michigan forests this winter.

Poultry ban uplifted (WBKB)
In June, Michigan developed a statewide ban on poultry exhibitions at fairs and other events.

MDOT
States implement plow trackers, dash cams to improve snow removal operations (AccuWeather)
State transportation officials around the United States have implemented new tools to help keep drivers

safe this winter.

Top 20 driving danger zones in MI revealed (WOOD TV)
Three quarters of the roads with the most winter-weather crashes statewide are located in West Michigan.

Road crews keeping up with winter weather (Upper Michigan's Source)
Most of the Upper Peninsula experienced an accumulation of snow on Tuesday.

MDOT completes road survey in St. Ignace (The St. Ignace News)
From mid-November until Wednesday, December 23, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) conducted surveying work in St. Ignace alongside the Interstate 75 Business Loop to prepare for an upcoming road project in 2017.

Emmet County tests green lights on plow trucks (Up North Live)
Several county road commissions in northern Michigan are interested in using a new lighting system for their plow trucks. The new system aims to make drivers safer during winter weather conditions.

MPSC
New rules for multi-line phone systems will improve emergency response (Up North Live)
When emergencies happen, every second counts. That is why a new rule goes into effect soon to require special phone systems in Michigan to improve emergency response.

SOS
Promoting walking and walkable communities: part three (MSU Extension)
US Surgeon General's Step It Up! 2015 call to action urges individuals to use walking as a form of exercise. Walkers who follow simple rules (see part 2 two) of the road are more likely to stay safe. However, those of us who drive cars to and from our destination often find ourselves sharing the road with walkers who do not always follow the rules.

SUPREME COURT
Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Beth Kelly advocates for Juvenile Justice (WDET)
Mary Beth Kelly now works for Bodman PLC, but she still has a unique perspective on Michigan's juvenile justice laws.

LEGISLATIVE

New legislation limits transparency, according to local officials (News-Herald)
While no timeline is present, Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to sign legislation that local school officials say will prohibit them from being transparent with voters.

Legislation authored by Representative Leutheuser signed by Governor Snyder (WTVB)
Governor Snyder has signed legislation authored by GOP lawmaker Eric Leutheuser, Branch County's Representative in the State House. The measure expands the scope of private or non-profit services that townships can contract with.

Board of State Canvassers Reject Recall Petitions for Gov. Snyder, Two Michigan Lawmakers (9&10 News)

An attempt at recalling Governor Rick Snyder and two Michigan lawmakers from office has been rejected.

DETROIT

Governor pitches plan to fix Detroit schools (AP)
Detroit needs more than a revitalized downtown with new office workers to spur its rebirth following the largest public bankruptcy in U.S. history. It needs to upgrade a public school system that's considered the worst of its size in the nation.
GOV
Thousands take advantage of ticket amnesty program (Detroit News)
More than a thousand people lined up this week to take advantage of a late Christmas gift from Detroit's 36th District Court: a chance at amnesty.

Hillary Clinton plans Jan. 12 fundraiser in Detroit (Detroit News)
Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton is coming to Detroit on Jan. 12 for a fundraiser, her campaign confirmed Tuesday.

OPINION

Editorial: Emergency management law working for cities (Detroit News)
Michigan will start the year with not one of its local communities under emergency management, with the emergence of Lincoln Park from state control last week. While Detroit Public Schools and other school districts, as well as Wayne County, still are operating under some form of state financial oversight, for the first time in 15 years no cities have emergency managers.

State must pay for justice, not defendants (Times Herald)
We thought we were making progress when Lansing moved to eliminate one of the state's most outrageous taxes. Beginning Oct. 1, Michigan began phasing out the "driver responsibility fees" that the Granholm administration invented in 2003 to plug a hole in the state budget. Driver responsibility fees are a tax on those convicted of reckless driving, drunken driving or driving without a valid license.

Gov. Rick Snyder still doesn't get it when it comes to Flint water crisis (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder still doesn't get it. Three months after the state finally acknowledged there was a problem with Flint water, Snyder issued a statement Tuesday, Dec. 29, apologizing for the situation and announcing actions to "ensure a culture of openness and trust."

Look back: What's it like to own the train station? (Freep)
What's it like to own the train station? I'm not going to say that question keeps me up at night, but driving around Detroit with Matt Moroun — the son of Manuel (Matty) Moroun, the 87-year-old industrialist and Ambassador Bridge owner (and dilapidated train station owner, vast property owner and billionaire) — I couldn't help but wonder.

Editorial: Tell Snyder to veto majority's election 'reforms' (Battle Creek Enquirer)
We wrote in November that a bill to strip Michigan voters of the ability to vote straight ticket was beneath the dignity of the Legislature. In hindsight, we over-estimated the Legislature.

Black lives, Tamir Rice and America's uncivil history (Freep)
I was struck with a wide range of emotional responses to the failure of Ohio prosecutors to charge Cleveland police officers for their hasty and thoughtless killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice — as an African American, as a parent, as a human being.

Another View: Election reform laws headed in wrong direction (Gaylord Herald Times)
State lawmakers recently passed another law designed to reform elections in Michigan.
With 2015 winding down, a bill heads to Gov. Rick Snyder's desk prohibiting local governments from spending money to inform the public about ballot proposals within 60 days of an election.

Helping our veterans in Michigan and beyond (Oakland Press)
Though it feels like partisan bickering in politics is the norm, there are some issues that should always rise above party politics; the care, safety, and well-being of our nation's troops and veterans. As we celebrate the holiday season, the spirit of caring for one another and wishes for peace on Earth are strong. In this spirit, let's make sure as we begin a new year, we hold Congress and the Pentagon responsible for caring for our veterans.

Bieda: Bills would leave voters in dark (Detroit News)
Lawmakers in Lansing recently worked late into the night to pass a series of controversial bills, one of which grew from 12 to 53 pages in the span of an hour. Republicans barred Democrats' staff from the Senate floor to make it harder for us to review the amended legislation, and immediately forced a vote. It's ironic that they eliminated straight-ticket voting on the pretext of helping voters make educated decisions, and yet failed to allow educated voting in their own chambers.

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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

state of Michigan

Daily update - December 30, 2015

NEWS

College Basketball: Carl Izzo, father of Michigan State's Tom Izzo, dies at 90

NCAA.com

APPLETON, Wis. — Carl Izzo, father of **Michigan State** basketball coach Tom Izzo, has died. He was 90. Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Homes of ...

Flag as irrelevant

'Just believe!' The anatomy of Michigan State's amazing, saving grace

New York Post

Michigan punter Blake O'Neill is swarmed by **Michigan State** defenders on the final play of **Michigan State's** dramatic victory. Photo: AP ...

For Michigan State playmaker Jalen Watts-Jackson, 10 seconds to history - Washington Post

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

College Football Playoff Preview: Alabama's Dominant Run Attack vs. A Lucky Michigan State Team

FiveThirtyEight

Alabama and **Michigan State** face each other in a late New Year's Eve game that could stretch into 2016 (depending on your time zone). Alabama is ...

Is Michigan State lucky or clutch? Bama in the Playoff is the ultimate test - SB Nation

MSU coach Mark Dantonio: We have never played the underdog card - ESPN

Michigan State thrives without scoring big in recruiting - ESPN

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Game thread: Iowa 83, No. 1 Michigan State 70

The Gazette: Eastern Iowa Breaking News and Headlines

Top-ranked teams might want to think about avoiding the **state** of Iowa. ... 1 team this season, handing **Michigan State** its first loss in the Big Ten ...

Michigan State, Maryland, Purdue ready for Big Ten race - U.S. News & World Report

Iowa sends No. 1 Michigan State to first loss, never trails - ESPN

No. 1 Michigan State falls hard at Iowa for first loss of season - MLive.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's offensive line breaks down film .. of Ali-Frazier fight

USA TODAY

Though it's been 44 years since The Fight, it's fresh on the minds of **Michigan State's** offensive linemen heading into their Cotton Bowl national ...

Flag as irrelevant

Mark Dantonio's Spartans (and his name) sure are hard to pin down

ESPN

For the record, the **Michigan State** football coach is Mark Dantonio, not Mike (which is his younger brother's name), and not Mike D'Antoni, the pro ...

Former Michigan State coach Bobby Williams 'very happy' for what Mark Dantonio has done - MLive.com

Why Nick Saban endorsed Mark Dantonio for MSU job - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

ESPN analyst: MSU must punch 'bully' Alabama in mouth

Detroit Free Press

Herbstreit, who played quarterback at Ohio **State**, stays impartial on the air, ... "**Michigan State** and Ohio **State** winning last year helped that," he said.

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan governor apologizes for state's handling of Flint's water

Reuters

DETROIT **Michigan's** governor apologized on Tuesday for the **state's** mishandling of lead contamination in the city of Flint's water supply and accepted ...

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder Apologizes For Flint's Water Crisis - Huffington Post

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Kirk Cousins reflects on Mark Dantonio, **Michigan State** in The Players Tribune

MLive.com

Michigan State quarterback Kirk Cousins, left, and head coach Mark Dantonio talk during NCAA college football practice in Indianapolis, Friday, Dec.

Flag as irrelevant

MSU hoops wants to use depth as advantage, starting tonight

Detroit Free Press

EAST LANSING -- Northeastern was trapping to try to get back into the game, and **Michigan State** ended up with a 2-on-1 for an easy opportunity.

Flag as irrelevant

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, January 5, 2016
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Public Service Commission
Gov. Snyder elevates Talberg as chairwoman of Michigan Public Service Commission (AP)
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Snyder chief of staff set to rejoin lobbying corps (Detroit News)
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Snyder chief will join law firm after leaving state job (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder's chief of staff will lead a law firm's lobbying group after leaving state government. Dennis Muchmore will join Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP on Feb. 1. His last day in Snyder's office is Jan. 20.

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New Year Means New Laws In Michigan (WILX)
Drivers no longer need to keep a paper copy of their insurance in their glove box. If you get pulled over, you can just pull up your proof of insurance on your phone, or tablet. That new law goes into effect today. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Snyder back in October. He says the goal is to make life easier for Michigan residents and to modernize government.

DEPARTMENTS

DEQ
Data shows even higher lead poisoning in kids in West Michigan than Flint (FOX 17)
The recent scandal over lead-poisoning in the water in Flint prompted many of our communities to take a closer look at the issue. According to recent data, West Michigan neighborhoods are home to even higher levels of lead poisoning in kids than Flint.

Steady decline in wetlands endangers Great Lakes (Michigan Radio)
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Energy project to revive mature oil field, collect millions of barrels of oil (Gaylord Herald Times)
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Brownfield funds available for Ontonagon (Mining Gazette)
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Marathon refinery seeks OK to hike air pollutants (Detroit Free Press)
State environmental regulators are poised to allow the Marathon Detroit Refinery to increase emissions of at least eight air pollutants at its southwest side facility, further angering nearby residents who say they're already suffering by having to deal with the smell of sulfur that hangs in the air, while white and gray billows of smoke from the refinery's stacks provide a dreary visual backdrop for their forgotten neighborhoods.

DIFS
Community Shores bank consent under terminated by state and federal regulators and results of Community Shores Bank Corporation's successful rights offering and private placement (CNN Money)
Community Shores Bank Corporation (OTCBB: CSHB), Muskegon's only locally-headquartered independent community banking organization, reported that its wholly owned subsidiary, Community Shores Bank (the "Bank"), received formal notice on December 29, 2015, from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) that the regulatory Consent Order entered into on September 2, 2010 has been terminated effective December 16, 2015.

DNR
Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters of open spring turkey-hunting (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters that the spring turkey-hunting application period is now open.

Tensions mount as Ann Arbor deer cull is set to begin (MLive)
With a deer cull starting in Ann Arbor parks as early as 4 p.m. Monday, city officials are giving no indication they plan to call off the sharpshooters as a group of residents now suing the city is asking.

Mild winter meaning less ice fishing (WSJM)
Mild weather the last few months means opportunities to ice fish in the Upper Peninsula are few and far between, however people are

still fishing on lakes, ponds and rivers. George Madison, a fisheries manager with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, says they've seen an uptick in the number of people fishing from the shoreline or from boats.

MDOC

Michigan Department of Corrections want fewer drug offenders in prison (WEMU)
State corrections officials are preparing for a wave of drug offenders entering the system for getting caught with heroin and other narcotics.

MDOT

Fort Street Bridge near I-75 in Detroit reopens (Detroit Free Press)
A drawbridge near Interstate 75 in Detroit has reopened about a year after work on the span was originally scheduled for completion.

MEDC

Michigan weekend getaway website founded by Holland man (Holland Sentinel)
Michigan has so much to offer. But it's not always easy to find.What if there was a website that offered pre-packaged weekend getaways with a personal touch?

Michigan Angel fund closes six deals at end of 2015, invests $2.9 million in Michigan Startups (Business Wire)
The Michigan Angel Fund (MAF) closed 2015 with $2.91 million of investment, including six deals totaling $1,578,000 in the last quarter.

MSHDA

Low-income housing repair program ending in Kalkaska (AP)
Low-income residents in the northern Michigan community of Kalkaska will have to look elsewhere for support in fixing up dilapidated homes.

Kalkaska County Commissioners vote to dissolve county housing commission (9&10)
Kalkaska County residents in need of support for fixing up dilapidated homes will no longer be able to depend on the Kalkaska County housing commission to help cover costs.

Kalkaska ends housing repair loan program (Traverse City Record-Eagle)
Eleven low-income Kalkaska residents who applied for loans to fix their dilapidated homes will go without.

MSP

Michigan's Capitol buzzed by drone (Detroit News)
The restricted airspace around the State Capitol was buzzed Monday morning by a small drone surveying the statehouse's recently renovated exterior.

Police ask citizens to report unusual activity (Sault Ste. Marie Evening News)
With the country seemingly in a heightened state of alert, Michigan State Police are reminding local residents that they can play a critical role with the newly unveiled "If you see something, say something" campaign.

County Oks Flint's state of emergency declaration (Michigan Radio)
Flint's state of emergency declaration is on its way to the governor's office.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan taxpayers have spent more than $77,000 on the Courser-Gamrat scandal so far (MLive)
The Michigan House of Representatives spent $77,000 on legal services in the course of ousting former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, according to data obtained by liberal advocacy group Progress Michigan.

Harassment suit against lawmaker settled for under $12K (Detroit News)
The Michigan House of Representatives last fall quietly settled a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by a former aide against state Rep. Brian Banks for less than $12,000 — a fraction of the legal bill associated with the suit.

DETROIT

Detroit cops upset over plan to install time clocks (Detroit News)
Detroit police officers are bristling at a plan that will require them to punch time clocks at the beginning and end of their shifts.

DDOT drivers want city to reject expanded SMART service (Freep)
The union representing bus drivers in Detroit wants to stop a plan that would open key routes in the city for expanded service by the region's suburban bus system.

Approval for new bridge span could come in March (Freep)
The Coast Guard said Monday it could, by early March, finally award Manuel (Matty) Moroun and the owners of the Ambassador Bridge a permit to build a twin to the Detroit River span, though that project's future is in doubt with the Canadian government moving ahead with a rival bridge.

Detroit gets more time to decide on American Motors HQ (Detroit News)
The city of Detroit is getting more time to decide whether it wants to take control of the abandoned former American Motors Corp. headquarters site.

Marathon refinery seeks OK to hike air pollutants (Freep)
State environmental regulators are poised to allow the Marathon Detroit Refinery to increase emissions of at least eight air pollutants at its southwest side facility, further angering nearby residents who say they're already suffering by having to deal with the smell of sulfur that hangs in the air, while white and gray billows of smoke from the refinery's stacks provide a dreary visual backdrop for their forgotten neighborhoods.

OPINION

State apology, resignation over Flint water first step (Detroit Free Press)
In the quiet week between Christmas and New Year's Day, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality chief Dan Wyant resigned, followed quickly by department spokesman Brad Wurfel.

Editor's note: Daisy Elliot's legacy will endure (Detroit News)
Daisy Elliott, 98, died late last month, but her legacy lives on in the form of Michigan's civil rights law, which bears her name.

Editorial: Don't restrict gun rights by executive order (Detroit News)
President Barack Obama will begin his final year in office by testing how much power he can consolidate in the executive branch. The president met Monday with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to go over his plans for expanding the nation's gun control laws.

Owens: Abuse at root of election bill (Detroit News)
In classic fashion, school officials and local governments are blaming everyone but themselves for a bill that is sitting on Gov. Rick Snyder's desk awaiting his signature.

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Community Shores Bank Corporation (OTCBB: CSHB), Muskegon's only locally-headquartered independent community banking organization, reported that its wholly owned subsidiary, Community Shores Bank (the "Bank"), received formal notice on December 29, 2015, from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) that the regulatory Consent Order entered into on September 2, 2010 has been terminated effective December 16, 2015.

DNR
Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters of open spring turkey-hunting (Holland

Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds hunters that the spring turkey-hunting application period is now open.

Tensions mount as Ann Arbor deer cull is set to begin (MLive)
With a deer cull starting in Ann Arbor parks as early as 4 p.m. Monday, city officials are giving no indication they plan to call off the sharpshooters as a group of residents now suing the city is asking.

Mild winter meaning less ice fishing (WSJM)
Mild weather the last few months means opportunities to ice fish in the Upper Peninsula are few and far between, however people are still fishing on lakes, ponds and rivers. George Madison, a fisheries manager with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, says they've seen an uptick in the number of people fishing from the shoreline or from boats.

MDOC
Michigan Department of Corrections want fewer drug offenders in prison (WEMU)
State corrections officials are preparing for a wave of drug offenders entering the system for getting caught with heroin and other narcotics.

MDOT
Fort Street Bridge near I-75 in Detroit reopens (Detroit Free Press)
A drawbridge near Interstate 75 in Detroit has reopened about a year after work on the span was originally scheduled for completion.

MEDC
Michigan weekend getaway website founded by Holland man (Holland Sentinel)
Michigan has so much to offer. But it's not always easy to find.What if there was a website that offered pre-packaged weekend getaways with a personal touch?

Michigan Angel fund closes six deals at end of 2015, invests $2.9 million in Michigan Startups (Business Wire)
The Michigan Angel Fund (MAF) closed 2015 with $2.91 million of investment, including six deals totaling $1,578,000 in the last quarter.

MSHDA
Low-income housing repair program ending in Kalkaska (AP)
Low-income residents in the northern Michigan community of Kalkaska will have to look elsewhere for support in fixing up dilapidated homes.

Kalkaska County Commissioners vote to dissolve county housing commission (9&10)
Kalkaska County residents in need of support for fixing up dilapidated homes will no longer be able to depend on the Kalkaska County housing commission to help cover costs.

Kalkaska ends housing repair loan program (Traverse City Record-Eagle)
Eleven low-income Kalkaska residents who applied for loans to fix their dilapidated homes will go without.

MSP
Michigan's Capitol buzzed by drone (Detroit News)
The restricted airspace around the State Capitol was buzzed Monday morning by a small drone surveying the statehouse's recently renovated exterior.

Police ask citizens to report unusual activity (Sault Ste. Marie Evening News)
With the country seemingly in a heightened state of alert, Michigan State Police are reminding local residents that they can play a critical role with the newly unveiled "If you see something, say something" campaign.

County Oks Flint's state of emergency declaration (Michigan Radio)
Flint's state of emergency declaration is on its way to the governor's office.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan taxpayers have spent more than $77,000 on the Courser-Gamrat scandal so far (MLive)
The Michigan House of Representatives spent $77,000 on legal services in the course of ousting former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat, according to data obtained by liberal advocacy group Progress Michigan.

Harassment suit against lawmaker settled for under $12K (Detroit News)
The Michigan House of Representatives last fall quietly settled a sexual harassment lawsuit brought by a former aide against state Rep. Brian Banks for less than $12,000 — a fraction of the legal bill associated with the suit.

DETROIT

Detroit cops upset over plan to install time clocks (Detroit News)
Detroit police officers are bristling at a plan that will require them to punch time clocks at the beginning and end of their shifts.

DDOT drivers want city to reject expanded SMART service (Freep)
The union representing bus drivers in Detroit wants to stop a plan that would open key routes in the city for expanded service by the region's suburban bus system.

Approval for new bridge span could come in March (Freep)
The Coast Guard said Monday it could, by early March, finally award Manuel (Matty) Moroun and the owners of the Ambassador Bridge a permit to build a twin to the Detroit River span, though that project's future is in doubt with the Canadian government moving ahead with a rival bridge.

Detroit gets more time to decide on American Motors HQ (Detroit News)
The city of Detroit is getting more time to decide whether it wants to take control of the abandoned former American Motors Corp. headquarters site.

Marathon refinery seeks OK to hike air pollutants (Freep)
State environmental regulators are poised to allow the Marathon Detroit Refinery to increase emissions of at least eight air pollutants at its southwest side facility, further angering nearby residents who say they're already suffering by having to deal with the smell of sulfur that hangs in the air, while white and gray billows of smoke from the refinery's stacks provide a dreary visual backdrop for their forgotten neighborhoods.

OPINION

State apology, resignation over Flint water first step (Detroit Free Press)

In the quiet week between Christmas and New Year's Day, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality chief Dan Wyant resigned, followed quickly by department spokesman Brad Wurfel.

Editor's note: Daisy Elliot's legacy will endure (Detroit News)
Daisy Elliott, 98, died late last month, but her legacy lives on in the form of Michigan's civil rights law, which bears her name.

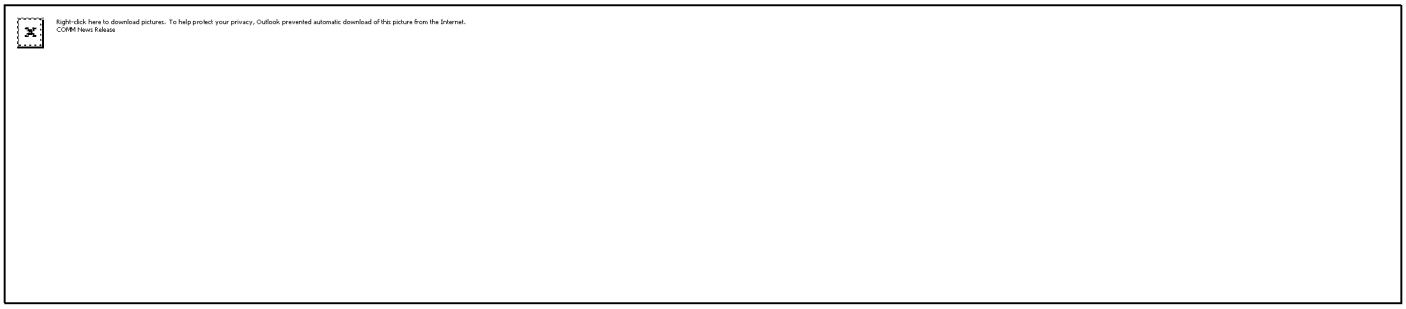
Editorial: Don't restrict gun rights by executive order (Detroit News)
President Barack Obama will begin his final year in office by testing how much power he can consolidate in the executive branch. The president met Monday with Attorney General Loretta Lynch to go over his plans for expanding the nation's gun control laws.

Owens: Abuse at root of election bill (Detroit News)
In classic fashion, school officials and local governments are blaming everyone but themselves for a bill that is sitting on Gov. Rick Snyder's desk awaiting his signature.

Steady decline in wetlands endangers Great Lakes (Michigan Radio)
In Michigan and across the country, wetlands are known as marshes, swamps, bogs, fens and pocosins.

#####

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 4:28 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Snyder declares emergency for Genesee County



Contacts: Dave Murray, Laura Biehl, or Anna Heaton

517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016

Editor's note: A copy of the official declaration is available at the link below.

Gov. Snyder declares emergency for Genesee County

State Emergency Operations Center activated to assist with relief efforts

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today declared a state of emergency for Genesee County due to the ongoing health and safety issues caused by lead in the city of Flint's drinking water.

By declaring a state of emergency, Snyder has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery operations. The declaration authorizes the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) to coordinate state efforts.

"The health and welfare of Flint residents is a top priority and we're committed to a coordinated approach with resources from state agencies to address all aspects of this situation," Snyder said. "Working in full partnership with the Flint Water Advisory Task Force, all levels of government and water quality experts, we will find both short-term and long-term solutions to ensure the health and safety of Flint residents."

In addition to the emergency declaration, Snyder activated the State Emergency

Operations Center to coordinate state response and recovery activities. State agencies will report to the center to coordinate resources, assess the situation and begin providing assets to assist with local relief operations.

“Our staff recognizes the urgency of this situation and is already working closely with local officials,” said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. “We will continue to collaborate with state, city and county leaders to coordinate relief efforts, streamline communication and use all available resources to help residents.”

On Jan. 4, Genesee County declared a “local state of emergency,” which activated local emergency response and recovery plans. By requesting a governor’s declaration, the county has determined local resources are insufficient to address the situation and state assistance is required to protect public health, safety and property to lessen or avert the threat of a crisis.

The city of Flint has been under a local emergency declaration since Dec. 14, 2015.

The SEOC is the emergency operations center for the state of Michigan. Located in Lansing, the center is overseen by the MSP/EMHSD and coordinates response and recovery efforts by state agencies and local government. The SEOC is staffed by members of state agencies and other partners for decision making and information coordination during disasters or emergencies in the state of Michigan.

#

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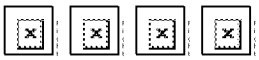

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Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

News **8** new results for **state of Michigan**

US grants permit to build 2nd Detroit-Canada bridge
USA TODAY
WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department announced its issuance of a presidential permit to the **state of Michigan** for the New International Trade Crossing between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario, moving the project an important step closer to completion.
See all stories on this topic »

US State Department Gives Michigan Permission for Bridge to Canada
Yahoo! News
The U.S. State Department gave the **state of Michigan** permission to begin construction on a new bridge to Canada on Thursday. The department must approve all international bridge-building projects before they can move forward, as noted by Michigan **...**
See all stories on this topic »

Michigan OKs Flint plan to secede from Detroit water system
The Detroit News
The **state of Michigan** has approved Flint's plans to get its water by participating in a pipeline project that would tap Lake Huron. The approval is subject to review of a final offer from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department by Monday. State **...**
See all stories on this topic »

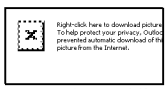
Obama administration grants state permit for bridge to Canada
UpNorthLive.com
WASHINGTON **-- Michigan** has won approval from the Obama administration to build a second bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. A presidential permit awarded Friday by the U.S. Department of **State** allows **Michigan** and Canada to move forward **...**
See all stories on this topic »

ESPN's Jay Bilas ranks MSU hoops third, UM ninth entering next season
The Detroit News
Jay Bilas isn't expecting much falloff for **Michigan State** and **Michigan** next season. The ESPN college basketball analyst lists **Michigan State** and **Michigan** among his top 10 teams entering next season. Bilas has the Spartans at No. 3, behind Kentucky and **...**
See all stories on this topic »

Michigan State giving Riley Bullough a shot at running back
Detroit Free Press
EAST LANSING – Riley Bullough has a different perspective on big brother Max – from backing him up at middle linebacker to running right at him. Bullough is the first man up in Mark Dantonio's quest to switch some players around and find a running back.
See all stories on this topic »

Michigan approves Flint bypass of Detroit water
The Detroit News
The **state of Michigan** on Friday approved Flint's participation in the project. The approval is subject to review — by Monday — of a final offer from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. State Treasurer Andy Dillon told Flint's state-appointed **...**
See all stories on this topic »

Obama Administration Approves New International Bridge For Detroit
Interlochen Public Radio
A presidential permit will allow the **state of Michigan** to wrap up a deal with Canada to build a new international



Interlochen Public

bridge connecting Detroit and Windsor-Ontario. The new bridge could be operating by the end of the decade. Governor Rick Snyder has been ... Radio

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Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

state of Michigan

Daily update - July 16, 2014

NEWS

State official says report misstates Michigan's approach to Rainy Day Fund

Detroit Free Press

LANSING — A national report released today by the Pew Charitable Trusts gives **Michigan** credit as one of only 12 **states** that use growth data to ...

Flag as irrelevant

Jordan Plans To Visit Ohio State And Michigan

ohiostate.247sports.com

Jordan worked out at camps at **Michigan**, Ohio **State** and **Michigan State** in June. He was offered a scholarship at the Wolverines' camp. The coaching ...

Flag as irrelevant

Celebrate Michigan's Craft Beer Month with a few of the states's brews, upcoming events

The Elkhart Truth

Michigan didn't get its nickname, "The Great Beer **State**," by accident. The **state** is ranked fifth in the nation in total number of breweries, and it has an ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State Rose Bowl hero Kyler Elsworth signs with CFL's Montreal Alouettes, discusses ...

MLive.com

EAST LANSING — **Michigan State** Rose Bowl defensive MVP Kyler Elsworth has found a new home field with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian ...

Flag as irrelevant

Transfers, freshmen should make **Michigan State** formidable in future

USA TODAY

DIMONDALE — The transfer who might play right away might bebetter off sitting out a year. The one who will sit for sure is happy about it, but there's ...

Flag as irrelevant

Five key points in Flint emergency manager's new report to the **state of Michigan**

The Flint Journal

FLINT, **MI** -- The city's emergency manager has updated the **state** on Flint's financial condition and many other key issues in a new report that ...

Flag as irrelevant

High school coach: **Michigan State** recruit Larry Scott runs like Adrian Peterson

Detroit Free Press

It's a little too early to suggest **Michigan State** running back commit Larry Scott will be the next Adrian Peterson. But his high school coach, Brian ...

Flag as irrelevant

Federal appeals court dismisses five-**state** Asian carp lawsuit

JURIST

The court found that the "States have not alleged facts showing that the ... In December 2009 the **state of Michigan** filed a lawsuit [JURIST report] in the ...

Flag as irrelevant

Metro+**state**: Mak Van Ameyde named new Eastern **Michigan** baseball coach

Detroit Free Press

Van Ameyde returns to Ypsilanti after spending the past six seasons at **Michigan State** as a pitching coach before being promoted to associate head ...

Flag as irrelevant

Defensive battles highlight **Michigan State**'s football camp

The Detroit News

Sophomore Darian Hicks is the favorite to replace Darqueze Dennard at one cornerback spot for **Michigan State**. (Dale G. Young / Detroit News).

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state of Michigan

Daily update · September 28, 2015

NEWS

Western Michigan's P.J. Fleck says Broncos 'beat ourselves' in Ohio State loss, sees improvement

MLive.com

Ohio **State** running back Curtis Samuel breaks through the line of scrimmage to score a touchdown against Western **Michigan** during the fourth quarter ...

Flag as irrelevant

Numbers: Big plays continue to hurt Michigan State on defense

MLive.com

Air ForceaEUs running back Benton Washington (24) tries to escape a tackle during their game against **Michigan State** at Spartan Stadium in East ...

College Football Power Rankings: Utah moves; Florida, Michigan enter - CBSSports.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

State data confirms higher blood-lead levels in Flint kids

Detroit Free Press

Data that the **State of Michigan** released last week to refute a hospital researcher's claim that an increasing number of Flint children have been ...

Clean Water Rule needs protection for Michigan rivers' sake - MLive.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Mark Dantonio: Michigan State's Montae Nicholson 'needed to play better' vs. Central Michigan

MLive.com

Oregon wide receiver Charles Nelson (6) tries to avoid being tackled by **Michigan State** safety Montae Nicholson (9) in the first quarter of their college ...

MSU's Dantonio provides no Conklin (leg) update - Detroit Free Press

Michigan State 24-point favorite over traditionally tough foe Purdue - MLive.com

Purdue Boilermakers vs Michigan State Spartans Game Odds - Get More Sports (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Ohio State vs. Western Michigan | Three points

Columbus Dispatch

Ohio **State** quarterback Cardale Jones knows that if he hadn't tried to be so fine on a couple of deep passes that his star would have been even ...

Flag as irrelevant

Hype machine revs up for Michigan after first big win

ESPN (blog)

The **state** of Utah, of all places, played a large role in that. ... don't mind that **Michigan State's** signature win of the year dropped in significance.

AP top-25 ballot moves: Utah rises, Michigan soars, Ohio State slips and Oregon tumbles - San Jose Mercury News (blog)

3 UM O's with Drew Sharp: Win could benefit MSU, too - Detroit Free Press

Michigan enters AP Top 25, Michigan State remains No. 2 - WXYZ

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Ohio State vs. Western Michigan | What the Buckeyes had to say

Columbus Dispatch

"We had to come back and we all had to get engaged with each other all over again. We practiced hard for the last four weeks and this week it really ...

Ohio State could face its toughest end to regular season as Michigan begins to rise - cleveland.com

Offense regains form in Ohio State's 38-12 win over Western Michigan - OSU - The Lantern

Ohio State vs. Western Michigan postgame notes - Columbus Dispatch

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Top of Michigan's ticket in 2018 could be all female

Lansing State Journal

But 2018 in **Michigan** could break even more glass ceilings. ... think about where we're going as a **state**, and look at my kids and the future of **Michigan** ...

Top of Michigan's '18 ticket could be historic first: All female - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

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MSU's Calhoun is B1G co-defensive player of week

Detroit Free Press

The Big Ten weekly accolades are rolling in for **Michigan State**, after the Spartans were shut out all of last season. Senior defensive end Shilique ...

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West Michigan designers promote state as hub for innovation and design

MiBiz

Companies who get their products produced in **Michigan** only use a portion of the **state's** highly skilled advanced manufacturing resources. That's the ...

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Subject: Google Alert - state budget+Michigan

state budget+Michigan

Daily update - October 2, 2015

NEWS

Budget bill add-on awaits future state funds for Flint water

MLive.com

FLINT, MI -- A funding mechanism aimed at the **state** paying for measures to reduce lead levels in Flint's drinking water has been added to a **budget** ...

Flag as irrelevant

Purdue-Michigan State Preview Capsule

abc27

Michigan State's offense line vs. Purdue's defensive front. The Spartans came into the season believing their offensive line would be a strength, and ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan road trips: fall travel savings

WDIV Detroit

"What I like about **Michigan** is it is more **budget**-friendly than some of the ... Finally, you can use a **state** website to find where the best fall colors are ...

Flag as irrelevant

'Looming budgetary pressures' add difficulty to Michigan road funding plan

Greenville Daily News

'Looming budgetary pressures' add difficulty to **Michigan** road funding plan ... an effective roads funding plan within the means of the **state budget**.

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan Senate approves $7.7 million for settlement after fatal crash involving **state** trooper

The Republic

The Senate voted 30-5 Thursday to amend the **budget** to authorize the ... **State** police spokeswoman Shanon Banner says while the settlement doesn't ...

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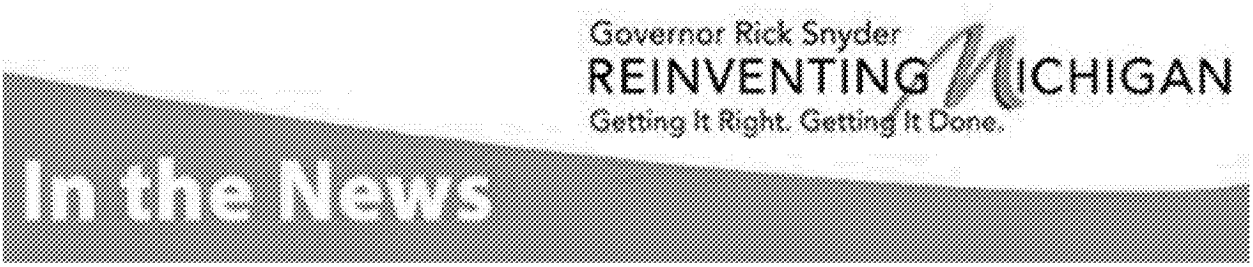

Tuesday, April 28, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Telling Michigan's Story/2016 Speculation

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder Coy on Possible Presidential Bid (The Street.com)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder shied away from answering whether he'll throw his hat into the ring for the Republican presidential nomination but he was eager to tout his accomplishments since taking office. Whether or not he chooses to run, Snyder said Washington needs some new blood. 'Lets not have someone who is going to follow the same model of being a traditional politician. We have real problems.

Gov. Rick Snyder 'looking at' throwing hat in 2016 ring (Fox Business)
Gov. Rick Snyder, (R-Mich.), discusses how to move the needle on growth and the 2016 race.

Rick Snyder Tempers Talk of 2016 Presidential Run (Bloomberg News)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said Monday he is not a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination—not yet, at least. "It's something that I'm watching," Snyder said on Bloomberg Television After Snyder attended a Republican Jewish Coalition event in Las Vegas on Friday with other likely and declared candidates, former Senator Norm Coleman told reporters, "He's running." Snyder spokesman Jarrod Agen denied that Snyder had made a decision on the race, according to MLive.com.

Snyder to decide on presidential run in next few months (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder said Monday he plans to decide whether to run for president "in the next couple of months or so." Snyder is in California to speak at a conference about Detroit's turnaround and emergence from bankruptcy and gave a round of cable news interviews.

Pandas

Gov. Snyder says 'no' to bringing in pandas after cost analysis (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder is saying 'no,' to bringing two giant pandas to Detroit. He brought up the idea in December of 2013, saying he wanted them in Detroit to help raise money and attention for the city. However, after investigation and analysis, it turns out it would be too expensive to bring the pandas in right now.

Roads

Only 1 in 5 expected to vote on Michigan roads, sales tax (Freep)

An elections expert is projecting that 1.5 million Michigan voters will turn out for the May 5 road funding special election on Proposal 1. That's less than the 2.4 million in Michigan who voted in the Proposal A special election of 1994, but higher than some analysts have predicted.

Last-ditch campaigns rev up in Prop 1 campaign (Detroit News)

Supporters of Proposal 1 plan to launch a three-day, nine-city bus tour Thursday in a last-ditch effort to convince voters to approve a nearly 17 percent increase in the state sales tax rate. With one week until the special statewide election next Tuesday, the Safe Roads Yes ballot campaign is deploying teams of volunteers to call voters and track down unreturned absentee ballots over the proposed constitutional amendment linked to boosting road funding $1.2 billion annually. The campaign wouldn't divulge who will be on the bus.

Prop flop? Startling results among Michigan lawmakers after survey on Proposal 1 (WXYZ)

The huge Proposal 1 decision is coming quickly! Dozens of state lawmakers who pushed the red hot issue to the voters, are not saying how they would vote. Is it because they are afraid of attaching themselves to a huge tax increase and are already hearing from angry voters in their own district?

Energy

New executive order moves to improve Michigan's energy future (Mlive)

The success of Michigan's energy future hinges on reliability, sustainability, and adaptability, Governor Snyder's senior policy advisor on energy Valerie Brader tells Kirk Heinze on Greening of the Great Lakes. A new policy directive, formally referred to as Executive Order 2015-10 created the Michigan Agency for Energy, which will be led by Brader, the soon-to-be executive director.

FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES

Thousands in pink raise money to battle breast cancer (Detroit News)

Over 2,600 participants walked the Detroit Zoo Saturday morning for 'A Walk at the Zoo,' which raised $276,000 to reduce the financial strain of everyday expenses for women battling breast cancer.

DEPARTMENTS

AG

SCOTUS to hear challenge to Michigan same-sex marriage ban (Michigan Radio)

Crowds gathered as the US Supreme Court prepared to arguments on whether same-sex marriage bans like Michigan's violate the Constitution.

Anticipation building to Supreme Court hearing on same-sex marriage bans (FOX 17)

On Tuesday, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the legality of same-sex marriage stemming from cases in four different states, including Michigan.

US Supreme Court to hear Michigan gay marriage case (Metro Times)

A Hazel Park couple's three-year court fight to win the right to marry will culminate Tuesday at the U.S. Supreme Court.

DeBoer on marriage case: It's starting to get real (Detroit News)

It was a near-miss vehicle accident on a two-lane country road four years ago that brought Michigan into the landmark same-sex case set for historic arguments before the nation's highest court Tuesday.

Gay marriage case reunites Michigan opponents (Detroit Free Press)

'Red Sign Lady' and a U-M student -- both spurred to action by gay marriage debate -- square off again, this time in Washington.

Same sex marriage supporters gather at Michigan Capitol (Detroit Free Press)

Shirley Hanna of East Lansing had a simple message Monday evening that needed few words.

Love must win: Gay marriage supporters rally at Michigan Capitol on eve of Supreme Court hearing (MLive)
Gay couples and straight supporters rallied outside the Michigan Capitol on Monday night, hours before a challenge to the state's same-sex marriage ban goes before the nation's highest court.

Supreme Court, I'm tired of being only sort of married (Detroit Free Press)
When it comes to marriage, my legal status is murky. Before I married another woman in New York in 2013, I was clearly a "single woman" who happened to want to have the right to marry another woman, but I was not "married." For two years now, I've been married -- well, sort-of married or sometimes married

DNR
More than 600 trash piles found on public land across Michigan (MLive)
As spring unfolds and the snow clears, Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff are looking for volunteers to help clear away piles of trash that have been dumped on public land in more than 650 places across the state.

Wildfire during Camp Grayling training exercise burns 700 acres (DVIDS)
Pyrotechnics used during a training event on Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center sparked a small wildfire that burned 700 acres of the 5,261-acre Multi-Purpose Range Complex, April 25, 2015.

DNR wants volunteers to help clean up trash (WDET)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is looking for volunteers to help pick up illegally dumped trash.

MDCR
Anti-bullying Relentless Tour to visit Bronxville (Bronxville Daily Voice)
The Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Autism Alliance of Michigan announced the Relentless Tour – a first-of-its-kind anti-bullying initiative – will visit Bronxville, Eastchester and Scarsdale on April 28-30.

MDOT
Statewide constitutional amendment proposal to appear on May 5 ballot (The Voice)
A statewide ballot proposal will appear on the May 5 special election ballot. Proposal 15-1 will simply require a yes or no from voting citizens. Coming to a decision on the issue before casting your vote won't be so easy. There are 121,738 residents registered to do their civic duty in St. Clair County, according to the secretary of state's office.
Proposal 1: how bad are our roads? (WZZM)

Detroit-area transit agencies consider single fare card (Detroit Free Press)
Imagine grabbing a DDOT or SMART bus and paying with a plastic card that you just used to ride the People Mover and M-1 Rail.

MEDC
Detroit Red Wings arena project price likely to go well beyond $650 million (MLive)
Developers driving the Detroit Red Wings arena and entertainment development project now under construction in the city's core have frequently cited a $650 million total cost.
State, local partners host real estate matchmaking event in Ypsilanti (Ypsilanti Courier)
Twenty-four local and regional investors and developers attended a recent real estate matchmaking event in Ypsilanti.

MPSC
Michigan regulators approve We Energies-Integrys merger (Utility Drive)
The Michigan Public Service Commission last week authorized Integrys Energy Group and Wisconsin Energy Corp. to move ahead with their $9.1 billion merger.

Wisconsin Energy-Integrys acquisition receives one more regulatory approval (Fierce Energy)
The Integrys Energy Group, Inc. acquisition by Wisconsin Energy Corp. passed another approval with the go-ahead by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). We Energies is a subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corp.

MSP

Ferndale drops proposal to make drone flying a crime (Detroit Free Press)
Ferndale officials passed up the chance Monday night to keep hobbyists, professional photographers and at least one chimney sweep from flying drones in the city.

Detroit suburb to consider banning drones (Michigan Radio)
The City Council of Ferndale will discuss an ordinance tonight that would ban drones from the Detroit suburb's airspace. The proposed ban would not apply to law enforcement, and people would be able to fly drones over their own property.

Proposed Flint budget would leave water rate unchanged, add 10 part-time cops (MLive)
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DETROIT

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###

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, April 28, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Telling Michigan's Story/2016 Speculation

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder Coy on Possible Presidential Bid (The Street.com)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder shied away from answering whether he'll throw his hat into the ring for the Republican presidential nomination but he was eager to tout his accomplishments since taking office. Whether or not he chooses to run, Snyder said Washington needs some new blood. 'Lets not have someone who is going to follow the same model of being a traditional politician. We have real problems.

Gov. Rick Snyder 'looking at' throwing hat in 2016 ring (Fox Business)
Gov. Rick Snyder, (R-Mich.), discusses how to move the needle on growth and the 2016 race.

Rick Snyder Tempers Talk of 2016 Presidential Run (Bloomberg News)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said Monday he is not a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination—not yet, at least. "It's something that I'm watching," Snyder said on Bloomberg Television After Snyder attended a Republican Jewish Coalition event in Las Vegas on Friday with other likely and declared candidates, former Senator Norm Coleman told reporters, "He's running." Snyder spokesman Jarrod Agen denied that Snyder had made a decision on the race, according to MLive.com.

Snyder to decide on presidential run in next few months (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder said Monday he plans to decide whether to run for president "in the next couple of months or so." Snyder is in California to speak at a conference about Detroit's turnaround and emergence from bankruptcy and gave a round of cable news interviews.

Pandas

Gov. Snyder says 'no' to bringing in pandas after cost analysis (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder is saying 'no,' to bringing two giant pandas to Detroit. He brought up the idea in December of 2013, saying he wanted them in Detroit to help raise money and attention for the city. However, after investigation and analysis, it turns out it would be too expensive to bring the pandas in right now.

Roads

Only 1 in 5 expected to vote on Michigan roads, sales tax (Freep)
An elections expert is projecting that 1.5 million Michigan voters will turn out for the May 5 road funding special election on Proposal 1. That's less than the 2.4 million in Michigan who voted in the Proposal A special election of 1994, but higher than some analysts have predicted.

Last-ditch campaigns rev up in Prop 1 campaign (Detroit News)
Supporters of Proposal 1 plan to launch a three-day, nine-city bus tour Thursday in a last-ditch effort to convince voters to approve a nearly 17 percent increase in the state sales tax rate. With one week until the special statewide election next Tuesday, the Safe Roads Yes ballot campaign is deploying teams of volunteers to call voters and track down unreturned absentee ballots over the proposed constitutional

amendment linked to boosting road funding $1.2 billion annually. The campaign wouldn't divulge who will be on the bus.

Prop flop? Startling results among Michigan lawmakers after survey on Proposal 1 (WXYZ)
The huge Proposal 1 decision is coming quickly! Dozens of state lawmakers who pushed the red hot issue to the voters, are not saying how they would vote. Is it because they are afraid of attaching themselves to a huge tax increase and are already hearing from angry voters in their own district?

Energy
New executive order moves to improve Michigan's energy future (Mlive)
The success of Michigan's energy future hinges on reliability, sustainability, and adaptability, Governor Snyder's senior policy advisor on energy Valerie Brader tells Kirk Heinze on Greening of the Great Lakes. A new policy directive, formally referred to as Executive Order 2015-10 created the Michigan Agency for Energy, which will be led by Brader, the soon-to-be executive director.

FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES
Thousands in pink raise money to battle breast cancer (Detroit News)
Over 2,600 participants walked the Detroit Zoo Saturday morning for 'A Walk at the Zoo,' which raised $276,000 to reduce the financial strain of everyday expenses for women battling breast cancer.

DEPARTMENTS
AG
SCOTUS to hear challenge to Michigan same-sex marriage ban (Michigan Radio)
Crowds gathered as the US Supreme Court prepared to arguments on whether same-sex marriage bans like Michigan's violate the Constitution.

Anticipation building to Supreme Court hearing on same-sex marriage bans (FOX 17)
On Tuesday, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the legality of same-sex marriage stemming from cases in four different states, including Michigan.

US Supreme Court to hear Michigan gay marriage case (Metro Times)
A Hazel Park couple's three-year court fight to win the right to marry will culminate Tuesday at the U.S. Supreme Court.

DeBoer on marriage case: It's starting to get real (Detroit News)
It was a near-miss vehicle accident on a two-lane country road four years ago that brought Michigan into the landmark same-sex case set for historic arguments before the nation's highest court Tuesday.

Gay marriage case reunites Michigan opponents (Detroit Free Press)
'Red Sign Lady' and a U-M student -- both spurred to action by gay marriage debate -- square off again, this time in Washington.

Same sex marriage supporters gather at Michigan Capitol (Detroit Free Press)
Shirley Hanna of East Lansing had a simple message Monday evening that needed few words.

Love must win: Gay marriage supporters rally at Michigan Capitol on eve of Supreme Court hearing (MLive)
Gay couples and straight supporters rallied outside the Michigan Capitol on Monday night, hours before a challenge to the state's same-sex marriage ban goes before the nation's highest court.

Supreme Court, I'm tired of being only sort of married (Detroit Free Press)
When it comes to marriage, my legal status is murky. Before I married another woman in New York in 2013, I was clearly a "single woman" who happened to want to have the right to marry another woman, but I was not "married." For two years now, I've been married -- well, sort-of married or sometimes married

DNR
More than 600 trash piles found on public land across Michigan (MLive)
As spring unfolds and the snow clears, Michigan Department of Natural Resources staff are looking for volunteers to help clear away piles of trash that have been dumped on public land in more than 650 places across the state.

Wildfire during Camp Grayling training exercise burns 700 acres (DVIDS)
Pyrotechnics used during a training event on Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center sparked a small wildfire that burned 700 acres of the 5,261-acre Multi-Purpose Range Complex, April 25, 2015.

DNR wants volunteers to help clean up trash (WDET)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is looking for volunteers to help pick up illegally dumped trash.

MDCR
Anti-bullying Relentless Tour to visit Bronxville (Bronxville Daily Voice)
The Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Autism Alliance of Michigan announced the Relentless Tour – a first-of-its-kind anti-bullying initiative – will visit Bronxville, Eastchester and Scarsdale on April 28-30.

MDOT
Statewide constitutional amendment proposal to appear on May 5 ballot (The Voice)
A statewide ballot proposal will appear on the May 5 special election ballot. Proposal 15-1 will simply require a yes or no from voting citizens. Coming to a decision on the issue before casting your vote won't be so easy. There are 121,738 residents registered to do their civic duty in St. Clair County, according to the secretary of state's office.
Proposal 1: how bad are our roads? (WZZM)

Detroit-area transit agencies consider single fare card (Detroit Free Press)
Imagine grabbing a DDOT or SMART bus and paying with a plastic card that you just used to ride the People Mover and M-1 Rail.

MEDC
Detroit Red Wings arena project price likely to go well beyond $650 million (MLive)
Developers driving the Detroit Red Wings arena and entertainment development project now under construction in the city's core have frequently cited a $650 million total cost.
State, local partners host real estate matchmaking event in Ypsilanti (Ypsilanti Courier)
Twenty-four local and regional investors and developers attended a recent real estate matchmaking event in Ypsilanti.

MPSC
Michigan regulators approve We Energies-Integrys merger (Utility Drive)
The Michigan Public Service Commission last week authorized Integrys Energy Group and Wisconsin Energy Corp. to move ahead with their $9.1 billion merger.

Wisconsin Energy-Integrys acquisition receives one more regulatory approval (Fierce Energy)
The Integrys Energy Group, Inc. acquisition by Wisconsin Energy Corp. passed another approval with the go-ahead by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). We Energies is a subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corp.
MSP
Ferndale drops proposal to make drone flying a crime (Detroit Free Press)
Ferndale officials passed up the chance Monday night to keep hobbyists, professional photographers and at least one chimney sweep from flying drones in the city.

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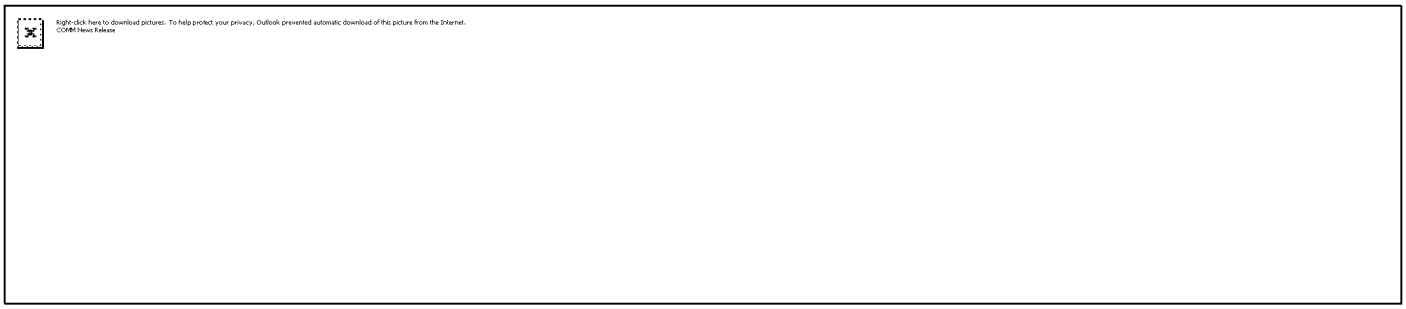
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:19 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder: City of Flint ready to move forward as financial emergency resolved



Contacts:
Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray , Governor's Office
517-335-6397

Terry Stanton, Department of Treasury
517-335-2167

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder: City of Flint ready to move forward as financial emergency resolved

Transition advisory board of city leaders to help with financial stability

LANSING, Mich. –The financial emergency in the city of Flint has been resolved and a Receivership Transition Advisory Board has been appointed to ensure a smooth transition to local control and continued financial stability for the city, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

"I was pleased to receive and accept Jerry Ambrose's recommendation that the financial emergency in Flint has been sufficiently addressed," Snyder said. "This is a new day for Flint and the city is ready to move toward a brighter future. These are important steps as we work together to transition back to local control in the city."

Snyder said Ambrose, and those who preceded him, worked diligently to finalize several critical reforms in the city, so it can return to local control. The Receivership Transition Advisory Board appointed today will work closely with local leaders to ensure Flint continues on a path toward long-term financial stability.

Ambrose notified the governor Tuesday of his determination, noting numerous accomplishments in Flint since a financial emergency was declared in November, 2011:

- Deficits in both the General Fund and Water Fund have been addressed, with a $7 million GF deficit to be eliminated through a loan authorized by the Local Financial Assistance Loan Board this morning.
- Long-term liability costs have been reduced from $850 million to $240 million. Multipliers for remaining employees with defined benefit pension plans have been reduced with

new employees enrolled in a hybrid pension plan.

- New ordinances addressing long-term financial sustainability have been enacted by City Council with support of the mayor, including a strategic plan; a biennial budget and five-year financial projections; and, establishment of a fund balance reserve, including establishment of a budget stabilization fund.
- The structure of the city organization has changed significantly. A city administrator has been hired with expanded control over daily activities. The workforce has been reduced by more than 20 percent with city operations to better reflect and meet current needs.
- In November 2014, voters approved revisions to the current charter and approved establishment of a Charter Review Commission, which will consider the city's future form of governance, including whether to create a city manager.

Ambrose had previously enacted a two-year budget for the city and issued his final order as emergency manager this morning. The order outlines responsibilities of elected officials and their collaboration and cooperation with the RTAB.

The new board includes:

- Frederick Headen, legal advisor to the state treasurer (state treasurer designee).
- Brian Larkin, director at Flint and Genesee County Chamber of Commerce (Department of Technology, Management and Budget director designee).
- David McGhee, officer with the Skillman Foundation (representing persons with relevant professional experience).
- Robert McMahan, president of Kettering University (representing persons with relevant professional experience.
- Beverly Walker-Griffea, president of Mott Community College (representing persons with relevant professional experience).

"I am very pleased to appoint such distinguished people to this important post," Snyder said. "Each of these people cares deeply about the future of this great city and I'm certain they will work closely with Mayor Walling and city council members to move Flint forward and maintain a strong financial path."

For more information about Public Act 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, visit the Local Government Fiscal Health page on the Department of Treasury's web site at www.michigan.gov/treasury.

###

STAY CONNECTED:

This email was sent to leedsl@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2015 10:09 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 9/3 Newsroom
Attachments: 150903 Newsroom.docx

Thursday, September 3, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Sexual assault kits press conference
Worthy: $10 million needed to advance rape kit cases (Detroit News)
Michigan law enforcement authorities need $10 million to help deliver justice for at least 1,350 sexual assault victims whose cases languished for years in a Detroit police storage facility, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said Wednesday.

Detroit clears massive backlog of untested rape kits (Freep)
Detroit's huge backlog of untested rape kits has been cleared, with nearly all of the more than 11,000 kits discovered in a police storage facility in 2009 now tested, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said at a news conference Wednesday.

Prosecutor: 10,000 untested Detroit rape kits now processed (WDIV)
Testing has been completed by the Michigan State Police on more than 10,000 sexual assault kits found in a Detroit police property storage facility. Gov. Rick Snyder and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy say the next phase of the process is investigating and prosecuting rape cases associated with the kits.

Governor Snyder Addresses Issue of Sexual Assault Kits (9&10 News)
Governor Rick Snyder touched on the issue of sexual assault Wednesday afternoon. He said he plans to stay on top of the issue on college and university campuses. He made the comments at an event Wednesday, giving an update on the status of untested sexual assault kits found in 2009

Governor Rick Snyder: 10K rape kits from Detroit have been tested (WXYZ)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder says 10,000 rape kits from Detroit have been tested. Snyder was joined by Michigan State Police, Wayne County Prosecutor Kim Worthy and other sexual violence prevention groups.

Backlogged rape kits in Detroit head for further investigation (Reuters)
Most of the 11,000 rape-evidence kits left languishing in a Detroit warehouse have been analyzed since they turned up

several years ago, with DNA matches leading to further investigation in 35 states, Michigan's governor said on Wednesday.

State officials say rape kit backlog almost cleared (Michigan Radio)
Officials say a backlog of more than 11,000 untested rape kits found in an abandoned Detroit crime lab is almost cleared. In some instances, the cases go back more than three decades. But, some victims will still have to wait years for justice. The untested rape kits were discovered six years ago. A combined state, local and private sector effort was launched to clear the backlog.

Testing complete on more than 10,000 abandoned rape kits in Detroit (AP)
Testing has been completed by the Michigan State Police on more than 10,000 sexual assault kits found in a Detroit police property storage facility. Gov. Rick Snyder and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy say the next phase of the process is investigating and prosecuting rape cases associated with the kits.

State police finish testing 10,000+ shelved rape kits (Fox 17)
Gov. Rick Snyder announced Wednesday that Michigan State Police have finished testing more than 10,000 rape kits that were found in a Detroit warehouse more than five years ago. The Detroit Police Department evidence kits were found in 2009. Of the 10,087 that were tested, 2,616 of them were linked to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), according to a release from the governor's office.

Chinese investment
Chinese company to invest nearly $26 million in Northville Township facility (Oakland Press)
A Chinese bearing manufacturer is investing nearly $26 million to establish a new U.S. headquarters and technical center in Northville Township, creating 125 jobs, Gov. Rick Snyder announced Monday.

Courser/Gamrat
Snyder Staying Out of Sex Scandal (WILX)
After Monday's report that showed Representatives Courser and Gamrat used taxpayer dollars to cover up their affair, Governor Snyder's keeping his mouth shut on whether or not they should resign. He says it's the House's responsibility to decide whether or not to expel the Representatives.

Why Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder isn't publicly calling for Reps. Courser, Gamrat to resign (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, unlike some other top Republicans, has not publicly called on GOP state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat to resign over allegations that they misused state resources to hide their extra-marital affair. And the governor, speaking with reporters on Wednesday afternoon, made clear he does not plan to weigh in at this time.

Flags lowered
Mary Lou Parks, Who Served In Michigan House, Dies At 79 (AP)
Former state Rep. Mary Lou Parks, who served six years in the Michigan House representing Detroit, has died. She was 79. Swanson Funeral Home, which is handling arrangements, says Parks died Aug. 23 and details on cause of death weren't released.

Miscellaneous
Kasich talks small government, praises Snyder in Michigan trip (Michigan Daily)
Kasich said he felt a responsibility to help Ohio when he ran for governor, and related his experience with that of Snyder's. "I went in (in Ohio), and we were really just like Governor Snyder, we really were in a deep hole, 20 percent of our operating budget, and so I took on the same approach (as Snyder)," he said.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Michigan's "Clean Power Plan" could go forward despite knee-jerk, anti-Obama actions (Michigan Radio)

Some days I find myself wishing President Obama would make a speech honoring motherhood and propose a program to honor mothers.

DMVA

Seven member of Congress tour Michigan military bases (MLive)
A U.S. senator and six House representatives visited Selfridge Air National Guard Base on Wednesday.

Seven U.S. Congressional members begin tour of Michigan military bases (Detroit News)

Member of Congress visit Selfridge (127th Wing Public Affairs)
In an historic visit, seven members of Congress toured Selfridge Air National Guard Base today, gaining insight into the diverse missions, capabilities and the future potential of the base.

Michigan's Congressional delegation tours military sites (Macomb Daily)
Seven members of Michigan's Congressional delegation on Wednesday had a unique boots-on-the-ground look at two major military facilities in Macomb County.

Michigan Congress members visit Selfridge Air National Guard Base (Detroit Free Press)

DNR

Michigan gets $951K grant to expand hunting program (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has received federal funding to expand a program that pays private owners to let the public use their land for hunting.

Endangered bird numbers rise (AP)
State wildlife officials report prospects are improving for two of Michigan's endangered bird species.

Let's get the facts straight on Chronic Wasting disease (LSJ)
Jill Fritz with the Humane Society of the United States recently voiced her opinions about the privately owned deer ranches and their role regarding chronic wasting disease in Michigan. While I respect each person's right to voice their opinion, I take issue with nearly every aspect of her editorial. The best course of action to prevent further spread of CWD in Michigan clearly must be based on facts and science. Let's take a look at the bullet points from Ms. Fritz' viewpoint and see if they are science based, or simply fear-mongering meant to advance the anti-hunting agenda of HSUS.

State needs smart long-term planning for public land (Detroit Free Press)
A recent column by state Sens. Tom Casperson and Darwin Booher advocating for bills that would change regulation of state-managed public land raises an important issue for Michigan citizens.

Black bear back in Michigan (WSJM)
The bear that passed through southwest Michigan this spring and early summer has returned to Michigan after an excursion into Indiana.

DEQ

If you dump trash in recycling bins, 'We're going to start fining you $250' (MLive)
There is recyclable material in the photograph above. But it won't get recycled. Instead, it's headed to a landfill or incinerator to be dumped along with the trash mixed in with it.

Lead leaches into 'very corrosive' Flint drinking water, researchers say (MLive)
lint drinking water is "very corrosive" and "causing lead contamination in homes," researchers from Virginia Tech University reported online Wednesday, Sept. 2.

DHHS

Michigan approves $89.5M for energy assistance program (AP)

The state has approved Michigan Energy Assistance Program grants totaling $89.5 million for 13 organizations to help low-income residents.

MDARD

'Skimmer' found inside gas pump in Mundy Township (ABC 12)

A device designed to steal credit card information has been found in Mid-Michigan. An inspector from the Michigan Department of Agriculture was checking gas pumps at the Mobile station on West Hill Road near US-23, in Mundy Township, when he found what is known as a "skimmer."

Authorities search for suspects behind credit card 'skimmers' (WOOD TV)

As the number of electronic skimming devices found hidden inside gas pumps increases, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has launched a statewide blitz, checking pumps for the devices before they do too much damage.

State says to watch for invasive beetle on Michigan's doorstep (C&G)

An invasive, tree-killing insect working its way across the U.S. is closing in on Michigan, and the Department of Natural Resources is asking residents to be watchful.

MAEAP Farm Field Day draws locals from several counties (Daily Reporter)

On Aug. 26, Benne Farm hosted the annual 2015 Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Farm Field Day for farmers from Branch and St. Joseph counties, with visitors from throughout the area.

MDOT

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day weekend (WDIV)

The Michigan Department of Transportation is suspending work on more than 100 construction projects across the state to make traveling easier for drivers during the Labor Day weekend.

MDOT to halt road projects at 3 p.m. Friday across state (TC Times)

To accommodate motorists traveling throughout Michigan over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will remove traffic restrictions on 114 of 155 active projects statewide.

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day (Holland Sentinel)

The Michigan Department of Transportation will remove traffic restrictions on 114 of 155 active projects statewide statewide from 3 p.m. Sept. 4 through 6 a.m. Sept. 8.

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day weekend (WOOD TV)

To help drivers over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation will suspend construction on many of its projects.

MSP

Hundreds attend funeral for Michigan State Police trooper (AP)

Officers from across the state and nation were among hundreds of people attending the funeral for a Michigan State Police trooper who was killed while on motorcycle patrol.

Authorities search for suspects behind credit card 'skimmers' (WOOD TV)

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Traffic deaths on the rise, law enforcement looks to stem the tide heading into holiday weekend (WWMT)

Across the country, traffic deaths are on the rise--something law enforcement is aware of, heading into a busy holiday weekend.

SOS

Michigan Secretary of State pulls plug on HP Pact on BAM (WHTC)
A 40.1 million-dollar contract with Hewlett Packard to overhaul the Michigan Secretary of State's computer system was terminated a year early by Ruth Johnson. The Business Access Modernization program was begun by Johnson's predecessor Terry Lynn Land in 2003 to replace 1970's-era technology for the agency's basic services such as drivers' licenses, vehicle titles and voter registration. Underestimating costs led to the program failing to meet a 2010 completion deadline.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Democrats Demand Lawmakers Identify Budget Cuts for Roads (WMUK)
Republican leaders in the House have floated a plan that would require hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts. But the plan doesn't spell out which programs would lose funding.

Michigan state agencies pay $345,000 to lobby lawmakers (LSJ)
State government agencies spent about $345,000 paying employees to lobby lawmakers from Jan. 1 through July 31, according to transparency records maintained by the Secretary of State.

DETROIT NEWS

Detroit Fire Department & Detroit Public Schools team up to train students as first responders (WXYZ)
Today the Detroit Fire Department and Detroit Public Schools will unveil a brand new program to train students as first responders.

Report: Fires cost Detroit millions, displace hundreds (Detroit News)
A new report shows fire and arson remain a huge challenge for Detroit, destroying buildings almost as fast as the city can tear them down.

OPINION

Courser, Gamrat no longer deserve the chance to resign (Detroit Free Press)
I am asking you to stop calling for the resignation of state Reps. Todd Courser Cindy Gamrat. They no longer deserve the opportunity to resign.

Testing abandoned rape kits just the first step (Detroit Free Press)
So this sounds like good news: 10,000 of the more than 11,000 backlogged Detroit rape kits have been tested.

State needs smart, long-term planning for public land (Detroit Free Press)
A recent column by state Sens. Tom Casperson and Darwin Booher advocating for bills that would change regulation of state-managed public land raises an important issue for Michigan citizens.

Investigation of bizarre cover-up requires full disclosure (Port Huron Times Herald)
State Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat need to save themselves, their constituents and the state of Michigan from any more of their tawdry antics.

Editor's note: College students get schooled on consent (Detroit News)
When first arriving on a college campus, freshman students have a lot of new things to learn, from navigating dorm life to understanding their class schedule. This year, more students than ever will also have to get schooled in sexual assault.

Finley: Gov. John Kasich, to voters: Pick a 'Dodge' (Detroit News)
John Kasich looks like the right sort of man, and certainly these look like the right sort of times for someone of his record and resume.

Driverless cars: Promising or dangerous (Detroit News)
People tend to forget the past. The challenges and opportunities of the furious present often blot out our memories.

Our Editorial: Invest in energy infrastructure (Detroit News)
Last month's temporary spike in gas prices, caused by an unexpected shutdown of BP's Indiana refinery, has subsided, but it serves as both a warning and reminder of how vulnerable Michigan and much of the Midwest is to an aging energy infrastructure.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, September 3, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Sexual assault kits press conference
Worthy: $10 million needed to advance rape kit cases (Detroit News)
Michigan law enforcement authorities need $10 million to help deliver justice for at least 1,350 sexual assault victims whose cases languished for years in a Detroit police storage facility, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said Wednesday.

Detroit clears massive backlog of untested rape kits (Freep)
Detroit's huge backlog of untested rape kits has been cleared, with nearly all of the more than 11,000 kits discovered in a police storage facility in 2009 now tested, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said at a news conference Wednesday.

Prosecutor: 10,000 untested Detroit rape kits now processed (WDIV)
Testing has been completed by the Michigan State Police on more than 10,000 sexual assault kits found in a Detroit police property storage facility. Gov. Rick Snyder and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy say the next phase of the process is investigating and prosecuting rape cases associated with the kits.

Governor Snyder Addresses Issue of Sexual Assault Kits (9&10 News)
Governor Rick Snyder touched on the issue of sexual assault Wednesday afternoon. He said he plans to stay on top of the issue on college and university campuses. He made the comments at an event Wednesday, giving an update on the status of untested sexual assault kits found in 2009

Governor Rick Snyder: 10K rape kits from Detroit have been tested (WXYZ)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder says 10,000 rape kits from Detroit have been tested. Snyder was joined by Michigan State Police, Wayne County Prosecutor Kim Worthy and other sexual violence prevention groups.

Backlogged rape kits in Detroit head for further investigation (Reuters)
Most of the 11,000 rape-evidence kits left languishing in a Detroit warehouse have been analyzed since they turned up several years ago, with DNA matches leading to further investigation in 35 states, Michigan's governor said on Wednesday.

State officials say rape kit backlog almost cleared (Michigan Radio)
Officials say a backlog of more than 11,000 untested rape kits found in an abandoned Detroit crime lab is almost cleared. In some instances, the cases go back more than three decades. But, some victims will still have to wait years for justice. The untested rape kits were discovered six years ago. A combined state, local and private sector effort was launched to clear the backlog.

Testing complete on more than 10,000 abandoned rape kits in Detroit (AP)
Testing has been completed by the Michigan State Police on more than 10,000 sexual assault kits found in a Detroit police property storage facility. Gov. Rick Snyder and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy say the next phase of the process is investigating and prosecuting rape cases associated with the kits.

State police finish testing 10,000+ shelved rape kits (Fox 17)
Gov. Rick Snyder announced Wednesday that Michigan State Police have finished testing more than 10,000 rape kits that were found in a Detroit warehouse more than five years ago. The Detroit Police Department evidence kits were found in 2009. Of the 10,087 that were tested, 2,616 of them were linked to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), according to a release from the governor's office.

Chinese investment
Chinese company to invest nearly $26 million in Northville Township facility (Oakland Press)
A Chinese bearing manufacturer is investing nearly $26 million to establish a new U.S. headquarters and technical center in Northville Township, creating 125 jobs, Gov. Rick Snyder announced Monday.

Courser/Gamrat
Snyder Staying Out of Sex Scandal (WILX)
After Monday's report that showed Representatives Courser and Gamrat used taxpayer dollars to cover up their affair, Governor Snyder's keeping his mouth shut on whether or not they should resign. He says it's the House's responsibility to decide whether or not to expel the Representatives.

Why Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder isn't publicly calling for Reps. Courser, Gamrat to resign (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, unlike some other top Republicans, has not publicly called on GOP state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat to resign over allegations that they misused state resources to hide their extra-marital affair. And the governor, speaking with reporters on Wednesday afternoon, made clear he does not plan to weigh in at this time.

Flags lowered
Mary Lou Parks, Who Served In Michigan House, Dies At 79 (AP)
Former state Rep. Mary Lou Parks, who served six years in the Michigan House representing Detroit, has died. She was 79. Swanson Funeral Home, which is handling arrangements, says Parks died Aug. 23 and details on cause of death weren't released.

Miscellaneous
Kasich talks small government, praises Snyder in Michigan trip (Michigan Daily)
Kasich said he felt a responsibility to help Ohio when he ran for governor, and related his experience with that of Snyder's. "I went in (in Ohio), and we were really just like Governor Snyder, we really were in a deep hole, 20 percent of our operating budget, and so I took on the same approach (as Snyder)," he said.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Michigan's "Clean Power Plan" could go forward despite knee-jerk, anti-Obama actions (Michigan Radio)
Some days I find myself wishing President Obama would make a speech honoring motherhood and propose a program to honor mothers.

DMVA
Seven member of Congress tour Michigan military bases (MLive)

A U.S. senator and six House representatives visited Selfridge Air National Guard Base on Wednesday.

Seven U.S. Congressional members begin tour of Michigan military bases (Detroit News)

Member of Congress visit Selfridge (127th Wing Public Affairs)
In an historic visit, seven members of Congress toured Selfridge Air National Guard Base today, gaining insight into the diverse missions, capabilities and the future potential of the base.

Michigan's Congressional delegation tours military sites (Macomb Daily)
Seven members of Michigan's Congressional delegation on Wednesday had a unique boots-on-the-ground look at two major military facilities in Macomb County.

Michigan Congress members visit Selfridge Air National Guard Base (Detroit Free Press)

DNR
Michigan gets $951K grant to expand hunting program (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has received federal funding to expand a program that pays private owners to let the public use their land for hunting.

Endangered bird numbers rise (AP)
State wildlife officials report prospects are improving for two of Michigan's endangered bird species.

Let's get the facts straight on Chronic Wasting disease (LSJ)
Jill Fritz with the Humane Society of the United States recently voiced her opinions about the privately owned deer ranches and their role regarding chronic wasting disease in Michigan. While I respect each person's right to voice their opinion, I take issue with nearly every aspect of her editorial. The best course of action to prevent further spread of CWD in Michigan clearly must be based on facts and science. Let's take a look at the bullet points from Ms. Fritz' viewpoint and see if they are science based, or simply fear-mongering meant to advance the anti-hunting agenda of HSUS.

State needs smart long-term planning for public land (Detroit Free Press)
A recent column by state Sens. Tom Casperson and Darwin Booher advocating for bills that would change regulation of state-managed public land raises an important issue for Michigan citizens.

Black bear back in Michigan (WSJM)
The bear that passed through southwest Michigan this spring and early summer has returned to Michigan after an excursion into Indiana.

DEQ
If you dump trash in recycling bins, 'We're going to start fining you $250' (MLive)
There is recyclable material in the photograph above. But it won't get recycled. Instead, it's headed to a landfill or incinerator to be dumped along with the trash mixed in with it.

Lead leaches into 'very corrosive' Flint drinking water, researchers say (MLive)
lint drinking water is "very corrosive" and "causing lead contamination in homes," researchers from Virginia Tech University reported online Wednesday, Sept. 2.

DHHS
Michigan approves $89.5M for energy assistance program (AP)
The state has approved Michigan Energy Assistance Program grants totaling $89.5 million for 13 organizations to help low-income residents.

MDARD

'Skimmer' found inside gas pump in Mundy Township (ABC 12)
A device designed to steal credit card information has been found in Mid-Michigan. An inspector from the Michigan Department of Agriculture was checking gas pumps at the Mobile station on West Hill Road near US-23, in Mundy Township, when he found what is known as a "skimmer."

Authorities search for suspects behind credit card 'skimmers' (WOOD TV)
As the number of electronic skimming devices found hidden inside gas pumps increases, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has launched a statewide blitz, checking pumps for the devices before they do too much damage.

State says to watch for invasive beetle on Michigan's doorstep (C&G)
An invasive, tree-killing insect working its way across the U.S. is closing in on Michigan, and the Department of Natural Resources is asking residents to be watchful.

MAEAP Farm Field Day draws locals from several counties (Daily Reporter)
On Aug. 26, Benne Farm hosted the annual 2015 Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program Farm Field Day for farmers from Branch and St. Joseph counties, with visitors from throughout the area.

MDOT

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day weekend (WDIV)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is suspending work on more than 100 construction projects across the state to make traveling easier for drivers during the Labor Day weekend.

MDOT to halt road projects at 3 p.m. Friday across state (TC Times)
To accommodate motorists traveling throughout Michigan over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will remove traffic restrictions on 114 of 155 active projects statewide.

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Transportation will remove traffic restrictions on 114 of 155 active projects statewide statewide from 3 p.m. Sept. 4 through 6 a.m. Sept. 8.

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day weekend (WOOD TV)
To help drivers over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation will suspend construction on many of its projects.

MSP

Hundreds attend funeral for Michigan State Police trooper (AP)
Officers from across the state and nation were among hundreds of people attending the funeral for a Michigan State Police trooper who was killed while on motorcycle patrol.

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Traffic deaths on the rise, law enforcement looks to stem the tide heading into holiday weekend (WWMT)
Across the country, traffic deaths are on the rise--something law enforcement is aware of, heading into

a busy holiday weekend.

SOS

Michigan Secretary of State pulls plug on HP Pact on BAM (WHTC)
A 40.1 million-dollar contract with Hewlett Packard to overhaul the Michigan Secretary of State's computer system was terminated a year early by Ruth Johnson. The Business Access Modernization program was begun by Johnson's predecessor Terry Lynn Land in 2003 to replace 1970's-era technology for the agency's basic services such as drivers' licenses, vehicle titles and voter registration. Underestimating costs led to the program failing to meet a 2010 completion deadline.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Democrats Demand Lawmakers Identify Budget Cuts for Roads (WMUK)
Republican leaders in the House have floated a plan that would require hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts. But the plan doesn't spell out which programs would lose funding.

Michigan state agencies pay $345,000 to lobby lawmakers (LSJ)
State government agencies spent about $345,000 paying employees to lobby lawmakers from Jan. 1 through July 31, according to transparency records maintained by the Secretary of State.

DETROIT NEWS

Detroit Fire Department & Detroit Public Schools team up to train students as first responders (WXYZ)
Today the Detroit Fire Department and Detroit Public Schools will unveil a brand new program to train students as first responders.

Report: Fires cost Detroit millions, displace hundreds (Detroit News)
A new report shows fire and arson remain a huge challenge for Detroit, destroying buildings almost as fast as the city can tear them down.

OPINION

Courser, Gamrat no longer deserve the chance to resign (Detroit Free Press)
I am asking you to stop calling for the resignation of state Reps. Todd Courser Cindy Gamrat. They no longer deserve the opportunity to resign.

Testing abandoned rape kits just the first step (Detroit Free Press)
So this sounds like good news: 10,000 of the more than 11,000 backlogged Detroit rape kits have been tested.

State needs smart, long-term planning for public land (Detroit Free Press)
A recent column by state Sens. Tom Casperson and Darwin Booher advocating for bills that would change regulation of state-managed public land raises an important issue for Michigan citizens.

Investigation of bizarre cover-up requires full disclosure (Port Huron Times Herald)
State Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat need to save themselves, their constituents and the state of Michigan from any more of their tawdry antics.

Editor's note: College students get schooled on consent (Detroit News)

When first arriving on a college campus, freshman students have a lot of new things to learn, from navigating dorm life to understanding their class schedule. This year, more students than ever will also have to get schooled in sexual assault.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 11:33 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 9/4 Newsroom
Attachments: 150904 Newsroom.docx

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Battle Creek base visit
Support pledged for B.C. military (Battle Creek Enquirer)
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Pipeline EO/agreement
Enbridge agrees to keep heavy crude out of pipeline (AP)
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15-person Michigan oil pipeline advisory board appointed by governor (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a 15-member standing advisory board to implement recommendations on Michigan oil pipeline safety included in a state report focused on Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac. The Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board includes, among others, members of the U.S. Coast Guard, National Wildlife Foundation, Marathon Pipeline Co. and Enbridge Inc., which operates a 62-year-old twin line under the Mackinac straits that environmental advocates say threatens the lakes with an oil spill.

Michigan, Enbridge Agree on Mackinac Straits Heavy Crude Oil Ban (Petoskey News Review)
State officials reached an agreement with Enbridge Thursday that permanently bans heavy crude oil from moving through the Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac.

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Enbridge agrees to heavy crude out of pipeline (Detroit Free Press)
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Lt. Gov. Calley: state's opioid scourge requires urgent action (WKAR)
America is eager to do something about the recent surge in prescription drug overdoses and fatalities.Here in Michigan, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley heads the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force. Current State sorts through the challenges of tackling the problem and asks the Lieutenant Governor about his take on the road funding challenge and Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat.

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Though an Obama administration deal to loosen economic sanctions against Iran as part of an agreement to limit the country's nuclear power is nearing approval from Congress, states such as Michigan could continue to obstruct U.S. trade with Iran.

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Lower TTHM levels put Flint in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act (MLive)
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Neighbors, environmentalists and local government officials are pushing for a public hearing on a permit request by Michigan's Adventure amusement park to increase the amount of sewage it treats and releases into the groundwater.

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Michigan approves grants for energy assistance (MI News 26)
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September is Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month in Michigan (MSU Extension)
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DNR

DNR to host public meeting to gather input on Algonquin Pathway, Ski Trail proposals (Sault Ste. Marie Evening News)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced it will host a public meeting Monday, Sept. 14, to gather input on land management activities – trail improvements and timber harvesting – along the Algonquin Pathway/Ski Trail in Chippewa County. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 225 E. Portage Ave., Sault Ste. Marie.

Boating site opening for Lake Angeline in Upper Peninsula (AP)
A new $90,000 boating access site is opening for Lake Angeline in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Endangered bird populations rebound thanks to Michigan DNR and conservation work (Newswire – PR)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced on Tuesday that two endangered species of birds, the piping plover and the Kirtland's warbler, have been observed in record numbers in the state this year, which the DNR attributes to conservation efforts enacted with the help of partners.

LARA

MIOSHA receives customer service award for investing more than $1 Million in worker safety and health (Workers Compensation)
The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) recently received the William Q. Wierhdt Customer Service Award from federal OSHA for the success of its FY 2015 matching grant program that provided Michigan small businesses with more than $1 million toward worker protections. MIOSHA is part of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

MVAA

Honorably discharged veterans invited to present at event hosted by Gov. Snyder (Oakland Press)

MDOC

MI prisoners donate to give students back-to-school basics (WXYZ)
Inmates at southeast Michigan prisons have donated more than $27,000 to help provide back-to-school supplies for local students, according to a press release from the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Prisoners make donations to give children a better shot as success (MI News 26)
Most students in Michigan are already back in school or will be starting on Tuesday. As families prepare their children for the upcoming school year, not all are able to provide the back-to-school basics that are essential for their success. So, several Michigan prisoners have stepped up to help out.

MDOT

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day holiday, urges safety (Midland Daily)
To accommodate motorists traveling throughout Michigan over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation will remove traffic restrictions on 114 of 155 active projects statewide.

Why do truck weigh stations seem like they're always closed? (Michigan Radio)
There's a lot of talk (though as of yet, no action) about a long-term solution for fixing Michigan's crumbling roads.

MPSC

GOP-led Michigan will develop state compliance strategy for Clean Power Plan (Utility Drive)
Seeking to avoid placing the state's future in the hads of Washington "bureaucrats," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) has announced that his state will develop a plan to comply with the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan.

MSP

Mid-Michigan residents fall victim to credit card fraud (WNEM)
Several residents in one Mid-Michigan community have fallen victim to credit card fraud.

Public enjoys a glimpse of work done by Michigan State Police (Daily News)
The Iron Mountain post of the Michigan State Police opened its doors to the public on Wednesday for its annual open house.

Extra officers continue drunk driving and seat belt enforcement during Labor Day holiday (WLNS)
There will be a lot of people out on the roads this holiday weekend and officers from police departments, sheriff's offices and the

Michigan State Police will be on the lookout for impaired drivers and unbuckled motorists.

MSP trooper convicted an sexual assault charges (Lansing State Journal)
A Michigan State Police trooper was found guilty Thursday on four counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct.

Credit card information stolen at gas stations (WZZM)
Michigan State Police and the Ionia County Sheriff's Office are investigating reports of fraudulent credit card activity.

September is Michigan preparedness month (WSJM)
Governor Rick Snyder has declared September to be Michigan Preparedness Month, when everyone should be sure to take a couple of steps to ready themselves for any possible emergency that might occur. Ron Leix, with the Michigan State Police, says that as the fall approaches, you should be sure to have an emergency kit on hand.

September proclaimed as awareness month in Michigan (Petoskey News Review)
Gov. Rick Snyder proclaimed September as Preparedness Month to encourage Michiganders to plan and prepare for natural and human-made emergencies and disasters.

DETROIT NEWS

White Boy Rick wins bid to be resentenced (Detroit Free Press)
Richard Wershe Jr., who gained notoriety during the 1980s in Detroit as a young, flamboyant drug dealer known as White Boy Rick, won his bid for resentencing.

Auction of Taubman art collection expected to net $500M (Detroit Free Press)
More than 500 pieces of art owned by the late Detroit shopping mall magnate A. Alfred Taubman are heading to the auction block in New York, where they are expected to fetch more than $500 million -- the most valuable private collection ever offered for sale at auction, according to Sotheby's, which is handling the sale.

OPINION

Abortion coercion should be unlawful (Grand Haven Tribune)
No matter what side you are on regarding abortion, we would find it difficult not to be in favor of making it unlawful to force a pregnant woman to get one against her will.

Open carry isn't bad, it's just unexpected (Port Huron Times Herald)
People in Michigan tend to have a very negative viewpoint when they see people open carry firearms. I believe the main reason this makes people nervous is because it is not done often and therefore not something we are familiar with.

Editorial: NLRB ruling hits entrepreneurs (Detroit News)
Last week, the National Labor Relations Board gave unions a big win — even by the Obama administration's labor-friendly standards. While that's good news for labor supporters, the so-called new joint employer rule could fundamentally harm a wide range of U.S. businesses.

Could Snyder or Obama win, now? (MLive)
If Gov. Rick Snyder and President Barack Obama were on the ballot today seeking re-election, how would they do?

Ken Braun: Too bad grand Rapids can't replace rapid transit route with Uber (MLive).
The new Silver Line rapid transit bus running through Grand Rapids has been operating for most of a year and now averages 56,000 rides per month. The CEO of The Rapid - Grand Rapids' public bus service - is cautiously optimistic, saying "it's a good sign of a new route developing its ridership base so quickly."

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Boating site opening for Lake Angeline in Upper Peninsula (AP)
A new $90,000 boating access site is opening for Lake Angeline in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Endangered bird populations rebound thanks to Michigan DNR and conservation work (Newswire – PR)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced on Tuesday that two endangered species of birds, the piping plover and the Kirtland's warbler, have been observed in record numbers in the state this year, which the DNR attributes to conservation efforts enacted with the help of partners.

LARA

MIOSHA receives customer service award for investing more than $1 Million in worker safety and health (Workers Compensation)
The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) recently received the William Q. Wierhdt Customer Service Award from federal OSHA for the success of its FY 2015 matching grant program that provided Michigan small businesses with more than $1 million toward worker protections. MIOSHA is part of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

MVAA

Honorably discharged veterans invited to present at event hosted by Gov. Snyder (Oakland Press)

MDOC

MI prisoners donate to give students back-to-school basics (WXYZ)
Inmates at southeast Michigan prisons have donated more than $27,000 to help provide back-to-school supplies for local students, according to a press release from the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Prisoners make donations to give children a better shot as success (MI News 26)
Most students in Michigan are already back in school or will be starting on Tuesday. As families prepare their children for the upcoming school year, not all are able to provide the back-to-school basics that are essential for their success. So, several Michigan prisoners have stepped up to help out.

MDOT

MDOT suspends construction for Labor Day holiday, urges safety (Midland Daily)
To accommodate motorists traveling throughout Michigan over the Labor Day holiday weekend, the Michigan Department of Transportation will remove traffic restrictions on 114 of 155 active projects statewide.

Why do truck weigh stations seem like they're always closed? (Michigan Radio)
There's a lot of talk (though as of yet, no action) about a long-term solution for fixing Michigan's crumbling roads.

MPSC

GOP-led Michigan will develop state compliance strategy for Clean Power Plan (Utility Drive)
Seeking to avoid placing the state's future in the hads of Washington "bureaucrats," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R) has announced that his state will develop a plan to comply with the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan.

MSP

Mid-Michigan residents fall victim to credit card fraud (WNEM)
Several residents in one Mid-Michigan community have fallen victim to credit card fraud.

Public enjoys a glimpse of work done by Michigan State Police (Daily News)
The Iron Mountain post of the Michigan State Police opened its doors to the public on Wednesday for its annual open house.

Extra officers continue drunk driving and seat belt enforcement during Labor Day holiday (WLNS)
There will be a lot of people out on the roads this holiday weekend and officers from police departments, sheriff's offices and the Michigan State Police will be on the lookout for impaired drivers and unbuckled motorists.

MSP trooper convicted an sexual assault charges (Lansing State Journal)
A Michigan State Police trooper was found guilty Thursday on four counts of second degree criminal sexual conduct.

Credit card information stolen at gas stations (WZZM)
Michigan State Police and the Ionia County Sheriff's Office are investigating reports of fraudulent credit card activity.

September is Michigan preparedness month (WSJM)
Governor Rick Snyder has declared September to be Michigan Preparedness Month, when everyone should be sure to take a couple of steps to ready themselves for any possible emergency that might occur. Ron Leix, with the Michigan State Police, says that as the fall approaches, you should be sure to have an emergency kit on hand.

September proclaimed as awareness month in Michigan (Petoskey News Review)
Gov. Rick Snyder proclaimed September as Preparedness Month to encourage Michiganders to plan and prepare for natural and human-made emergencies and disasters.

DETROIT NEWS

White Boy Rick wins bid to be resentenced (Detroit Free Press)

Richard Wershe Jr., who gained notoriety during the 1980s in Detroit as a young, flamboyant drug dealer known as White Boy Rick, won his bid for resentencing.

Auction of Taubman art collection expected to net $500M (Detroit Free Press)
More than 500 pieces of art owned by the late Detroit shopping mall magnate A. Alfred Taubman are heading to the auction block in New York, where they are expected to fetch more than $500 million -- the most valuable private collection ever offered for sale at auction, according to Sotheby's, which is handling the sale.

OPINION

Abortion coercion should be unlawful (Grand Haven Tribune)
No matter what side you are on regarding abortion, we would find it difficult not to be in favor of making it unlawful to force a pregnant woman to get one against her will.

Open carry isn't bad, it's just unexpected (Port Huron Times Herald)
People in Michigan tend to have a very negative viewpoint when they see people open carry firearms. I believe the main reason this makes people nervous is because it is not done often and therefore not something we are familiar with.

Editorial: NLRB ruling hits entrepreneurs (Detroit News)
Last week, the National Labor Relations Board gave unions a big win — even by the Obama administration's labor-friendly standards. While that's good news for labor supporters, the so-called new joint employer rule could fundamentally harm a wide range of U.S. businesses.

Could Snyder or Obama win, now? (MLive)
If Gov. Rick Snyder and President Barack Obama were on the ballot today seeking re-election, how would they do?

Ken Braun: Too bad grand Rapids can't replace rapid transit route with Uber (MLive).
The new Silver Line rapid transit bus running through Grand Rapids has been operating for most of a year and now averages 56,000 rides per month. The CEO of The Rapid - Grand Rapids' public bus service - is cautiously optimistic, saying "it's a good sign of a new route developing its ridership base so quickly."

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 10:41 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 9/16 Newsroom

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Germany/Frankfurt auto show
Governor talks with Paul W. Smith at the Frankurt auto show (WJR)
Paul W. Smith talks to Governor Rick Snyder live from Frankfurt, Germany about a variety of important issues affecting the state of Michigan including the FCA-UAW tentative agreement, the Governor's ongoing effort to improve the state's economy and recent MEDC budget cuts.

Flags lowered
Gov. Snyder orders flags at half-staff in honor of fallen firefighter (MI 26 News)
Governor Rick Snyder has ordered all U.S. and Michigan flags within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff on Wednesday in honor of Lansing firefighter Dennis Rodeman, who was killed last Wednesday.

Murdered Lansing firefighter to be laid to rest today, Governor orders flags to half-staff in his honor (WTVB)
Mourners have since donated over $125,000 to Rodeman's wife, who is pregnant with the couple's first child. Gov. Snyder has also ordered flags to be lowered to half-staff today to honor Rodeman's memory.

Funeral for Lansing firefighter set for Wednesday (WKZO)
Gov. Snyder has also ordered flags on Wednesday to be lowered to half-staff to honor Rodeman's memory.

Hundreds Expected At Funeral For Lansing Firefighter 'Deliberately' Run Down By Driver (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. and Michigan flags to be lowered to half-staff on Wednesday at the Capitol and all state buildings in Rodeman's honor.

Welcoming Week
Gov. Snyder trying to attract, retain immigrant students (WNEM)
Shahamatul Alam is from Bangladesh. He is an electrical engineering major at Saginaw Valley State University. "I think it's really great because a lot of the immigrant students they are looking for these kind of opportunities," Shahamatul Alam said. And he said he's glad to know Gov. Rick Snyder is targeting international students like him.

Benishek retirement

Benishek abruptly announces retirement at end of term (Freep)

Gov. Rick Snyder, another political newcomer who entered politics the same year Benishek did, thanked him for "an outstanding job" working for Michiganders in Congress. State Democratic Party Chairman Brandon Dillon, meanwhile, said Benishek's impending retirement is proof that Democratic policies continue to "resonate across the state."

Benishek Won't Seek Re-Election in 2016 (9&10 News)

Governor Snyder also released a statement about the congressman's retirement. He thanked Dr. Benishek for his service and believes he will continue actively helping people in the Upper Peninsula.

Benishek to retire after third term (WKZO)

Gov. Rick Snyder was appreciative of Benishek's work. "I thank the congressman for his lifetime of service and dedication to our state. Knowing how hard Dan works, I'm sure he'll continue to be active helping people in his beloved Upper Peninsula," Snyder said in a statement released Tuesday morning.

Flint water

Governor says he will work with Flint on water 'struggles' (Mlive)

Mayor Dayne Walling isn't getting much in the way of specific promises, but Gov. Rick Snyder's office says the state will continue to work with Flint on its water "struggles."

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

New Michigan autism resource launched at WMU (WMU News)

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and a number of Michigan legislators and state officials were at Western Michigan University Sept. 11 to help open a major new resource for Michigan families—Western's Evaluation Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental disorders—known as WECAN.

FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES

Michigan first lady attends safe sleep event in Livonia (Detroit News)

When Shareece Lee got a call regarding her daughter after getting off work several years ago, she knew something was horribly wrong.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

MDARD

Scammers set sights on property owners' black walnut trees (WZZM)

A new scam is targeting homeowners with black walnut trees. State officials say people are being approached to sell their trees because of a disease called Thousand Cankers.

Black walnut scammers lying about tree disease, Michigan officials warn (mLive)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development issued a notice this week, saying the Thousand Cankers Disease, (TCD) which targets walnut trees, has not been detected in Michigan.

EEE Found in Barry County Horse (EIN News)

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development today announced the state's first reported case in 2015 of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in a Barry County horse. The testing was done by the private practitioner who sent the blood sample directly to the United States Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa.

Barry County Horse Contracts Viral Disease (9&10 News)

A Michigan horse has been found with Eastern Equine Encephalitis, the first reported case this year. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development found the disease in a Barry County horse.

Michigan Reports First Equine EEE Case for 2015 (the Horse)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) announced Sept. 14 that the state's first reported case in 2015 of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) was identified earlier this month in a Barry County horse.

State issues mosquito warning after Michigan horse dies of encephalitis (mLive)
State agricultural officials are warning horse and animal owners to guard themselves against mosquitoes after a horse in Barry County was diagnosed with Eastern Equine Encephalitis earlier this summer.

MEDC
Dispute with Native American casino triggers Michigan Economic Development Corporation layoffs (WKZO-AM)
Sixty-five employees at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation have been given layoff notices because of a dispute between the Gun Lake Casino and the State of Michigan over online gambling.

MDOT
Quick Read: Repaving U.S. 31 (Petoskeynews.com)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is requiring a contractor who repaved the section of U.S. 31 through Bay View in April to redo the work because it did not meet department specifications.

Safety work begins on M-40 near truck stop (Allegan Co. News)
A deadly intersection northeast of Saugatuck-Douglas is getting a $1.5-million makeover scheduled to begin Wednesday. The Michigan Department of Transportation has started rebuilding and relocating the intersection of M-40 and Interchange Drive, meant to improve safety at the I-196 Holland exit.

Roundabout at Bloomfield/F-Hills border hits milestone (O&E Media)
The Road Commission for Oakland County and its Northwestern Connector project partners mark the official opening of the 14 Mile/Orchard Lake Road roundabout on the West Bloomfield Township/Farmington Hills border at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 21. West Bloomfield Township government officials, Farmington Hills government officials and representatives of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), consulting engineering firm OHM Advisors, contractor Dan's Excavating, Oakland County commissioners and state and federal elected officials. RCOC Board members and Managing Director Dennis Kolar will host the event.

MDHHS
Michigan's Bubonic plague victim speaks out (NEWSCHANNEL 3)
Health officials believe Plescher caught the plague from a flea bite. They say it's unlikely for the plague to spread. "Human-to-human transmission in any type of plague is extremely rare," says Jennifer Smith, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. "In this type of plague, it's the bubonic plague which affects the lymph nodes and did not affect the lungs. When plague becomes possibly human to human transmittable, it's when it affects the lungs."

New Michigan autism resource launched at WMU (WMU News)
WECAN is one of several elements of the WMU Autism Center of Excellence, which was funded by a special $4 million appropriation by the Michigan Legislature that is administered through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The funding for service and training is designed to increase Michigan's capacity to train professionals and expand services so that families will not have to wait so long for diagnosis and treatment. WECAN opened for client appointments on Monday, Sept. 14.

DEQ
Activists urge residents to keep voices heard in Flint water issue (mLIVE)
Research done at Virginia Tech concluded there was a serious problem with lead in Flint water, including 10 percent of homes that had 25 parts per billion of lead or more -- far more than the allowable level -- 15 ppb -- set in federal

guidelines, but the city and state Department of Environmental Quality have said water sampling by the city shows lead levels are within state and federal standards.

State grant for Adrian Twp. sewer investigation awarded (Daily Telegram)
At the Adrian Township Board meeting on Monday, Supervisor Jim Koehn informed the board that the township has been approved to receive a $342,910 grant through Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater Program. The township will be responsible for covering 10 percent of that total cost.

MDE
College debt debate more than simply reducing college costs (mLIVE)
With college affordability much on the minds of Michigan families, residents support a variety of innovative programs that can earn students free credit hours and reduce post-degree debt.

Democrats unveil "Yes Means Yes" bills meant to prevent campus sexual assaults (Michigan Radio)
If some Democrats in Lansing get their way, all high school sex education classes would teach that "yes means yes" when it comes to sex.
The legislation says anything short of a conscious "yes" does not count as consent to sex.Michigan does not require that districts have a sex education program in any grade. As of 2012, the Michigan Department of Education says 92% of schools had a sex education program. That could mean a school has one class on reproductive health.

SOS
Michigan state audit reveals millions wasted (Click On Detroit)
For more than a decade, the Michigan Secretary of State's office tried and failed at upgrading its driver's license, vehicle and voter registration computer system. According to a 3-year-old audit report done by the Auditor General's office, the project started in September 2003 at an estimated cost of $50 million. The audit found that nine years after the Business Application Modernization (BAM) Project started it still needed improved oversight.

MSP
City named safest in state (C&G Newspapers)
A new report names Rochester Hills the safest city in Michigan. Munetrix, a state-based data aggregator, listed the city as No. 1 among local municipalities with populations over 50,000. After collecting data over three years, Munetrix found Rochester Hills' crime rate of 2.47 percent per capita to be the lowest. The city's crime rate has decreased every year since 2008.

MacInnis asks for outside audit by state police of McGulpin Point gift shop (Petoskey News)
Emmet County commissioner Charlie MacInnis suggested at the board's administration meeting Tuesday that officials consider having an outside audit conducted by Michigan State Police regarding the handling of gift shop merchandise at McGulpin Point Lighthouse, but fellow commissioner Les Atchison said his fellow commissioner is "making mountains out of mole hills."

TED
Training, placement program aims for jobs (Cheboygan Daily Tribune)
Through a multi-agency collaboration, the Digital Works job training and placement assistance program will soon provide a new opportunity in Cheboygan for job-seekers. Program orientations at the new facility, 504 Division St.,in Cheboygan, are scheduled to start Tuesday, Sept. 22. More than 500 jobs have been secured by graduates of the Digital Works program since it launched in Ohio in 2013, according to a news release from Connected Nation.

DMVA
Lansing Veteran Expo offers two days of help, resources (WLNS)
Lansing area veterans can find two-days of free resources and other help this weekend. The event is hosted by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and will offer on-site services and access to resources to veterans and their families.

College, state programs prepare veterans for life after military (Crain's Detroit Business)
Phil Larson remembers taking off a uniform he no longer would wear as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and asking himself questions as he moved into civilian life: "Who am I? What's my meaning?"

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Changes sought in Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (WLNS)
State lawmakers Tim Greimel and Jeremy Moss will be introducing a plan that would expand the Freedom of Information Act to cover the state legislature as well as the Governor's office.

Democrats unveil "Yes Means Yes" bills meant to prevent campus sexual assaults (Michigan Radio)
If some Democrats in Lansing get their way, all high school sex education classes would teach that "yes means yes" when it comes to sex.

DETROIT

Biden visit to herald Detroit transportation upgrades (Detroit Free Press)
Vice President Joe Biden will travel to Detroit on Thursday to meet with Mayor Mike Duggan and talk about what the city is characterizing as "major improvements" to the Detroit Department of Transportation.

State to process Detroit individual income tax returns (AP)
The Michigan Department of Treasury will process City of Detroit individual income taxes starting in January as part of a partnership aimed at improving efficiency.

Lions event gets third-graders thinking healthy (Detroit News)
Jamar Cuyler is used to school lunch, so having something different was a change for him. Jamar, a third-grader at Mason Elementary School in Detroit, was on a special field trip to Eastern Market for the Lions' Meet Up & Eat Up program on Tuesday, but he wasn't happy with the selection.

Jones Day to host party at Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit Free Press)
The private lawyers who spearheaded the city of Detroit's voyage through the nation's largest municipal bankruptcy will celebrate with a party next month at the museum most at risk during the financial crisis.

Detroit takes center stage in 'City as a Startup' event (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit takes another step today toward cementing its reputation as fertile ground for budding entrepreneurs, as the Venture for America program stages its second "City as a Startup" conference in the Motor City.

Detroit arts organizations get funding for training (Detroit News)
More than two dozen Detroit-based nonprofit arts organizations were selected Tuesday by New York-based Bloomberg Philanthropies to partake in the foundation's $30 million Arts Innovation and Management program.

Detroit council weighing strict pot shop rules (Detroit News)
The city's first attempt at regulating medical marijuana dispensaries has made it to the council table in strict legislation aimed at quashing Detroit's proliferation of so-called pot shops.

OPINION

Michael J. Nichols: Gamrat, voters denied due process (Battle Creek enquirer)
The recent resignation of Republican state Rep. Todd Courser and the expulsion of Republican State Representative Cindy Gamrat leave a bad taste for me.

Should Michigan repeal Legislative term limits? (Detroit Free Press)

Should Michigan expand or eliminate term limits? Free Press Editorial Page Editor Stephen Henderson took up the question on "Detroit Today,' on 101.9 (WDET) with Michigan Radio Lansing Bureau Chief Rick Pluta.

Wage stagnation, inequality and the 2016 election (Detroit Free Press)
Because it's not even 2016 yet, there's far more comparison among the presidential candidates in the two major parties than there is between the two parties themselves, and what they're offering.

Why I'm vote for the Iran nuclear deal (Detroit Free Press)
The goal of negotiations between world powers and Iran has always been to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. After careful review of the agreement, I am confident that it accomplishes its intended goal.

Editorial: Keep day in court to just one day (Detroit News)
Local courts in Michigan now have an option for resolving civil disputes more quickly, and with less inconvenience and uncertainty for all parties.

Bieber: Lawmaker must protect prevailing wage (Detroit News)
There's been a lot of talk in Lansing about fixing our roads over the past few years, but so far not a lot of real action. The roads are worse than ever, and virtually every plan that's been discussed would stick regular, everyday working people with the bill.

Finley: Loans to help diversity city's comeback (Detroit News)
Access to capital is a challenge for any small entrepreneur, but particularly for minorities, who often have fewer personal resources to draw on and a smaller network of potential funders in their circle of family and friends.

On Courser-Gamrat and Trump, Agema gives views, avoids making news (MLive)
Nobody around here can remember the last time David Agema made news and it did not blow up the Internet or foster more calls for him to quit.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 10:41 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 9/24 Newsroom
Attachments: 150924 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Chinese president visit
Chinese president pledges cooperation on cyber issues (AP)
Earlier Tuesday, meetings with governors from five U.S. states and local Chinese officials produced the deal to work on clean energy. "We can be the core for our national leaders to learn from," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who has made five trips to China in five years, told his counterparts.

China's President Xi Jinping Visits the U.S. (WDET)
China: Governor Snyder met with President Xi several times about development in Michigan. "The Governor has taken five trips to China since he's taken office," Watkins says, "It is paying off with jobs and investments in this state."

Fostering futures
Benefit seeks to help former foster children pay for college (AP)
The Michigan Education Trust and the state departments of Treasury and Health and Human Services are hosting Thursday night's fundraiser at Detroit's Atheneum hotel. Gov. Rick Snyder and his wife are honorary chairpersons of Fostering Futures. About 13,000 students are in the Michigan foster care system and many want to attend college, but the state says fewer than 10 percent enroll after high school and less than 3 percent get a college degree. The state says a lack of financial resources is a reason.

MISCELLANEOUS

Candice Miller endorses Carly Fiorina for president (Freep)
A few days after introducing her to the crowd at the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference, U.S. Rep. Candice Miller on Wednesday announced her endorsement of former Hewlett-Packard head Carly Fiorina in the race for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Researchers finish study of Michigan oil, gas fracking (Idaho Statesmen)

Michigan's oil and gas industry and its regulators have a long way to go toward convincing the public that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is environmentally sound, said the director of a study on the practice released Wednesday.

U-M releases final report on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in Michigan (EurekAlert)
University of Michigan researchers today released the final version of a report analyzing policy options for the state of Michigan regarding high-volume hydraulic fracturing, the natural gas and oil extraction process commonly known as fracking.

Mackinac Straits oil spill response drill set Thursday (Petoskey News)
Hundreds of emergency management personnel are scheduled to respond to a mock oil spill Thursday in the Mackinac Straits to train for the possibility of a real spill.

New ACLU video gets tough with Flint officials over lead levels (Metro Times)
A new video from the Michigan ACLU offers some new findings, as well as some very uncomfortable interviews with city officials, as the organization continues to seek justice for residents who have hazardous water coming out of their faucets.

Conservators Making Significant Progress on River Raisin Recovery Efforts (WDET)
The US Environmental Protection Agency is removing a couple of ecological issues from the River Raisin thanks to recent recovery efforts. Conservators have restored the waterway's ability to support healthy fish and wildlife populations. Melanie Foose is an Area of Concern Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. She says, for example, crews worked to create bypasses around decades-old dams in the river.

Hazardous waste facility's expansion prompts worries (The Detroit News)
The expansion of operations at a hazardous waste facility in Detroit near the Hamtramck border has raised safety questions among some of those who live in or represent the area. Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality is considering a new permit for U.S. Ecology, located on Georgia Street near the city's border with Hamtramck. The site, zoned for heavy industrial, has been used to treat and store waste products, including hazardous materials, for nearly 20 years.

DMVA
'Michigan Says Thanks' event to honor Vietnam War era veterans and families (Macomb Daily News)
Michigan's Vietnam veterans, whether drafted or enlisted, served our country with honor. Tragically, too many returned home with little thanks for their service and not much help transitioning to civilian life. In October, we will spend some time thanking and honoring veterans of the Vietnam War era and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.

Baker College earns status as 'veteran-friendly' school (The Voice)
Baker College has earned the gold-level status as a veteran-friendly school through a program created by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). The Veteran-Friendly School program recognizes institutions of higher learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents, and awards gold-, silver- and bronze-level statuses to institutions based on their veteran-centric services.

DNR
More cleanup efforts planned at storm-damaged trail system (9 & 10 News)
More cleanup efforts are planned for a trail system in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula that was hit hard by severe thunderstorms last month.

Ensuring a clear path for snowmobiles (Record Eagle)
Expansion of snowmobile trails could boost local economies but may lead to conflicts about crossing private land. In a move to head off such conflicts, a new Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant program will allow local governments and organizations to purchase permanent easements for snowmobile trails that cross private property.

73-year-old great-grandmother shoots Michigan black bear (Monroe News)
Like your typical great-grandmother, Karen Kuch enjoys doing crossword puzzles, reading books and baking. But Kuch is anything but typical. Measuring in at 4 feet, 11 inches tall, the 73-year-old great-grandmother traveled to Michigan's Upper Peninsula recently with her Ruger 44 Magnum rifle and successfully hunted a 220-pound Michigan black bear.

Michigan reduces stocking of salmon in Lake Michigan (AP)
The state of Michigan is stocking fewer salmon in Lake Michigan amid concerns over food supply. About 560,000 salmon were stocked in Lake Michigan this year, two-thirds less than three years ago. WOOD-TV reports a state Department of Natural Resources representative says there are fewer prey fish, such as alewife, for salmon to eat, and stocking too many salmon could result in the fishery collapsing

LTBB Surveys Sturgeon on Burt Lake to Gather Information (9 & 10 News)
A local Native American tribe is making efforts to examine the sturgeon population.The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians has been surveying sturgeon for almost two weeks now. They've been catching sturgeon in gill nets to gather information on the fish in Burt Lake in Cheboygan County.

A slow start to fall fishing on the Big Manistee (Up North Live)
The warm weather a lot of us have been enjoying isn't exactly what anglers have been hoping for. Granted fall is just beginning, but by now there should be plenty of fish in the Manistee. But with water temps in the river still in the mid 60's, the fish just aren't there yet.

Invasive species study up close (Record Eagle)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife staff recently completed the removal of a high-threat aquatic invasive plant known as yellow floating heart as part of the state's Early Detection and Response program.

LARA
ACLU threatens action against Catholic hospital (The Detroit News)
The American Civil Liberties Union threatened action Wednesday against a Grand Blanc Catholic hospital for refusing a seriously ill woman's request to be sterilized during her scheduled C-section next month. Jessica Mann, 33, of Flushing, has a life-threatening brain tumor and is 35 weeks pregnant, according to the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. Genesys Regional Medical Center — part of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic health system — has refused to allow Mann's obstetrician to perform a tubal ligation at the time of the cesarean procedure.

Huntington gives Lansing region $5M for business lending (Lansing State Journal)
Though Rodney Singleton is two years away from retirement, he is already is looking for something to keep him occupied when that time comes. "I am not a golf guy," said Singleton, who works for the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

MDE
Ithaca could owe state $1 million for violations (Morning Sun News)
Ithaca Public Schools may be on the hook for over $1 million to the Michigan Department of Education after an audit of the school's online learning program, known as iSchool, revealed improperly-documented participation of hundreds of students since the fall of 2014. In a letter to the Ithaca School Board, on which the district staff was also copied, Gratiot-Isabella RESD Superintendent Jan Amsterburg, also serving as acting superintendent for the Ithaca district, said the audit findings put into question the legitimacy of student membership.

High schools see curriculum tweaks, new activities (C & G News)
With a new school year come tweaks to the schools themselves, and while East Detroit and Roseville high schools may not have any drastic changes this time around, those changes that have been made should make an impact on students. East Detroit High School Principal Scott Johnson said his school has added a career counselor this year — someone who will help students fill out applications for financial aid and prepare for post-secondary education or careers.

MDHHS

St. Clair County Health Department launches immunization coalition (The Voice)

The St. Clair County Health Department and MPRO, as part of the Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network, recently partnered to develop the St. Clair County Adult Immunization Coalition. The coalition will bring together health care professionals to address barriers that exist in recommending and providing immunizations to patients throughout the county, according to a release from MPRO, a non-profit health care quality improvement organization.

MSU Working to Raise Flu Vaccination Rate (WLIX)

The majority of college students are skipping the flu shot, which has state health experts teaming up with schools to improve vaccination rates.

State gets funding for colorectal cancer screenings (Public Radio 90)

Michigan has received a five-year grant to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the state. The money was awarded to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Cancer Prevention and Control Section from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Officials are hoping to increase screening rates from the current 72 percent to 80 percent by 2018.

MDOT

Legislation calls for Great Lakes crude shipment ban, studies on alternatives to Line 5 (Petoskey News)

As hundreds prepare to gather for an oil spill response drill in the Mackinac Straits, Michigan's two U.S. senators announced new legislation introduced in hopes of preventing such a spill in the Great Lakes. In a conference call Wednesday, U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow announced their proposed Pipeline Improvement and Preventing Spills Act, which if put into effect would examine alternatives to Line 5 — twin oil pipelines running through the Mackinac Straits — and ban the shipping of crude oil by vessel on the Great Lakes, among other measures in protecting the Great Lakes from an oil spill.

Fear the deer (Ionia Sentinel)

There were 450 vehicle-deer accidents in Ionia County last year and October is one of the most dangerous months for driving, according to the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition. Six people died and 1,702 people were injured in Michigan last year in vehicle-deer accidents and 42 percent of all these types of crashes happen in the fall, according to the MDCC.

MEDC

Port Of Monroe To Get Major Improvements (Daily Detroit)

The City of Monroe's harbor will be undergoing major improvements and alterations in an effort to transform it into a leading cargo transportation center on the Great Lakes. The harbor is a critical economic resource, though many people probably don't even know about it.

Located on the western edge of Lake Erie, the port provides direct access to all five of the Great Lakes and serves 17 states.

Carhartt To Invest $18.6 Million For HQ Expansion In Dearborn, Hire 215 (Daily Detroit)

Unless you've been living under a rock for the last several months, you've probably heard about the new Carhartt location that opened in the Midtown neighborhood of Detroit earlier this summer. Carhartt, founded in Detroit in 1889, is a garment manufacturer best known for work clothes such as jackets, coats, overalls, coveralls, vests and more.

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Sept. 24, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Chinese president visit
Chinese president pledges cooperation on cyber issues (AP)
Earlier Tuesday, meetings with governors from five U.S. states and local Chinese officials produced the deal to work on clean energy. "We can be the core for our national leaders to learn from," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, who has made five trips to China in five years, told his counterparts.

China's President Xi Jinping Visits the U.S. (WDET)
China: Governor Snyder met with President Xi several times about development in Michigan. "The Governor has taken five trips to China since he's taken office," Watkins says, "It is paying off with jobs and investments in this state."

Fostering futures
Benefit seeks to help former foster children pay for college (AP)
The Michigan Education Trust and the state departments of Treasury and Health and Human Services are hosting Thursday night's fundraiser at Detroit's Atheneum hotel. Gov. Rick Snyder and his wife are honorary chairpersons of Fostering Futures. About 13,000 students are in the Michigan foster care system and many want to attend college, but the state says fewer than 10 percent enroll after high school and less than 3 percent get a college degree. The state says a lack of financial resources is a reason.

MISCELLANEOUS

Candice Miller endorses Carly Fiorina for president (Freep)
A few days after introducing her to the crowd at the Mackinac Republican Leadership Conference, U.S. Rep. Candice Miller on Wednesday announced her endorsement of former Hewlett-Packard head Carly Fiorina in the race for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Researchers finish study of Michigan oil, gas fracking (Idaho Statesmen)
Michigan's oil and gas industry and its regulators have a long way to go toward convincing the public that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is environmentally sound, said the director of a study on the practice released Wednesday.

U-M releases final report on high-volume hydraulic fracturing in Michigan (EurekAlert)

University of Michigan researchers today released the final version of a report analyzing policy options for the state of Michigan regarding high-volume hydraulic fracturing, the natural gas and oil extraction process commonly known as fracking.

Mackinac Straits oil spill response drill set Thursday (Petoskey News)
Hundreds of emergency management personnel are scheduled to respond to a mock oil spill Thursday in the Mackinac Straits to train for the possibility of a real spill.

New ACLU video gets tough with Flint officials over lead levels (Metro Times)
A new video from the Michigan ACLU offers some new findings, as well as some very uncomfortable interviews with city officials, as the organization continues to seek justice for residents who have hazardous water coming out of their faucets.

Conservators Making Significant Progress on River Raisin Recovery Efforts (WDET)
The US Environmental Protection Agency is removing a couple of ecological issues from the River Raisin thanks to recent recovery efforts. Conservators have restored the waterway's ability to support healthy fish and wildlife populations. Melanie Foose is an Area of Concern Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. She says, for example, crews worked to create bypasses around decades-old dams in the river.

Hazardous waste facility's expansion prompts worries (The Detroit News)
The expansion of operations at a hazardous waste facility in Detroit near the Hamtramck border has raised safety questions among some of those who live in or represent the area. Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality is considering a new permit for U.S. Ecology, located on Georgia Street near the city's border with Hamtramck. The site, zoned for heavy industrial, has been used to treat and store waste products, including hazardous materials, for nearly 20 years.

DMVA
'Michigan Says Thanks' event to honor Vietnam War era veterans and families (Macomb Daily News)
Michigan's Vietnam veterans, whether drafted or enlisted, served our country with honor. Tragically, too many returned home with little thanks for their service and not much help transitioning to civilian life. In October, we will spend some time thanking and honoring veterans of the Vietnam War era and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.

Baker College earns status as 'veteran-friendly' school (The Voice)
Baker College has earned the gold-level status as a veteran-friendly school through a program created by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). The Veteran-Friendly School program recognizes institutions of higher learning for their dedication to student veterans and dependents, and awards gold-, silver- and bronze-level statuses to institutions based on their veteran-centric services.

DNR
More cleanup efforts planned at storm-damaged trail system (9 & 10 News)
More cleanup efforts are planned for a trail system in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula that was hit hard by severe thunderstorms last month.

Ensuring a clear path for snowmobiles (Record Eagle)
Expansion of snowmobile trails could boost local economies but may lead to conflicts about crossing private land. In a move to head off such conflicts, a new Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant program will allow local governments and organizations to purchase permanent easements for snowmobile trails that cross private property.

73-year-old great-grandmother shoots Michigan black bear (Monroe News)
Like your typical great-grandmother, Karen Kuch enjoys doing crossword puzzles, reading books and baking. But Kuch is anything but typical. Measuring in at 4 feet, 11 inches tall, the 73-year-old great-grandmother traveled to Michigan's Upper Peninsula recently with her Ruger 44 Magnum rifle and successfully hunted a 220-pound Michigan black bear.

Michigan reduces stocking of salmon in Lake Michigan (AP)
The state of Michigan is stocking fewer salmon in Lake Michigan amid concerns over food supply. About 560,000 salmon were stocked in Lake Michigan this year, two-thirds less than three years ago. WOOD-TV reports a state Department of Natural Resources representative says there are fewer prey fish, such as alewife, for salmon to eat, and stocking too many salmon could result in the fishery collapsing

LTBB Surveys Sturgeon on Burt Lake to Gather Information (9 & 10 News)
A local Native American tribe is making efforts to examine the sturgeon population.The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians has been surveying sturgeon for almost two weeks now. They've been catching sturgeon in gill nets to gather information on the fish in Burt Lake in Cheboygan County.

A slow start to fall fishing on the Big Manistee (Up North Live)
The warm weather a lot of us have been enjoying isn't exactly what anglers have been hoping for. Granted fall is just beginning, but by now there should be plenty of fish in the Manistee. But with water temps in the river still in the mid 60's, the fish just aren't there yet.

Invasive species study up close (Record Eagle)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife staff recently completed the removal of a high-threat aquatic invasive plant known as yellow floating heart as part of the state's Early Detection and Response program.

LARA
ACLU threatens action against Catholic hospital (The Detroit News)
The American Civil Liberties Union threatened action Wednesday against a Grand Blanc Catholic hospital for refusing a seriously ill woman's request to be sterilized during her scheduled C-section next month. Jessica Mann, 33, of Flushing, has a life-threatening brain tumor and is 35 weeks pregnant, according to the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan. Genesys Regional Medical Center — part of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic health system — has refused to allow Mann's obstetrician to perform a tubal ligation at the time of the cesarean procedure.

Huntington gives Lansing region $5M for business lending (Lansing State Journal)
Though Rodney Singleton is two years away from retirement, he is already is looking for something to keep him occupied when that time comes. "I am not a golf guy," said Singleton, who works for the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

MDE
Ithaca could owe state $1 million for violations (Morning Sun News)
Ithaca Public Schools may be on the hook for over $1 million to the Michigan Department of Education after an audit of the school's online learning program, known as iSchool, revealed improperly-documented participation of hundreds of students since the fall of 2014. In a letter to the Ithaca School Board, on which the district staff was also copied, Gratiot-Isabella RESD Superintendent Jan Amsterburg, also serving as acting superintendent for the Ithaca district, said the audit findings put into question the legitimacy of student membership.

High schools see curriculum tweaks, new activities (C & G News)

With a new school year come tweaks to the schools themselves, and while East Detroit and Roseville high schools may not have any drastic changes this time around, those changes that have been made should make an impact on students. East Detroit High School Principal Scott Johnson said his school has added a career counselor this year — someone who will help students fill out applications for financial aid and prepare for post-secondary education or careers.

MDHHS

St. Clair County Health Department launches immunization coalition (The Voice)
The St. Clair County Health Department and MPRO, as part of the Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network, recently partnered to develop the St. Clair County Adult Immunization Coalition. The coalition will bring together health care professionals to address barriers that exist in recommending and providing immunizations to patients throughout the county, according to a release from MPRO, a non-profit health care quality improvement organization.

MSU Working to Raise Flu Vaccination Rate (WLIX)
The majority of college students are skipping the flu shot, which has state health experts teaming up with schools to improve vaccination rates.

State gets funding for colorectal cancer screenings (Public Radio 90)
Michigan has received a five-year grant to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the state. The money was awarded to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Cancer Prevention and Control Section from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Officials are hoping to increase screening rates from the current 72 percent to 80 percent by 2018.

MDOT

Legislation calls for Great Lakes crude shipment ban, studies on alternatives to Line 5 (Petoskey News)
As hundreds prepare to gather for an oil spill response drill in the Mackinac Straits, Michigan's two U.S. senators announced new legislation introduced in hopes of preventing such a spill in the Great Lakes. In a conference call Wednesday, U.S. Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow announced their proposed Pipeline Improvement and Preventing Spills Act, which if put into effect would examine alternatives to Line 5 — twin oil pipelines running through the Mackinac Straits — and ban the shipping of crude oil by vessel on the Great Lakes, among other measures in protecting the Great Lakes from an oil spill.

Fear the deer (Ionia Sentinel)
There were 450 vehicle-deer accidents in Ionia County last year and October is one of the most dangerous months for driving, according to the Michigan Deer Crash Coalition. Six people died and 1,702 people were injured in Michigan last year in vehicle-deer accidents and 42 percent of all these types of crashes happen in the fall, according to the MDCC.

MEDC

Port Of Monroe To Get Major Improvements (Daily Detroit)
The City of Monroe's harbor will be undergoing major improvements and alterations in an effort to transform it into a leading cargo transportation center on the Great Lakes. The harbor is a critical economic resource, though many people probably don't even know about it.
Located on the western edge of Lake Erie, the port provides direct access to all five of the Great Lakes and serves 17 states.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 10:07 AM
Subject: 9/25 Newsroom
Attachments: 150925 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Friday, Sept. 25, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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Brian Calley, Richard Bernstein hosting WCC event on hiring workers with disabilities (Mlive)
To help solve that problem, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Bernstein are bringing their Hidden Talent Tour to Washtenaw Community College Thursday night. The event will feature an open discussion on workers with disabilities.

Xemplar Club welcomes Lieutenant Governor in Farmington (Farmington Voice)
Michigan Lt. Governor Brian Calley told a group of Farmington area civic leaders Wednesday that Michigan's unemployment rate could go lower, if employers will consider widening their hiring horizons.

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AG
Nevada attorney general joins others in launching investigation of Volkswagen (Las Vegas Sun)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office said Thursday he and at least 26 other attorneys general will send subpoenas to the German automaker. Spokeswoman Andrea Bitely says many states will investigate both through their consumer protection and environmental protection divisions.

People ripped off by Western Sky loans to get refunds (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan consumers who were ripped off by illegal, high-priced loans from Western Sky Financial and CashCall are expected to see refund checks by Oct. 2 as part of an earlier-announced multimillion-dollar settlement. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services Director Patrick McPharlin announced the final claim details this week.

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In the News

Friday, Sept. 25, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Brian Calley, Richard Bernstein hosting WCC event on hiring workers with disabilities (Mlive)
To help solve that problem, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Bernstein are bringing their Hidden Talent Tour to Washtenaw Community College Thursday night. The event will feature an open discussion on workers with disabilities.

Xemplar Club welcomes Lieutenant Governor in Farmington (Farmington Voice)
Michigan Lt. Governor Brian Calley told a group of Farmington area civic leaders Wednesday that Michigan's unemployment rate could go lower, if employers will consider widening their hiring horizons.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Nevada attorney general joins others in launching investigation of Volkswagen (Las Vegas Sun)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office said Thursday he and at least 26 other attorneys general will send subpoenas to the German automaker. Spokeswoman Andrea Bitely says many states will investigate both through their consumer protection and environmental protection divisions.

People ripped off by Western Sky loans to get refunds (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan consumers who were ripped off by illegal, high-priced loans from Western Sky Financial and CashCall are expected to see refund checks by Oct. 2 as part of an earlier-announced multimillion-dollar settlement. Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette and Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services Director Patrick McPharlin announced the final claim details this week.

DEQ
Agencies, Enbridge plan Straits of Mackinac oil spill drill (AP)
State and federal agencies are teaming with pipeline operator Enbridge Energy Partners for an oil spill response exercise in the area where crude is piped beneath the Great Lakes. More than 300 people are joining the drill on Thursday, which will simulate a leak from Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac. The twin lines carry 23 million gallons of crude daily. It's part of a network that runs from North Dakota to Sarnia, Ontario.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 9:50 AM
Subject: 9/28 Newsroom
Attachments: 150928 Newsroom.docx

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Amazon announcing creation of tech hub in Detroit (Freep)
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Amazon, supplier Lear to announce ventures in Detroit (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder and the presidents of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University will be on hand for the Amazon announcement. For several years, Amazon has had a recruiting and internship relationship with both universities.

Event previews
Snyder to address Middle Eastern commission (LSJ)
Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to address the inaugural meeting of the Michigan Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs on Tuesday. The state Department of Civil Rights said in a news release that the commission, created earlier this year by executive order, will meet for the first time at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights headquarters on the eighth floor of the Capital Tower Building, 110 W. Michigan Ave., the department said in a news release.

Gov. Rick Snyder to unveil new economic initiative during River Rouge visit (Southgate News Herald)
Gov. Rick Snyder will visit River Rouge on Monday to unveil a new initiative designed to help communities build successful economic frameworks. The announcement will be made at 2:30 p.m. at River Rouge's city hall, 10600 W. Jefferson Ave.

Moving Michigan Forward
Snyder fund still collects cash from undisclosed donors (Freep)
Moving Michigan Forward, which, like the NERD Fund, is intended to reduce the financial burden of state government

and improve Michigan's social and business climate, reported raising just more than $400,000 in 2014. The website identified all of the 27 individual and corporate donors and how much each gave.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

Schuette asks counties for number of untested rape kits (The Detroit News)
Michigan's attorney general is asking prosecutors to report the number of untested rape-evidence kits in their counties. Bill Schuette's letter to county prosecutors Friday is the first step toward the state covering the cost to eliminate an unknown backlog of untested sexual assault kits statewide.

DEQ

Residents want to block hazardous waste plant expansion (Fox 2 Detroit)
Owners of a Detroit waste management plant want to expand their company, but people living nearby, say no. The company has requested that Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality grant it a new permit allowing the company to increase its hazardous waste storage.

Reaction pours in after doctors warn of rising lead levels in Flint kids (MLive)
A group representing Genesee County doctors has joined the call for pregnant mothers and others in high-risk groups to avoid drinking Flint water.
The Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors approved a resolution Tuesday, Sept. 25, encouraging breast feeding, advising no use of Flint tap water by infants who are fed formula, and encouraging the city to end its use of the Flint River as a water source "as soon as is practicable."

Researchers: Lead levels up after Flint switches to cheaper water supply (Aljazeera America)
Researchers have found high levels of lead in the water supply in Flint, Michigan, after the economically battered city switched its water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River in an attempt to save money. The city issued a lead warning on Friday, ramping up residents' health concerns — and questions about the tradeoffs cash-strapped cities make to revive their economies.

DIFS

People ripped off by Western Sky loans to get refunds (Detroit Free Press)
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Checks in high-interest lender settlement to reach Michigan mailboxes by next month (WKZO-AM)
Refund-eligible borrowers will split $2.2 million that was refunded to the state by South Dakota-based Western Sky Financial and California-based CashCall. Attorney General Bill Schutte said the checks should reaching Michigan mailboxes by next month.

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Data that the State of Michigan released last week to refute a hospital researcher's claim that an increasing number of Flint children have been lead-poisoned since the city switched its water supply actually supports the hospital's findings, a Free Press analysis has shown.

DMVA

New leadership for GR Home for Vets (WoodTv)
A big shake up in leadership at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, as two administrative positions have been eliminated. Sara Dunne, the administrator, and Eric Alderman, the director of operations, will no longer be in charge of the facility.

DNR

Health department says West Nile Virus detected in Branch County (WTVB)

Mosquitoes are still biting with the warm early fall weather and the health department in Coldwater is reporting Branch County's first case this year of West Nile virus, which was detected in 3 dead birds turned in by county residents to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Branch Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency also said yesterday another bird, a wild turkey, was submitted by a St. Joseph County resident in late August.

DNR to hold public input session about Fisherman's Island Park in Charlevoix (MiNews 26)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be hosting an open house to hear public input on a new draft General Management Plan for Fisherman's Island State Park in Charlevoix County.

Lake Sturgeon stocked in Whitefish River (Upper Michigan's Source)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocked a Lake Michigan stream Friday morning with 1,180 lake sturgeon. It's part of an effort to repopulate the threatened species across the Great Lakes Region.

Agencies join in oil recovery exercise (Cheboygan News)

The Canadian company Enbridge held an emergency response exercise in the Straits of Mackinac Thursday, testing the company's readiness in the event of a break in Line 5, the pipeline which runs under the Straits that has continually pumped light crude oil and natural gas liquids since its construction in 1953.

DTMB

Lenawee County jobless rate falls to 4.4% (Lenconnect.com)

Lenawee County's jobless rate dropped to 4.4 percent in August from July's 5.6 percent as school support staff began returning to work, according to reports issued Thursday by the Michigan Department of Technology,

Jobless Rates Down in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek Labor Markets in August (WMUK)

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget says the jobless rate in the Kalamazoo-Portage labor market was 4.2% in August, down from 5.9% last year in Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The Battle Creek labor market's unemployment rate was 4.6% last month. The jobless rate in Calhoun County was 6.1% in August of last year.

MEDC

Downtown developments moving forward despite difficulties (Petosky News)

Developers with two major downtown redevelopment projects in Boyne City recently learned that they are in line for some state economic development funds critical to the financial viability of the projects. But the process has been anything but quick, or easy.

Port of Monroe gets $3 million loan for improvements (Monroe News)

A major infrastructure project at the Port of Monroe could change the landscape of the local economy while promoting similar port projects throughout the state. On Tuesday, the Michigan Strategic Fund approved up to a $3 million loan from its investment funds to improve the port, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced.

AMCAB awarded $1.1 million in grants to help U.P. homeless (Upper Michigan's Source)

The Alger Marquette Community Action Board has been awarded three separate grants to serve homeless individuals and families across the Upper Peninsula.

MDE

Vanderbilt Area School transitioning to state treasury oversight (Gaylord Harold Times)

The Michigan Department of Education reported Vanderbilt Area Schools as one of 16 Michigan schools on an early warning deficit list. The list includes schools that have run a deficit for more than five years or schools projected to be running a deficit for more than five years.

Parents Complain Students From Adjacent Districts 'Overcrowding' Their Schools (Michigan Capitol Confidential)

A recent story in the Lansing State Journal on a Michigan public school choice program featured parents from two different school districts complaining that the program is causing overcrowded classrooms in their own districts. But data from the Michigan Department of Education show that the complaints are not supported by the historical record. Enrollment at one of those districts has been in decline for the past eight years, while the other has not experienced any significant enrollment increase.

MDCR

Applicants for Civil Rights chief to be reviewed (Lansing State Journal)
The Michigan Civil Rights Commission will on Monday determine which of the applicants for the soon-to-be-open executive director position will be interviewed, the state Department of Civil Rights has announced.

MSP

Michigan State Police Departments Host National Prescription Drug Take Back Day (9 & 10 News)
The Drug Enforcement Administration is holding a national prescription drug take back day. Michigan State Police encourage people to drop off unwanted, unused, and expired prescriptions so they can be properly disposed of.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Cutting Michigan's Income Tax Would Also Lessen Corporate Welfare Burden (Michigan Capitol Confedential)
Michigan lawmakers who would like to cut the state's personal income tax rate may have found their way eased by a largely overlooked benefit: A rate cut would reduce the amount the state owes to corporations that are benefiting from extensive tax breaks and outright cash subsidies granted by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority during former Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration.

Michigan Political Points: Cindy Gamrat, Todd Courser inspire re-election prevention bill (MLive)
Former state Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser, who decided to run for re-election just days after their expulsion and resignation, have highlighted a "hole" in Michigan election law that should be filled, according to one high-ranking legislator.

Will the Legislature finally take action on the roads? (Michigan Radio)
This week, they discussed whether there were any lingering effects of the scandal involving former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat. They also took a look at the issues the legislature is likely to tackle this session, including funding for roads.

Report: Budget earmarks may limit Michigan lawmakers on road funding (Crain's Detroit Business)
The tendency of Michigan lawmakers to earmark spending in the state budget will make it difficult for them to use existing money in a permanent solution to fund roads, new research shows.

DETROIT

Detroit port asks Schuette to review Moroun deal (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit port officials want the state's attorney general to review the legality of a decade-old deal that gives a Moroun family business sweeping control of port operations in addition to receiving other benefits.

Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey to challenge John Conyers (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey said Friday she will challenge longtime Detroit Congressman John Conyers Jr. in the 2016 election for a seat he's held for 26 terms.

Duggan: Time to raise pay for city bus drivers (Detroit Free Press)
Mayor Mike Duggan told a graduating class of new city bus drivers that he will be seeking a raise for them now and in the future as revenues rise from increased ridership

Henry Ford Health System plans $110M cancer center (The Detroit News)
Henry Ford Health System plans to build a $110 million cancer center in Detroit as part of a $500 million expansion and neighborhood improvement project. The five-story, 144,000 square-foot center announced Monday will include a rooftop garden and skywalk to connect it to Henry Ford Hospital.

Detroit workers deal another blow to FCA-UAW contract (Detroit Free Press)
Workers at Fiat Chrysler's Jefferson North Assembly Plant have resoundingly rejected a four-year tentative agreement between the UAW and the automaker, further jeopardizing chances of approval nationwide. At UAW Local 7, whose workers make the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Durango at the Detroit assembly plant, 66% of the production workers who cast ballots voted against the contract and 77% of skilled trades workers voted against the deal.

MISCELLANEOUS

Top of Michigan's '18 ticket could be historic first: All female (Freep)
Former Senate Majority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing, and U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, are contemplating runs for governor, when Gov. Rick Snyder has to leave office because of term limits.

OPINION

Snyder must act on Flint lead crisis (Detroit Free Press)
It's hard to understand the resounding yawn that seems to have emanated from the governor's office, following news that an increasing percentage of Flint kids have been lead poisoned after a switch in the city's water supply.

State data confirms higher blood-lead levels in Flint kids (Detroit Free Press)
Data that the State of Michigan released last week to refute a hospital researcher's claim that an increasing number of Flint children have been lead-poisoned since the city switched its water supply actually supports the hospital's findings, a Free Press analysis has shown.

A serious threat to Pure Michigan (Detroit Free Press)
One of the greatest problems that our state government should be addressing is the Enbridge Oil pipeline No. 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. An oil spill there would destroy a beautiful region of the state, and make "Pure Michigan" a sick joke.

Taxing online purchases won't change buying habits (Detroit Free Press)
Remember the fight over charging sales tax for online purchases? The Legislature passed a law in December that requires retailers with a presence in Michigan, including online retailing behemoth Amazon, to collect and remit Michigan's 6% sales tax on purchases made by Michigan shoppers

Keep prevailing wage (Toledo Blade)
For half a century, Michigan has had a law that requires workers, whether or not they belong to unions, to be paid the union-scale “prevailing wage” on state construction jobs. This mandate has worked well in terms of quality and efficiency, not only in Michigan, but also in other states

George Weeks: Continuing presidential campaign focus on Michigan (Traverse City Record Eagle)
Michigan is one of the earliest states to have a 2016 presidential primary showdown—March 8—so it figures that it is getting much late 2015 attention from the crowded GOP field.

Letter: Corporations should pay 'fair share' (Detroit News)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley recently came out against a citizens-initiated proposal that would require corporations to pay their fair share to help fix Michigan’s crumbling roads and bridges so middle-class families don’t continue to bear all the costs (Re: “Calley: Michigan can’t afford a return to ‘lost decade,’ ” Sept. 10).

Locked up since '86; he didn't do it (Detroit News)
Had Karl Vinson's attorney asked just one more question, the Detroiter might have spent the next three decades living a productive life, working and raising a family. Instead, he's been behind bars since 1986 for a crime he could not possibly have committed.

Crops rot for want of immigration reform (Detroit News)
Some Michigan farm owners are leaving their crops to rot because they can't find enough workers to harvest them. That's a shameful problem linked to bad immigration policy, and could be easily fixed if Congress would stop fighting about immigration and start adopting sensible regulations.

Clean Water Rule needs protection for Michigan rivers' sake (MLive)
From the Huron River to Saginaw Bay to the Great Lakes, our waterways help support many Michigan businesses that contribute to local economies, help Michiganders enjoy and explore their waterways, and provide clean drinking water to over 1,400,000 residents. These waterways are now better protected, thanks to the Clean Water Rule.

Pope Francis' climate message heard, if not received, in Lansing (MLive)
Realizing that Pope Francis has a lot of reading to do, it's possible somewhere along the line he missed the internal memo about not mixing politics and religion, because there he was, smack dab in the middle of the most political body in the country, urging the U.S. Congress to get off the dime and work on climate change.

Tom Watkins: Snyder taking right tack in wooing China trade (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently completed his fifth trade mission to China. His efforts have provided dividends by creating jobs and investment in "Pure Michigan." Michigan and America must learn to ride the China wave or surely we will be swamped.

Office of the Great Lakes' 30-year water strategy must advocate against nuclear waste dump (Macomb Daily)
Last year, I led the Michigan Senate in passing resolutions that called on President Obama, the secretary of state and Congress to take the appropriate steps to secure a binding decision on the OPG site from the International Joint Commission (IJC), the official organization appointed to prevent and resolve disputes over the use of the Great Lakes.

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"It's exciting to see Amazon creating a presence in Detroit and I'm proud to have them here," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "Amazon plans a commitment to developing talent, investing in high-tech jobs and keeping that talent in-state. This company will be a strong partner in growing our talented workforce and opening up these great opportunities."

Amazon, supplier Lear to announce ventures in Detroit (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder and the presidents of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University will be on hand for the Amazon announcement. For several years, Amazon has had a recruiting and internship relationship with both universities.

Event previews
Snyder to address Middle Eastern commission (LSJ)
Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to address the inaugural meeting of the Michigan Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs on Tuesday. The state Department of Civil Rights said in a news release that the commission, created earlier this year by executive order, will meet for the first time at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Michigan Department of Civil Rights headquarters on the eighth floor of the Capital Tower Building, 110 W. Michigan Ave., the department said in a news release.

Gov. Rick Snyder to unveil new economic initiative during River Rouge visit (Southgate News Herald)
Gov. Rick Snyder will visit River Rouge on Monday to unveil a new initiative designed to help communities build successful economic frameworks. The announcement will be made at 2:30 p.m. at River Rouge's city hall, 10600 W. Jefferson Ave.

Moving Michigan Forward
Snyder fund still collects cash from undisclosed donors (Freep)
Moving Michigan Forward, which, like the NERD Fund, is intended to reduce the financial burden of state government and improve Michigan's social and business climate, reported raising just more than $400,000 in 2014. The website identified all of the 27 individual and corporate donors and how much each gave.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Schuette asks counties for number of untested rape kits (The Detroit News)

Michigan's attorney general is asking prosecutors to report the number of untested rape-evidence kits in their counties. Bill Schuette's letter to county prosecutors Friday is the first step toward the state covering the cost to eliminate an unknown backlog of untested sexual assault kits statewide.

DEQ

Residents want to block hazardous waste plant expansion (Fox 2 Detroit)
Owners of a Detroit waste management plant want to expand their company, but people living nearby, say no. The company has requested that Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality grant it a new permit allowing the company to increase its hazardous waste storage.

Reaction pours in after doctors warn of rising lead levels in Flint kids (MLive)
A group representing Genesee County doctors has joined the call for pregnant mothers and others in high-risk groups to avoid drinking Flint water.
The Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors approved a resolution Tuesday, Sept. 25, encouraging breast feeding, advising no use of Flint tap water by infants who are fed formula, and encouraging the city to end its use of the Flint River as a water source "as soon as is practicable."

Researchers: Lead levels up after Flint switches to cheaper water supply (Aljazeera America)
Researchers have found high levels of lead in the water supply in Flint, Michigan, after the economically battered city switched its water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River in an attempt to save money. The city issued a lead warning on Friday, ramping up residents' health concerns — and questions about the tradeoffs cash-strapped cities make to revive their economies.

DIFS

People ripped off by Western Sky loans to get refunds (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan consumers who were ripped off by illegal, high-priced loans from Western Sky Financial and CashCall are expected to see refund checks by Oct. 2 as part of an earlier-announced multimillion-dollar settlement.

Checks in high-interest lender settlement to reach Michigan mailboxes by next month (WKZO-AM)
Refund-eligible borrowers will split $2.2 million that was refunded to the state by South Dakota-based Western Sky Financial and California-based CashCall. Attorney General Bill Schutte said the checks should reaching Michigan mailboxes by next month.

DHHS

State data confirms higher blood-lead levels in Flint kids (Detroit Free Press)
Data that the State of Michigan released last week to refute a hospital researcher's claim that an increasing number of Flint children have been lead-poisoned since the city switched its water supply actually supports the hospital's findings, a Free Press analysis has shown.

DMVA

New leadership for GR Home for Vets (WoodTv)
A big shake up in leadership at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, as two administrative positions have been eliminated. Sara Dunne, the administrator, and Eric Alderman, the director of operations, will no longer be in charge of the facility.

DNR

Health department says West Nile Virus detected in Branch County (WTVB)
Mosquitoes are still biting with the warm early fall weather and the health department in Coldwater is reporting Branch County's first case this year of West Nile virus, which was detected in 3 dead birds turned in by county residents to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Branch Hillsdale-St.

Joseph Community Health Agency also said yesterday another bird, a wild turkey, was submitted by a St. Joseph County resident in late August.

DNR to hold public input session about Fisherman's Island Park in Charlevoix (MiNews 26)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be hosting an open house to hear public input on a new draft General Management Plan for Fisherman's Island State Park in Charlevoix County.

Lake Sturgeon stocked in Whitefish River (Upper Michigan's Source)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocked a Lake Michigan stream Friday morning with 1,180 lake sturgeon. It's part of an effort to repopulate the threatened species across the Great Lakes Region.

Agencies join in oil recovery exercise (Cheboygan News)
The Canadian company Enbridge held an emergency response exercise in the Straits of Mackinac Thursday, testing the company's readiness in the event of a break in Line 5, the pipeline which runs under the Straits that has continually pumped light crude oil and natural gas liquids since its construction in 1953.

DTMB
Lenawee County jobless rate falls to 4.4% (Lenconnect.com)
Lenawee County's jobless rate dropped to 4.4 percent in August from July's 5.6 percent as school support staff began returning to work, according to reports issued Thursday by the Michigan Department of Technology,

Jobless Rates Down in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek Labor Markets in August (WMUK)
The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget says the jobless rate in the Kalamazoo-Portage labor market was 4.2% in August, down from 5.9% last year in Kalamazoo and Van Buren Counties. The Battle Creek labor market's unemployment rate was 4.6% last month. The jobless rate in Calhoun County was 6.1% in August of last year.

MEDC
Downtown developments moving forward despite difficulties (Petosky News)
Developers with two major downtown redevelopment projects in Boyne City recently learned that they are in line for some state economic development funds critical to the financial viability of the projects. But the process has been anything but quick, or easy.

Port of Monroe gets $3 million loan for improvements (Monroe News)
A major infrastructure project at the Port of Monroe could change the landscape of the local economy while promoting similar port projects throughout the state. On Tuesday, the Michigan Strategic Fund approved up to a $3 million loan from its investment funds to improve the port, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced.

AMCAB awarded $1.1 million in grants to help U.P. homeless (Upper Michigan's Source)
The Alger Marquette Community Action Board has been awarded three separate grants to serve homeless individuals and families across the Upper Peninsula.

MDE
Vanderbilt Area School transitioning to state treasury oversight (Gaylord Harold Times)
The Michigan Department of Education reported Vanderbilt Area Schools as one of 16 Michigan schools on an early warning deficit list. The list includes schools that have run a deficit for more than five years or schools projected to be running a deficit for more than five years.

Parents Complain Students From Adjacent Districts 'Overcrowding' Their Schools (Michigan Capitol Confidential)
A recent story in the Lansing State Journal on a Michigan public school choice program featured parents from two different school districts complaining that the program is causing overcrowded classrooms in their own districts. But data from the Michigan Department of Education show that the complaints are not supported by the historical record. Enrollment at one of those districts has been in decline for the past eight years, while the other has not experienced any significant enrollment increase.

MDCR
Applicants for Civil Rights chief to be reviewed (Lansing State Journal)
The Michigan Civil Rights Commission will on Monday determine which of the applicants for the soon-to-be-open executive director position will be interviewed, the state Department of Civil Rights has announced.

MSP
Michigan State Police Departments Host National Prescription Drug Take Back Day (9 & 10 News)
The Drug Enforcement Administration is holding a national prescription drug take back day. Michigan State Police encourage people to drop off unwanted, unused, and expired prescriptions so they can be properly disposed of.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Cutting Michigan's Income Tax Would Also Lessen Corporate Welfare Burden (Michigan Capitol Confedential)
Michigan lawmakers who would like to cut the state's personal income tax rate may have found their way eased by a largely overlooked benefit: A rate cut would reduce the amount the state owes to corporations that are benefiting from extensive tax breaks and outright cash subsidies granted by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority during former Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration.

Michigan Political Points: Cindy Gamrat, Todd Courser inspire re-election prevention bill (MLive)
Former state Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser, who decided to run for re-election just days after their expulsion and resignation, have highlighted a "hole" in Michigan election law that should be filled, according to one high-ranking legislator.

Will the Legislature finally take action on the roads? (Michigan Radio)
This week, they discussed whether there were any lingering effects of the scandal involving former Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat. They also took a look at the issues the legislature is likely to tackle this session, including funding for roads.

Report: Budget earmarks may limit Michigan lawmakers on road funding (Crain's Detroit Business)
The tendency of Michigan lawmakers to earmark spending in the state budget will make it difficult for them to use existing money in a permanent solution to fund roads, new research shows.

DETROIT

Detroit port asks Schuette to review Moroun deal (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit port officials want the state's attorney general to review the legality of a decade-old deal that gives a Moroun family business sweeping control of port operations in addition to receiving other benefits.

Detroit Clerk Janice Winfrey to challenge John Conyers (Detroit Free Press)
Detroit City Clerk Janice Winfrey said Friday she will challenge longtime Detroit Congressman John Conyers Jr. in the 2016 election for a seat he's held for 26 terms.

Duggan: Time to raise pay for city bus drivers (Detroit Free Press)
Mayor Mike Duggan told a graduating class of new city bus drivers that he will be seeking a raise for them now and in the future as revenues rise from increased ridership

Henry Ford Health System plans $110M cancer center (The Detroit News)
Henry Ford Health System plans to build a $110 million cancer center in Detroit as part of a $500 million expansion and neighborhood improvement project. The five-story, 144,000 square-foot center announced Monday will include a rooftop garden and skywalk to connect it to Henry Ford Hospital.

Detroit workers deal another blow to FCA-UAW contract (Detroit Free Press)
Workers at Fiat Chrysler's Jefferson North Assembly Plant have resoundingly rejected a four-year tentative agreement between the UAW and the automaker, further jeopardizing chances of approval nationwide. At UAW Local 7, whose workers make the Jeep Grand Cherokee and Dodge Durango at the Detroit assembly plant, 66% of the production workers who cast ballots voted against the contract and 77% of skilled trades workers voted against the deal.

MISCELLANEOUS

Top of Michigan's '18 ticket could be historic first: All female (Freep)
Former Senate Majority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing, and U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, are contemplating runs for governor, when Gov. Rick Snyder has to leave office because of term limits.

OPINION

Snyder must act on Flint lead crisis (Detroit Free Press)
It's hard to understand the resounding yawn that seems to have emanated from the governor's office, following news that an increasing percentage of Flint kids have been lead poisoned after a switch in the city's water supply.

State data confirms higher blood-lead levels in Flint kids (Detroit Free Press)
Data that the State of Michigan released last week to refute a hospital researcher's claim that an increasing number of Flint children have been lead-poisoned since the city switched its water supply actually supports the hospital's findings, a Free Press analysis has shown.

A serious threat to Pure Michigan (Detroit Free Press)
One of the greatest problems that our state government should be addressing is the Enbridge Oil pipeline No. 5 under the Straits of Mackinac. An oil spill there would destroy a beautiful region of the state, and make "Pure Michigan" a sick joke.

Taxing online purchases won't change buying habits (Detroit Free Press)
Remember the fight over charging sales tax for online purchases? The Legislature passed a law in December that requires retailers with a presence in Michigan, including online retailing

behemoth Amazon, to collect and remit Michigan's 6% sales tax on purchases made by Michigan shoppers

Keep prevailing wage (Toledo Blade)
For half a century, Michigan has had a law that requires workers, whether or not they belong to unions, to be paid the union-scale "prevailing wage" on state construction jobs. This mandate has worked well in terms of quality and efficiency, not only in Michigan, but also in other states

George Weeks: Continuing presidential campaign focus on Michigan (Traverse City Record Eagle)
Michigan is one of the earliest states to have a 2016 presidential primary showdown—March 8—so it figures that it is getting much late 2015 attention from the crowded GOP field.

Letter: Corporations should pay 'fair share' (Detroit News)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley recently came out against a citizens-initiated proposal that would require corporations to pay their fair share to help fix Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges so middle-class families don't continue to bear all the costs (Re: "Calley: Michigan can't afford a return to 'lost decade,' " Sept. 10).

Locked up since '86; he didn't do it (Detroit News)
Had Karl Vinson's attorney asked just one more question, the Detroiter might have spent the next three decades living a productive life, working and raising a family. Instead, he's been behind bars since 1986 for a crime he could not possibly have committed.

Crops rot for want of immigration reform (Detroit News)
Some Michigan farm owners are leaving their crops to rot because they can't find enough workers to harvest them. That's a shameful problem linked to bad immigration policy, and could be easily fixed if Congress would stop fighting about immigration and start adopting sensible regulations.

Clean Water Rule needs protection for Michigan rivers' sake (MLive)
From the Huron River to Saginaw Bay to the Great Lakes, our waterways help support many Michigan businesses that contribute to local economies, help Michiganders enjoy and explore their waterways, and provide clean drinking water to over 1,400,000 residents. These waterways are now better protected, thanks to the Clean Water Rule.

Pope Francis' climate message heard, if not received, in Lansing (MLive)
Realizing that Pope Francis has a lot of reading to do, it's possible somewhere along the line he missed the internal memo about not mixing politics and religion, because there he was, smack dab in the middle of the most political body in the country, urging the U.S. Congress to get off the dime and work on climate change.

Tom Watkins: Snyder taking right tack in wooing China trade (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently completed his fifth trade mission to China. His efforts have provided dividends by creating jobs and investment in "Pure Michigan." Michigan and America must learn to ride the China wave or surely we will be swamped.

Office of the Great Lakes' 30-year water strategy must advocate against nuclear waste dump (Macomb Daily)
Last year, I led the Michigan Senate in passing resolutions that called on President Obama, the secretary of state and Congress to take the appropriate steps to secure a binding decision on the OPG site from the International Joint Commission (IJC), the official organization appointed to prevent and resolve disputes over the use of the Great Lakes.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 9:46 AM
Subject: 9/29 Newsroom
Attachments: 150929 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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New questions regarding changes at GR Home for Veterans (WZZM)
The WZZM 13 Watchdog team on Monday took more questions to state veterans officials about leadership changes at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. It follows questions we first asked Friday when breaking the news that two of the facility's leaders are being eliminated and that a recent audit shows problems at the facility. We've confirmed the administrator of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Sara Dunne, is having her position eliminated.

DNR
Land cap not a problem for Michigan DNR (Great Lakes Echo)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports no negative outcomes from the initial cap on its land ownership of 4.626 million acres statewide, which was implemented by state law in 2012. While some feared that the initial land caps would hurt the DNR's ability to maintain its lands and achieve its environmental goals, state Sen. Tom Casperson, an Escanaba Republican, said that the caps were never meant to harass or limit the department, but simply give it guidelines.

Weevils, invasive plants add to woes of the Pitcher's thistle (Great Lakes Echo)
Invasive plants are further harming the fate of the already threatened Pitcher's thistle, according to a new study. And weevils brought in to control other weedy thistles are yet another new threat to the Pitcher's thistle that grows in Great Lakes sand dunes, according to the study supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Great Lakes restoration Initiative and the University of Michigan Biological Station.

MDARD
Two More Michigan Horses Diagnosed With Eastern Equine Encephalitis (9&10News)
We now know of two more confirmed cases of eastern equine encephalitis in Michigan horses. The infected horses were found in Barry, Calhoun, and Van Buren counties. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced the horses tested positive last week and have already been put down. Eastern equine encephalitis is a deadly virus that is spread by infected mosquitos.

State confiscates gas pump card skimmers (LSJ)
State officials and others have confiscated a dozen credit card skimming devices that were hidden in gas pumps around the state. The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, which regulates gas pumps, said in a news release that inspectors went on a two-week, statewide blitz after hearing about an increased use of the illegal devices, which are secreted inside gas pumps and download credit card information when motorists pay at the pump.

Credit card skimmer sweep finds 12 devices in gas pumps (WLNS)
A two-week blitz by state investigators has uncovered credit card skimmers in gas pumps across the state. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development began the sweep to locate and remove the skimming devices from Detroit to Lansing and Traverse City. They also searched from Grand Rapids to Saginaw.

MDEQ
Bottled water donations flowing into Flint schools (Michigan Radio)
It took five Home Depot employees a couple trips to unload a pickup truck filled with dozens of cases of bottled water into a classroom at a Flint elementary school this afternoon. The donation was the largest, but far from the only, bottled water donation to Flint schools today.

MDHHS
Kent County has 200 low-cost shingles vaccines for underinsured (MLive)
The Kent County Health Department is offering shingles vaccines at minimal cost to adults who don't have insurance that covers them. Two hundred doses of the vaccine were provided to the county from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

MPSC
Michigan state agency installs solar panels, expects to save taxpayers $800,000 (MLive)
The Michigan Agency for Energy is in charge of leading Michigan's energy future, and it's leading by example with solar panels and energy efficiency improvements. The Michigan Agency for Energy, a relatively new agency, is organized under the Michigan Public Service Commission. Now it's the first energy agency in the nation to make improvements using Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Dems propose $1 billion in tax credits aimed at alleviating 'middle class squeeze (MLive)
Democrats in the Michigan Legislature are proposing $1 billion in new and expanded tax credits to benefit middle class families, saying it's time to revisit a 2011 tax shift that benefited businesses. The "Blueprint for Michigan's Families" unveiled Monday calls for a new per-child income tax credit, a credit for child and elderly care and a credit to offset college student loan payments. It would also reinstate a senior deduction and expand the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

Lawmakers ponder bigger punishment for big tuition hikes (Freep)
The presidents of two southeastern Michigan universities echoed each other as they tried to convince state lawmakers not to lower the boom on them for imposing large tuition hikes on students. The presidents of Oakland University and Eastern Michigan University argued that they were lean, efficient institutions that had to hike tuition because the state doesn't give them enough money to cover the costs of improving programs and buildings to the level their students demand.

Michiganders to pay more at online retailers as 'Amazon tax' goes into effect this week (Mlive)
Michiganders will be required to pay sales or use tax when they make purchases at some online retailers starting this week. Technically, Michigan residents are all supposed to keep track of any online, mail order or out-of-state purchases and give the state 6 percent sales or use tax on our tax returns. However, many people fail to do so and it's not widely enforced.

DETROIT

Violent crime drops in Detroit, Flint in 2014 (Freep)
Detroit and Flint followed the national trend of declining violent crime last year as both cities saw fewer homicides, rapes and robberies in 2014, according to FBI statistics released Monday. Detroit's homicides dropped from 316 to 298 from 2013 to 2014. Despite that decline, however, Detroit still has one of the worst murder rates among the nation's largest cities, with roughly 44 homicides per 100,000 residents. In comparison, Chicago — which is four times the size of Detroit, with more than 2.7 million residents — had a murder rate of 15 homicides per 100,000 residents in 2014.

Detroit Public Schools alum creating mobile school museum using old SMART buses (WXYZ)
A Mumford High School alum is creating a mobile museum focusing on Detroit's public high schools. He's removing the seats of old SMART buses, adding carpet and turning the buses into mobile museums. They'll be loaded with DPS artifacts like yearbooks, old newspapers and shirts autographed by alumni.

Of five innovation institutes planned for U.S., Detroit getting two (MLive)
Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Detroit Sept. 17 was understandably highlighted by federal funds for the city to get sufficient busing. Less noticed, perhaps, was the announcement that Detroit would be getting an additional, $40 million innovation institute aimed at jump-starting more manufacturing work in the city.

OPINION

Scandal another example of weak FOIA policy (Escanaba Daily Press)
Enacted nearly 40 years ago, Michigan's Freedom of Information Act is a vital tool for residents of this state to track what their government is doing and how their tax dollars are being spent.

Mark Hackel: Jails new asylums for mental health patients (Detroit Free Press)
Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel says correctional institutions have become the new asylums for mental health and substance abuse patients, and there needs to be a better system other than jailing them for minor crimes.

Dark money: The hot stove politicians can't stop touching (Detroit Free Press)
In 2013, Gov. Rick Snyder vowed to shut down a nonprofit that was collecting funds from donors whose names were never made public. Instead, the governor said, he'd launch a new nonprofit with a transparent donor list.

Trump tax plan gives morale boost to state Democratic lawmaker (MLive)
Being a loyal and card-carrying Democrat, there's little chance that Rep. Jim Townsend will vote for GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump. But at the very least the Royal Oak Democrat owes Mr. Trump a thank-you note for the Donald's advancement of Mr. Townsend's favorite issue: the graduated income tax.

Midland Farmers Market changes, improvements nothing to fear (MLive)
Of all the treasures residents value in their community, the local farmers market usually ranks right near the top. Midland is no exception.

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New questions regarding changes at GR Home for Veterans (WZZM)
The WZZM 13 Watchdog team on Monday took more questions to state veterans officials about leadership changes at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. It follows questions we first asked Friday when breaking the news that two of the facility's leaders are being eliminated and that a recent audit shows problems at the facility. We've confirmed the administrator of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Sara Dunne, is having her position eliminated.

DNR

Land cap not a problem for Michigan DNR (Great Lakes Echo)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reports no negative outcomes from the initial cap on its land ownership of 4.626 million acres statewide, which was implemented by state law in 2012. While some feared that the initial land caps would hurt the DNR's ability to maintain its lands and achieve its environmental goals, state Sen. Tom Casperson, an Escanaba Republican, said that the caps were never meant to harass or limit the department, but simply give it guidelines.

Weevils, invasive plants add to woes of the Pitcher's thistle (Great Lakes Echo)
Invasive plants are further harming the fate of the already threatened Pitcher's thistle, according to a new study. And weevils brought in to control other weedy thistles are yet another new threat to the Pitcher's thistle that grows in Great Lakes sand dunes, according to the study supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Great Lakes restoration Initiative and the University of Michigan Biological Station.

MDARD

Two More Michigan Horses Diagnosed With Eastern Equine Encephalitis (9&10News)
We now know of two more confirmed cases of eastern equine encephalitis in Michigan horses. The infected horses were found in Barry, Calhoun, and Van Buren counties. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced the horses tested positive last week and have already been put down. Eastern equine encephalitis is a deadly virus that is spread by infected mosquitos.

State confiscates gas pump card skimmers (LSJ)
State officials and others have confiscated a dozen credit card skimming devices that were hidden in gas pumps around the state. The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, which regulates gas pumps, said in a news release that inspectors went on a two-week, statewide blitz after hearing about an increased use of the illegal devices, which are secreted inside gas pumps and download credit card information when motorists pay at the pump.

Credit card skimmer sweep finds 12 devices in gas pumps (WLNS)
A two-week blitz by state investigators has uncovered credit card skimmers in gas pumps across the state. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development began the sweep to locate and remove the skimming devices from Detroit to Lansing and Traverse City. They also searched from Grand Rapids to Saginaw.

MDEQ

Bottled water donations flowing into Flint schools (Michigan Radio)

It took five Home Depot employees a couple trips to unload a pickup truck filled with dozens of cases of bottled water into a classroom at a Flint elementary school this afternoon. The donation was the largest, but far from the only, bottled water donation to Flint schools today.

MDHHS

Kent County has 200 low-cost shingles vaccines for underinsured (MLive)
The Kent County Health Department is offering shingles vaccines at minimal cost to adults who don't have insurance that covers them. Two hundred doses of the vaccine were provided to the county from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

MPSC

Michigan state agency installs solar panels, expects to save taxpayers $800,000 (MLive)
The Michigan Agency for Energy is in charge of leading Michigan's energy future, and it's leading by example with solar panels and energy efficiency improvements. The Michigan Agency for Energy, a relatively new agency, is organized under the Michigan Public Service Commission. Now it's the first energy agency in the nation to make improvements using Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Dems propose $1 billion in tax credits aimed at alleviating 'middle class squeeze (MLive)
Democrats in the Michigan Legislature are proposing $1 billion in new and expanded tax credits to benefit middle class families, saying it's time to revisit a 2011 tax shift that benefited businesses. The "Blueprint for Michigan's Families" unveiled Monday calls for a new per-child income tax credit, a credit for child and elderly care and a credit to offset college student loan payments. It would also reinstate a senior deduction and expand the Homestead Property Tax Credit.

Lawmakers ponder bigger punishment for big tuition hikes (Freep)
The presidents of two southeastern Michigan universities echoed each other as they tried to convince state lawmakers not to lower the boom on them for imposing large tuition hikes on students. The presidents of Oakland University and Eastern Michigan University argued that they were lean, efficient institutions that had to hike tuition because the state doesn't give them enough money to cover the costs of improving programs and buildings to the level their students demand.

Michiganders to pay more at online retailers as 'Amazon tax' goes into effect this week (Mlive)
Michiganders will be required to pay sales or use tax when they make purchases at some online retailers starting this week. Technically, Michigan residents are all supposed to keep track of any online, mail order or out-of-state purchases and give the state 6 percent sales or use tax on our tax returns. However, many people fail to do so and it's not widely enforced.

DETROIT

Violent crime drops in Detroit, Flint in 2014 (Freep)
Detroit and Flint followed the national trend of declining violent crime last year as both cities saw fewer homicides, rapes and robberies in 2014, according to FBI statistics released Monday. Detroit's homicides dropped from 316 to 298 from 2013 to 2014. Despite that decline, however, Detroit still has one of the

worst murder rates among the nation's largest cities, with roughly 44 homicides per 100,000 residents. In comparison, Chicago — which is four times the size of Detroit, with more than 2.7 million residents — had a murder rate of 15 homicides per 100,000 residents in 2014.

Detroit Public Schools alum creating mobile school museum using old SMART buses (WXYZ)
A Mumford High School alum is creating a mobile museum focusing on Detroit's public high schools. He's removing the seats of old SMART buses, adding carpet and turning the buses into mobile museums. They'll be loaded with DPS artifacts like yearbooks, old newspapers and shirts autographed by alumni.

Of five innovation institutes planned for U.S., Detroit getting two (MLive)
Vice President Joe Biden's visit to Detroit Sept. 17 was understandably highlighted by federal funds for the city to get sufficient busing. Less noticed, perhaps, was the announcement that Detroit would be getting an additional, $40 million innovation institute aimed at jump-starting more manufacturing work in the city.

OPINION

Scandal another example of weak FOIA policy (Escanaba Daily Press)
Enacted nearly 40 years ago, Michigan's Freedom of Information Act is a vital tool for residents of this state to track what their government is doing and how their tax dollars are being spent.

Mark Hackel: Jails new asylums for mental health patients (Detroit Free Press)
Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel says correctional institutions have become the new asylums for mental health and substance abuse patients, and there needs to be a better system other than jailing them for minor crimes.

Dark money: The hot stove politicians can't stop touching (Detroit Free Press)
In 2013, Gov. Rick Snyder vowed to shut down a nonprofit that was collecting funds from donors whose names were never made public. Instead, the governor said, he'd launch a new nonprofit with a transparent donor list.

Trump tax plan gives morale boost to state Democratic lawmaker (MLive)
Being a loyal and card-carrying Democrat, there's little chance that Rep. Jim Townsend will vote for GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump. But at the very least the Royal Oak Democrat owes Mr. Trump a thank-you note for the Donald's advancement of Mr. Townsend's favorite issue: the graduated income tax.

Midland Farmers Market changes, improvements nothing to fear (MLive)
Of all the treasures residents value in their community, the local farmers market usually ranks right near the top. Midland is no exception.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 10:27 AM
Subject: 9/30 Newsroom
Attachments: 150930 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

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Gov. Rick Snyder pledging 'action steps' in response to lead leaching into Flint water (AP)
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Governor Rick Snyder's administration is talking with the federal government about bringing more refugees to Michigan. When News 10 asked the Governor about it on Tuesday, he wouldn't get into numbers. But he did push back against the idea that refugees will take jobs away from American citizens.

Supreme Court appointment
U-M attorney headed to Michigan Supreme Court? (Freep)
Will Gov. Rick Snyder turn to his alma mater to fill a vacancy in the Michigan Supreme Court, in an announcement expected today? Speculation on who will replace Justice Mary Beth Kelly is centering on Joan Larsen, special counsel to the dean for student and graduate activities at the University of Michigan, where Snyder obtained his bachelor's, master's and law degrees.

Snyder expected to name new Michigan Supreme Court justice Wednesday (Mlive)
Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, who has scheduled an 11 a.m. news conference Wednesday, is expected to name his pick for the next justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Justice Mary Beth Kelly, in a move that surprised many, announced in August she would be stepping down from state's highest court to return to private practice.

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Gov. Rick Snyder is set to name a new justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. The Republican governor will announce his choice at a late-morning news conference Wednesday in Lansing. Justice Mary Beth Kelly is leaving the bench to return to private practice, effective Thursday.

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Appeals Court appointment
Snyder appoints Oakland County judge to state appeals court (AP)
An Oakland County judge who lost an election to the Michigan Supreme Court is getting a new job. Colleen O'Brien was appointed to the state appeals court Tuesday by Gov. Rick Snyder. There's a vacancy on the court after the resignation of Judge Pat Donofrio.

Snyder makes appointment to Court of Appeals (TV 6 UP)
Colleen O'Brien was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Gov. Rick Snyder. "Collen has served with distinction in one of the state's largest trial courts for 16 years handling complex civil, criminal, and family law cases," Snyder said. "As the president of the Michigan Judges Association, she is an important leader in our state's judiciary. Her personal integrity, widely respected legal acumen, and substantial judicial experience will be of great benefit to the Court of Appeals and the people of Michigan."

Snyder picks O'Brien for state Court of Appeals (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder said Tuesday he has appointed Oakland County Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien to fill a vacancy on the Michigan Court of Appeals. O'Brien, an unsuccessful Republican Party-nominated candidate for the Michigan Supreme Court in 2012 and among those speculated under consideration for an opening there now, fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Pat Donofrio.

Governor Tabs O'Brien to Fill Appeals Court Vacancy (WHTC)
Governor Snyder filled a vacancy on the state Court of Appeals by tabbing Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Colleen O'Brien to replace Pat Donofrio, who resigned. The Clarkston jurist has been on that bench for 16 years, primarily handling criminal cases.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES
Advocates say discipline policies are failing special needs students (WKAR)
Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley recently gathered feedback from thousands of parents of kids with special needs. One of the major concerns raised was the tactics teachers and other school employees used when it came to dealing with disruptive behavior from those students.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Michigan AG Bill Schuette backs civil asset forfeiture reform package (MLive)
Attorney General Bill Schuette, Michigan's top law enforcement officer, is backing legislation that would begin to reform the state's civil asset forfeiture laws, which allow police to seize property linked to a crime even if charges are never filed.

Schuette, Eplings urge anti-bullying measures in East Lansing (Lansing State Journal)
The couple stood beside Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette this morning at East Lansing High School as part of the second year of the state's Okay2Say anti-bullying program. Okay2Say is an online program allowing anyone who witnesses or hears about bullying or other safety concerns to report confidentially to law enforcement and mental health professionals.

MDARD

Michigan ag exports to China skyrocket (Fresh Plaza)

In the past five years, more and more of Michigan's prepared fruits and vegetables have been on their way to China, according to export data from Euromonitor International Ltd. From 2010 to 2014, the dollar value of prepared fruit and vegetable exports, which include dried tart cherries, rose almost four-fold.

'Skimming' scam stealing information at the pump (WNEM)

From the outside, the slot where you put in your credit card may look perfectly normal, but on the inside, a device may be stealing your information. When Shirley Rocket-Booker needs to fill up, she, like most, gases up with her bank card. So far she's never been skimmed at the pump.

State conducts card skimmer sweep, several found in west Michigan (WKZO-AM)

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development found 12 credit card skimmers during a two-week statewide gas pump sweep.

Mosquito-borne encephalitis kills more horses in Southwest Michigan (MLive)

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced two additional cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in horses in Calhoun and Van Buren Counties.

Corrections

Appeals court denies 'White Boy Rick' resentencing bid (The Detroit News)

Convicted drug dealer Richard "White Boy Rick" Wershe Jr. lost a bid to have his life sentence reduced, the latest chapter in the case of a teen-aged drug kingpin with a pageboy haircut that has enthralled Metro Detroiters for decades.

MDE

'I Don't Want My Daughter To Fail': Detroit Parents Rally In Lansing For Better Schools (WWJ)

The Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren staged a rally at the State Capitol to push for 24 recommendations to improve Detroit schools.

DEQ

600 gallons of raw sewage spilled at treatment plant (MLive)

About 600 gallons of raw sewage spilled outside of the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority wastewater treatment plant Thursday night between 7:30 and 8 p.m.

Flint mayor to state: Approve plan "as fast as humanly possible" to help keep lead out of water (Michigan Radio)

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling says he wants to put corrosion-control treatment back in place, but he needs state approval first. The state says it's going to take a little while to implement.

High Lead Levels in Michigan Kids After City Switches Water Source (NPR)

Doctors are finding elevated levels of lead in the children in Flint, Mich., and local tap water is the likely cause.

DTMB

Kalamazoo-Portage unemployment falls one percent in August (WKZO-AM)

Unemployment in the Kalamazoo-Portage metropolitan area dipped to 4.2 percent last month. The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget says the rate was at 5.2 percent in July.

MDHHS

Mystery Outbreak: 14 Salmonella Infections Reported at Detroit Hospital (Food Safety News)

Officials with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI, are trying to unravel how 14 patients in the same hospital unit were sickened last week with Salmonella.

14 people treated for Salmonella at Henry Ford Hospital, investigation into source underway (WXYZ)
Henry Ford Hospital and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is confirming that fourteen people have been treated for gastroenteritis symptoms caused by a strain of salmonella.

Holland Hospital recognized for excellence in newborn screening (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association recently recognized Holland Hospital for excellence in newborn screening performance.

DNR
Mother bear with cubs killed; DNR seeking charges against hunter (MLive)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will seek an arrest warrant for a man who allegedly shot a mother black bear who was accompanied by her three cubs in Oceana County, a conservation officer said Tuesday.

Canton asking state to review hunting rules (Hometown Life)
Fearing a potential threat to public safety, Canton officials are asking the state to review rules that still allow restricted hunting on most of Canton's west side.

DNR's Citizens Advisory Council to meet in Cedarville (TV 6 UP)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council will meet next month in Mackinac County.

DNR makes Lake Gogebic walleye recommendation (TV 6 UP)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists have recommended a change in the sportfishing regulations for walleyes in Lake Gogebic in the western Upper Peninsula.

MDOT
Otsego County Drivers Raise Questions on Old 27 Road Repair (9&10 News)
A recent road repair has sparked some criticism in a Northern Michigan community. Michigan Department of Transportation recently re-surfaced a two-mile stretch of road to repair cracks and crumbling.

MDOT Adding 54-thousand Cubic Tons of Mulch to I-696 Slopes (WDET)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is adding 54,000 cubic yards of mulch to a stretch of I-696. The project will cover up ten miles of dead grass between I-94 and I-75. MDOT spokesperson Diane Cross says mulch should better protect freeway slopes.

MSP
Feds give state police $1.5M for heroin crackdown (The Detroit News)
Michigan State Police won a $1.46 million competitive federal grant that will help collaborations with other law enforcement departments statewide cracking down on heroin distribution and trafficking.

Renewed push to deal with heroin and prescription drug abuse (Newschannel 3)
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention drug overdoses now surpass car accidents as the leading cause of injury related deaths for people between the ages of 25 and 64.

SOS
$6,455 in fines, fees for Grand Rapids campaign in term limits vote (MLive)
A campaign that opposed a 2014 ballot proposal for city term limits has paid $6,455 in fees and fines, according to an agreement with the Michigan Secretary of State.

University Motor Mall license suspended after customers complain (WLNS)
The doors are locked, the lights are off and there aren't any vehicles for sale at University Motor Mall in Lansing because of a suspension and investigation by the Michigan Secretary of State's office.

Supreme Court

Court to open new self-help centers (Lansing State Journal)
This fall, residents in the Detroit region interested in representing themselves in civil legal matters will get a helping hand from the Michigan Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said in a news release Tuesday that it will open new Michigan Legal Self-Help Centers in Macomb County and southwest Detroit this fall, adding to eight other centers in Oscoda, Allegan, Oakland, Wayne, Muskegon, Monroe, Marquette, and Calhoun counties

Michigan's top court won't take right-to-read lawsuit (AP)
The Michigan Supreme Court has rejected an appeal in a lawsuit that blames the state for poor reading skills of students in Highland Park. In a brief order, the justices last week declined to take the case.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Bill nearing OK lets drivers show insurance via phone (AP)
Drivers pulled over by the police could show proof of auto insurance on their mobile device under legislation nearing final approval in Michigan. The state Senate plans to vote on the bill on Wednesday. It won approval in the House in March.

Bills look to address Michigan's controversial forfeiture laws (Newschannel 3)
A new poll shows that many people think Michigan's controversial forfeiture laws need work. Michigan's forfeiture laws allow for police to seize the property of crime suspects without the obligation to ever return that property. The poll was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies. The results were released as the Michigan Senate prepares to take up a package of bills addressing the issue. The poll surveyed 500 Michigan voters and 80 percent of respondents believe the civil asset forfeiture process needs reform.

Are state lawmakers running on your dime? Courser, Gamrat staffs weren't the only ones blurring that line (MLive)
Emails released as part of a House investigation of now-ousted Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat show staff mix political and official work. But an MLive investigation found those blurred lines, far from being isolated to the offices of two members, trace throughout the Michigan House of Representatives.

Michigan lawmakers consider 80MPH highway speed limit (WDIV)
Michigan lawmakers are exploring the possibility of raising the speed limit to 80 miles per hour on rural freeways.

Michigan lawmakers mull tougher poaching penalties (Great Lakes Echo)
A bill package going through the state Legislature would increase penalties for poaching in the form of a steep hike in restitution that poachers must pay to the state.

Immigrant advocates blast bill to ban 'sanctuary cities' in Michigan by withholding state funding (MLive)
A Michigan bill seeking to ban "sanctuary city" policies for immigrants who entered the country illegally could damage police-community relationships and encourage racial profiling, according to critics.

DETROIT

Engineers union: DPS boiler regulations could hurt kids (The Detroit News)
Members of a local engineers union asked a judge Tuesday to reverse a city decision to replace most public school building boiler operators with a remote monitoring system.

Public hearing set on law for medical marijuana shops (The Detroit News)
An October public hearing is set to gain public feedback on a propose ordinance aimed at regulating where and how medical marijuana centers can operate in Detroit.

Council approves land deal to reinvent Herman Kiefer (The Detroit News)

The City Council on Tuesday approved a land deal that clears the way for a development plan to reinvent the vacant Herman Kiefer Hospital complex and a blighted southeast Detroit neighborhood.

Detroit Homecoming kicks off today in the city (WXYZ)
Detroit Homecoming kicks off at the Detroit Opera House tonight, and organizers are expecting an even bigger crowd than last year. They say the three-day event is expected to bring nearly 200-business, sports and innovation leaders back home to the D -this year to invest and lead.

OPINION

Ken Braun: New poll reveals union workers are unhappy workers (MLive)
"Live Better — Work Union" is a slogan that's often easy to find adorning car bumpers near workplaces where Big Labor remains relevant. Press an organized-labor apologist to explain, and the response is likely to be an assertion that union membership creates workplaces where safety, job security, better pay and so forth are a greater priority. Yet throwing ice water on this warm and fuzzy claim is a recent Gallup poll showing union members may be the most disgruntled workers in America.

Lansing promises were made, but roads remain broken (MLive)
Way back before summer began, in the midst of another ill-fated attempt to fix the roads, the Senate GOP leadership proudly announced that the body would work throughout the summer to get this job done

Phil Power: Correcting corrections would save money, but carry risks (MLive)
Trying to come up with better corrections policy for Michigan is tough, because you have to balance two factors — costs versus public safety — where a fact-based comparison is difficult.

Editorial: UAW members must face contract reality (Detroit News)
The UAW rank and file is obviously not pleased with the tentative labor contract President Dennis Williams and FCA US CEO Sergio Marchionne agreed to two weeks ago, even though it provides significant economic rewards for workers.

Glenn: Keep energy choice alive (Detroit News)
Michigan's economy is hindered by an arbitrary law allowing only 10 percent of electricity users to buy from an alternative provider, guaranteeing Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison 90 percent of the market. Utility monopoly-backed legislation to eliminate electricity choice altogether would further damage our economy, schools in particular.

Robinson: Demystify the minimum wage (Detroit News)
One of the most widely discussed but least understood public policy debates essential to the well-being of our economy and every American citizen is the minimum wage.

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Governor Rick Snyder
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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Gov. Snyder to appoint new justice to Michigan Supreme Court, his 3rd to 7-member panel (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder is set to name a new justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. The Republican governor will announce his choice at a late-morning news conference Wednesday in Lansing. Justice Mary Beth Kelly is leaving the bench to return to private practice, effective Thursday.

Appeals Court appointment
Snyder appoints Oakland County judge to state appeals court (AP)
An Oakland County judge who lost an election to the Michigan Supreme Court is getting a new job. Colleen O'Brien was appointed to the state appeals court Tuesday by Gov. Rick Snyder. There's a vacancy on the court after the resignation of Judge Pat Donofrio.

Snyder makes appointment to Court of Appeals (TV 6 UP)
Colleen O'Brien was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Gov. Rick Snyder. "Collen has served with distinction in one of the state's largest trial courts for 16 years handling complex civil, criminal, and family law cases," Snyder said. "As the president of the Michigan Judges Association, she is an important leader in our state's judiciary. Her personal integrity, widely respected legal acumen, and substantial judicial experience will be of great benefit to the Court of Appeals and the people of Michigan."

Snyder picks O'Brien for state Court of Appeals (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder said Tuesday he has appointed Oakland County Circuit Judge Colleen O'Brien to fill a vacancy on the Michigan Court of Appeals. O'Brien, an unsuccessful Republican Party-nominated candidate for the Michigan Supreme Court in 2012 and among those speculated under consideration for an opening there now, fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Pat Donofrio.

Governor Tabs O'Brien to Fill Appeals Court Vacancy (WHTC)
Governor Snyder filled a vacancy on the state Court of Appeals by tabbing Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Colleen O'Brien to replace Pat Donofrio, who resigned. The Clarkston jurist has been on that bench for 16 years, primarily handling criminal cases.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Advocates say discipline policies are failing special needs students (WKAR)
Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley recently gathered feedback from thousands of parents of kids with special needs. One of the major concerns raised was the tactics teachers and other school employees used when it came to dealing with disruptive behavior from those students.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

Michigan AG Bill Schuette backs civil asset forfeiture reform package (MLive)
Attorney General Bill Schuette, Michigan's top law enforcement officer, is backing legislation that would begin to reform the state's civil asset forfeiture laws, which allow police to seize property linked to a crime even if charges are never filed.

Schuette, Eplings urge anti-bullying measures in East Lansing (Lansing State Journal)
The couple stood beside Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette this morning at East Lansing High School as part of the second year of the state's Okay2Say anti-bullying program. Okay2Say is an online program allowing anyone who witnesses or hears about bullying or other safety concerns to report confidentially to law enforcement and mental health professionals.

MDARD

Michigan ag exports to China skyrocket (Fresh Plaza)
In the past five years, more and more of Michigan's prepared fruits and vegetables have been on their way to China, according to export data from Euromonitor International Ltd. From 2010 to 2014, the dollar value of prepared fruit and vegetable exports, which include dried tart cherries, rose almost four-fold.

'Skimming' scam stealing information at the pump (WNEM)
From the outside, the slot where you put in your credit card may look perfectly normal, but on the inside, a device may be stealing your information. When Shirley Rocket-Booker needs to fill up, she, like most, gases up with her bank card. So far she's never been skimmed at the pump.

State conducts card skimmer sweep, several found in west Michigan (WKZO-AM)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development found 12 credit card skimmers during a two-week statewide gas pump sweep.

Mosquito-borne encephalitis kills more horses in Southwest Michigan (MLive)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced two additional cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in horses in Calhoun and Van Buren Counties.

Corrections

Appeals court denies 'White Boy Rick' resentencing bid (The Detroit News)
Convicted drug dealer Richard "White Boy Rick" Wershe Jr. lost a bid to have his life sentence reduced, the latest chapter in the case of a teen-aged drug kingpin with a pageboy haircut that has enthralled Metro Detroiters for decades.

MDE

'I Don't Want My Daughter To Fail': Detroit Parents Rally In Lansing For Better Schools (WWJ)
The Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren staged a rally at the State Capitol to push for 24 recommendations to improve Detroit schools.

DEQ

600 gallons of raw sewage spilled at treatment plant (MLive)
About 600 gallons of raw sewage spilled outside of the Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority wastewater treatment plant Thursday night between 7:30 and 8 p.m.

Flint mayor to state: Approve plan "as fast as humanly possible" to help keep lead out of water (Michigan Radio)
Flint Mayor Dayne Walling says he wants to put corrosion-control treatment back in place, but he needs state approval first. The state says it's going to take a little while to implement.

High Lead Levels In Michigan Kids After City Switches Water Source (NPR)
Doctors are finding elevated levels of lead in the children in Flint, Mich., and local tap water is the likely cause.

DTMB
Kalamazoo-Portage unemployment falls one percent in August (WKZO-AM)
Unemployment in the Kalamazoo-Portage metropolitan area dipped to 4.2 percent last month. The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget says the rate was at 5.2 percent in July.

MDHHS
Mystery Outbreak: 14 Salmonella Infections Reported at Detroit Hospital (Food Safety News)
Officials with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI, are trying to unravel how 14 patients in the same hospital unit were sickened last week with Salmonella.

14 people treated for Salmonella at Henry Ford Hospital, investigation into source underway (WXYZ)
Henry Ford Hospital and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is confirming that fourteen people have been treated for gastroenteritis symptoms caused by a strain of salmonella.

Holland Hospital recognized for excellence in newborn screening (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association recently recognized Holland Hospital for excellence in newborn screening performance.

DNR
Mother bear with cubs killed; DNR seeking charges against hunter (MLive)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will seek an arrest warrant for a man who allegedly shot a mother black bear who was accompanied by her three cubs in Oceana County, a conservation officer said Tuesday.

Canton asking state to review hunting rules (Hometown Life)
Fearing a potential threat to public safety, Canton officials are asking the state to review rules that still allow restricted hunting on most of Canton's west side.

DNR's Citizens Advisory Council to meet in Cedarville (TV 6 UP)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council will meet next month in Mackinac County.

DNR makes Lake Gogebic walleye recommendation (TV 6 UP)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists have recommended a change in the sportfishing regulations for walleyes in Lake Gogebic in the western Upper Peninsula.

MDOT
Otsego County Drivers Raise Questions on Old 27 Road Repair (9&10 News)
A recent road repair has sparked some criticism in a Northern Michigan community. Michigan Department of Transportation recently re-surfaced a two-mile stretch of road to repair cracks and crumbling.

MDOT Adding 54-thousand Cubic Tons of Mulch to I-696 Slopes (WDET)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is adding 54,000 cubic yards of mulch to a stretch of I-696. The project will cover up ten miles of dead grass between I-94 and I-75. MDOT spokesperson Diane Cross says mulch should better protect freeway slopes.

MSP
Feds give state police $1.5M for heroin crackdown (The Detroit News)
Michigan State Police won a $1.46 million competitive federal grant that will help collaborations with other law enforcement departments statewide cracking down on heroin distribution and trafficking.

Renewed push to deal with heroin and prescription drug abuse (Newschannel 3)
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention drug overdoses now surpass car accidents as the leading cause of injury related deaths for people between the ages of 25 and 64.

SOS
$6,455 in fines, fees for Grand Rapids campaign in term limits vote (MLive)
A campaign that opposed a 2014 ballot proposal for city term limits has paid $6,455 in fees and fines, according to an agreement with the Michigan Secretary of State.

University Motor Mall license suspended after customers complain (WLNS)
The doors are locked, the lights are off and there aren't any vehicles for sale at University Motor Mall in Lansing because of a suspension and investigation by the Michigan Secretary of State's office.

Supreme Court
Court to open new self-help centers (Lansing State Journal)
This fall, residents in the Detroit region interested in representing themselves in civil legal matters will get a helping hand from the Michigan Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said in a news release Tuesday that it will open new Michigan Legal Self-Help Centers in Macomb County and southwest Detroit this fall, adding to eight other centers in Oscoda, Allegan, Oakland, Wayne, Muskegon, Monroe, Marquette, and Calhoun counties

Michigan's top court won't take right-to-read lawsuit (AP)
The Michigan Supreme Court has rejected an appeal in a lawsuit that blames the state for poor reading skills of students in Highland Park. In a brief order, the justices last week declined to take the case.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Bill nearing OK lets drivers show insurance via phone (AP)
Drivers pulled over by the police could show proof of auto insurance on their mobile device under legislation nearing final approval in Michigan. The state Senate plans to vote on the bill on Wednesday. It won approval in the House in March.

Bills look to address Michigan's controversial forfeiture laws (Newschannel 3)
A new poll shows that many people think Michigan's controversial forfeiture laws need work. Michigan's forfeiture laws allow for police to seize the property of crime suspects without the obligation to ever return that property. The poll was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies. The results were released as the Michigan Senate prepares to take up a package of bills addressing the issue. The poll surveyed 500 Michigan voters and 80 percent of respondents believe the civil asset forfeiture process needs reform.

Are state lawmakers running on your dime? Courser, Gamrat staffs weren't the only ones blurring that line (MLive)
Emails released as part of a House investigation of now-ousted Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat show staff mix political and official work. But an MLive investigation found those blurred lines, far from being isolated to the offices of two members, trace throughout the Michigan House of Representatives.

Michigan lawmakers consider 80MPH highway speed limit (WDIV)
Michigan lawmakers are exploring the possibility of raising the speed limit to 80 miles per hour on rural freeways.

Michigan lawmakers mull tougher poaching penalties (Great Lakes Echo)
A bill package going through the state Legislature would increase penalties for poaching in the form of a steep hike in restitution that poachers must pay to the state.

Immigrant advocates blast bill to ban 'sanctuary cities' in Michigan by withholding state funding (MLive)
A Michigan bill seeking to ban "sanctuary city" policies for immigrants who entered the country illegally could damage police-community relationships and encourage racial profiling, according to critics.

DETROIT

Engineers union: DPS boiler regulations could hurt kids (The Detroit News)
Members of a local engineers union asked a judge Tuesday to reverse a city decision to replace most public school building boiler operators with a remote monitoring system.

Public hearing set on law for medical marijuana shops (The Detroit News)
An October public hearing is set to gain public feedback on a propose ordinance aimed at regulating where and how medical marijuana centers can operate in Detroit.

Council approves land deal to reinvent Herman Kiefer (The Detroit News)
The City Council on Tuesday approved a land deal that clears the way for a development plan to reinvent the vacant Herman Kiefer Hospital complex and a blighted southeast Detroit neighborhood.

Detroit Homecoming kicks off today in the city (WXYZ)
Detroit Homecoming kicks off at the Detroit Opera House tonight, and organizers are expecting an even bigger crowd than last year. They say the three-day event is expected to bring nearly 200-business, sports and innovation leaders back home to the D -this year to invest and lead.

OPINION

Ken Braun: New poll reveals union workers are unhappy workers (MLive)
"Live Better — Work Union" is a slogan that's often easy to find adorning car bumpers near workplaces where Big Labor remains relevant. Press an organized-labor apologist to explain, and the response is likely to be an assertion that union membership creates workplaces where safety, job security, better pay and so forth are a greater priority. Yet throwing ice water on this warm and fuzzy claim is a recent Gallup poll showing union members may be the most disgruntled workers in America.

Lansing promises were made, but roads remain broken (MLive)

Way back before summer began, in the midst of another ill-fated attempt to fix the roads, the Senate GOP leadership proudly announced that the body would work throughout the summer to get this job done

Phil Power: Correcting corrections would save money, but carry risks (MLive)
Trying to come up with better corrections policy for Michigan is tough, because you have to balance two factors — costs versus public safety — where a fact-based comparison is difficult.

Editorial: UAW members must face contract reality (Detroit News)
The UAW rank and file is obviously not pleased with the tentative labor contract President Dennis Williams and FCA US CEO Sergio Marchionne agreed to two weeks ago, even though it provides significant economic rewards for workers.

Glenn: Keep energy choice alive (Detroit News)
Michigan's economy is hindered by an arbitrary law allowing only 10 percent of electricity users to buy from an alternative provider, guaranteeing Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison 90 percent of the market. Utility monopoly-backed legislation to eliminate electricity choice altogether would further damage our economy, schools in particular.

Robinson: Demystify the minimum wage (Detroit News)
One of the most widely discussed but least understood public policy debates essential to the well-being of our economy and every American citizen is the minimum wage.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:17 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/1 Newsroom

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

New Supreme Court Justice
Snyder appoints Joan Larsen to Supreme Court (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday named to the Michigan Supreme Court University of Michigan attorney and law professor Joan Larsen, a former legal adviser to the administration of President George W. Bush and a former clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Gov. Snyder names Joan Larsen to Michigan Supreme Court (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder has named Joan Larsen, currently special counsel to the University of Michigan law school dean, to the state Supreme Court. Snyder announced his choice at a late-morning news conference Wednesday in Lansing. Justice Mary Beth Kelly is leaving the bench to return to private practice, effective Thursday.

Snyder picks UM law professor Larsen for Supreme Court (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder appointed University of Michigan adjunct law professor Joan Larsen on Wednesday in a move that continues the Michigan Supreme Court's 5-2 conservative majority. Larsen, 47, is special counsel to the UM law school dean, and her appointment to replace retiring Justice Mary Beth Kelly means three of the seven justices have no prior judicial experience. She joins a seven-member court that includes Justice Bridget McCormack, also a former University of Michigan law professor, and Justice Richard Bernstein, a former private-practice attorney in Farmington Hills.

Gov. Snyder appoints new MI Supreme Court Justice (Fox 17)
Governor Rick Snyder appointed Joan L. Larsen, a law professor at the University of Michigan, to the Michigan Supreme Court Wednesday morning.

Gov. Snyder names replacement state Supreme Court justice (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder names Joan Larsen, of Scio Township, to Michigan State Supreme Court. Larsen, a University of Michigan professor, will be replacing Mary Beth Kelly who is stepping down on Thursday to return to private law practice.

U-M law professor appointed to Michigan Supreme Court (AP)
A University of Michigan law professor with conservative credentials was appointed Wednesday to the Michigan Supreme Court, filling an opening caused by the early departure of Justice Mary Beth Kelly. Joan Larsen, special counsel to the law school's dean, is Gov. Rick Snyder's third appointment to the court. Through elections and appointments, Republican nominees have a 5-2 majority.

Snyder appoints University law professor to Michigan Supreme Court (Michigan Daily)
Gov. Rick Snyder appointed University Law Prof. Joan Larsen to the Michigan Supreme Court on Wednesday.

Gov. Rick Snyder appoints U-M attorney Joan Larsen to Michigan Supreme Court (Mlive)
University of Michigan attorney and law professor Joan Larsen is heading to the state Supreme Court. Republican Gov. Rick Snyder announced the appointment Wednesday, selecting Larsen to replace outgoing Justice Mary Beth Kelly, who is resigning to return to private practice.

Syrian refugees/immigration
Michigan to 'welcome' Syrian refugees (MI 26 News)
The Governor's administration is talking with federal officials about the role that the state of Michigan can play in taking in more refugees from war-torn Syria and the Middle East. Michigan has one of the nation's largest Middle Eastern populations and the Governor says he would love to see it grow.

Skubick: Snyder wants to open door to immigrants; GOP senator has other idea (WLNS)
Gov. Rick Snyder says he wants to welcome more immigrants to Michigan while some GOP lawmakers want to punish so-called Sanctuary Cities that welcome immigrants into the state.

Michigan in early talks on taking more Syria, Middle East refugees, Snyder says (AP)
Republican Gov. Rick Snyder said Tuesday his administration is talking with federal officials on the role the state can play in accepting more refugees from war-torn Syria and the Middle East, building on Michigan's century-plus of Arab immigration and taking a different tone from some GOP presidential candidates

Flint water
Gov. Rick Snyder: Consequences of using Flint River water weren't 'fully understood' in 2014 (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder is promising action this week in response to Flint's water crisis and says the consequences of switching to the Flint River in 2014 weren't "fully understood." Blood samples show significant levels of lead in Flint children, likely because corrosive water from the Flint River is agitating lead in old plumbing systems.

Governor says fallout from Flint water switch wasn't fully understood (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder says "There are probably things that weren't as fully understood" as they should have been before the city tapped into the Flint River for drinking water. Snyder, speaking to reporters in Lansing Wednesday, Sept. 30, said the decision to use the river rather than buying Lake Huron water from Detroit was "made with the community" while Flint was run by a state-appointed emergency manager.

Snyder: Things "were not fully understood" in Flint water switch (Michigan Radio)
Governor Rick Snyder acknowledges the decision to switch the city of Flint's water system was not vetted the way it should have been. The city faces a crisis now that the water going to homes is contaminated by lead. "In terms of a mistake, I would say is there are probably things that were not as fully understood as when that switch was made," he said.

Snyder finally says lead in Flint water may be problem (Freep)
Almost a week after news broke that more Flint kids have been lead poisoned, two weeks after state data confirmed that lead levels in Flint's water had spiked, more than a year after residents first noticed something was hinky with the water coming out of their taps, Gov. Rick Snyder has publicly acknowledged that Flint's water supply "appears" to have problems.

Legislative Black Caucus urges state of emergency for Flint water (Mlive)
The Michigan Legislative Black Caucus is putting pressure on Gov. Rick Snyder to issue a state of emergency for the city of Flint's water problems. The organization announced in a Wednesday, Sept. 30, release that its members are concerned about the residents of Flint and lead exposure from the city's water.

Governor to take action over lead in Flint water supply (WWMT)
Governor Rick Snyder is pledging to take action this week or next on the concerning amounts of lead turning up in Flint's water. Meanwhile, residents in the city continue to suffer the consequences.

Snyder acknowledges mistakes in city's water troubles (WNEM)
For months, a city's water supply has been plagued with a foul smell, gross discoloration and now, dangerous levels of lead. So TV5 wanted to ask the tough questions of Gov. Rick Snyder – after all, it was his appointed emergency manager who oversaw pulling the plug on Detroit.

Roads
Governor Snyder Says Road Talks Going Well (WILX)
Governor Rick Snyder says he met with legislative leaders from both parties on Wednesday over a possible road funding plan.

Rising Tide
Governor Snyder's Rising Tide initiative rolls through Evart (TV 7&4)
Evart is one of ten communities throughout Michigan that was chosen by the Talent and Economic Development Group (TED) to be a part of the Rising Tide initiative. It's something that was envisioned by Governor Rick Snyder. The initiative is based off of the old proverb, 'A rising tide lifts all boats.'

Detroit homecoming
Second 'Detroit Homecoming' aims to score big again (The Detroit News)
The second annual event aimed at wooing a group of successful former Detroiters to become involved in their home town kicked off Wednesday evening. The CEO and founder of Under Armour, Kevin Plank told the "Detroit Homecoming" crowd that the fast-growing Baltimore-based sports apparel and shoemaker is looking for a space to open its first store in the city. The 175 "expats" invited to the Homecoming will be heavily pitched by many Metro Detroit power players who will portray the post-bankruptcy city as an area that's already rebounding.

Detroit expats gather at kickoff event for Detroit Homecoming (Crain's Detroit Business)
With more than 350 Detroit "expats" and guests in attendance, Gov. Rick Snyder kicked off Detroit Homecoming with the message of working together. Detroit Homecoming, an event to re-engage expats, many of whom grew up in the city or Detroit suburbs, through philanthropy, real estate investment or other tangible contributions to their hometown, is about making a difference, Snyder said.

Bill signing
Gov. Rick Snyder signs bills modifying local resource regulations (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder signed three bills Sept. 30 that clarify operations of municipalities, making it easier for counties, cities, townships and villages to file documents and save money at the local government level.

Gov. Snyder signs bills to save resources (UP Matters/TV 3)
Gov. Rick Snyder today signed three bills that clarify operations of municipalities, making it easier for counties, cities, townships and villages to file documents and save money at the local government level. "Repealing outdated laws on the books and helping to modernize government at the local level has been a major priority," Snyder said. "These bills allow communities to correct issues that have hindered their operations to help them conserve resources and provide better services to residents."

Amazon in Detroit

Amazon starts acting like believer in Michigan's future (Freep)

Amazon's hour-long press event Monday in downtown Detroit didn't provide much in the way of brand new news. Amazon shared very little new information in its press release Monday or the opening remarks of Peter Faricy, vice president of Amazon Marketplace at Cobo Center.

Flag honors

Gov. Rick Snyder lowers flags in honor of fallen firefighter (Holland Sentinel)

Gov. Rick Snyder ordered U.S. and Michigan flags to be lowered to half-staff Oct. 1 within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings in honor of Casnovia Township firefighter Richard Crosby Sr., who died Sept. 26.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

State employees run Relentless Positive Traction 5K (LSJ)

Some 1,000 state employees participated in the second annual Relentless Positive Traction 5K Run + Walk Wednesday evening at the state Capitol. Led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, the event was birthed in 2014 through an employee engagement effort. Employees designed the event's logo.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

Marijuana dispensary case going to trial (Times Herald)

Five people facing charges in a medical marijuana case that was dismissed in 2013 are heading to trial — unless they decide to take plea deals by Oct. 12. Debra, James and Amanda Amsdill and Mark and Terra Sochacki were in Judge Cynthia Lane's courtroom Wednesday for plea hearings.

DEQ

In toxic Lake Erie algae battle, Michigan shows a sign of progress (MLive)

New data indicates that harmful algal bloom-fueling phosphorus in a Lake Erie tributary has been reduced by nearly 50 percent in the past seven years, a drop that state officials are attributing to conservation farming practices.

Muskegon County, Mona Lake Watershed Council celebrate permit approval to address lake's algae blooms, phosphorous (MLive)

Muskegon County has finally received a key document that will help it fight harmful algae blooms in Mona Lake and reestablish the original, marshy condition of the "celery flats" near Black Creek. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for developing and maintaining the nation's environmental resources, issued a critical work permit to the Muskegon County Drain Commission on Sept. 17.

Flint water woes seep into city, state politics (Detroit News)

The questionable quality of the city's drinking water made headlines again this week, but not much of it has been news to Ashley Holt. For almost a year, the water from her faucet has looked "like urine," smelled "like the sewer" and, if you're brave enough to sip it, hasn't tasted "normal," the 25-year-old Flint resident said. It's why she's limited for months how often her children — ages 5, 6 and 12 — come in contact with it.

DNR

New grouse enhanced management site dedicated in Iron County (TV 6 UP)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and several partnering groups recently opened the first Grouse Enhanced Management Site developed on private land in Michigan: the "Gold Mine" GEMS in Iron County.

Salmon population plummeting in Lake Michigan (USA Today)

They are the king of the Great Lakes sport fish, luring thousands of anglers to Michigan waters every year for a chance to try to land them — and helping fuel a multibillion-dollar fishing and boating tourism industry. But the Chinook salmon's

numbers are plummeting in Lake Michigan due to a combination of natural forces, unnatural invasive species, and the state Department of Natural Resources' own efforts to dial back the population and prevent a more permanent population crash as happened in Lake Huron about a decade ago.

Archery deer season set to begin (Sault St. Marie Evening News)
When the archery season opens at daybreak on Thursday, those who pursue the white-tailed deer throughout most of the Upper Peninsula will find their options are a bit more limited for the 2015 season. "There was a change," said Wildlife Biologist David Jentoft of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "Archery hunters can only, for the most part, take an antlered deer this year."

Survey shows yellow perch surviving but not thriving (Arenac County Independent)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources wrapped up its annual fisheries survey in the Saginaw Bay in late September, and this year's survey showed slight improvements in the yellow perch population. DNR Fisheries Research Biologist Dave Fielder said the survey data was collected over a roughly three-week period in September and will not be fully analyzed until this winter. However, early indications show some good news for yellow perch in the Bay.

Reclusive rattlesnake may get federal protection (Detroit Free Press)
The eastern massasauga rattlesnake, Michigan's lone venomous viper, is the scariest snake you've probably never seen — except in pictures, perhaps. But the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing that this chicken of a snake needs federal protection as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. It probably needs a good public relations agent, too.

DTMB
Great Lakes Crossing Outlets holding seasonal job fair as state reports decreased workforce levels in recent months (Oakland Press)
Auburn Hills resident Darryl Wright, after years in the telecommunications and auto detailing industries, is looking to get into a new field. On Wednesday, Sept. 30, he knew right where to go. More than 90 stores and restaurants set up booths from 1 to 4 p.m. in the food court of the Great Lakes Crossing Outlets during an annual job fair to attract seasonal workers.

MDHHS
Michigan: Rare salmonella infected Henry Ford patients (Free Press)
The salmonella that is believed to have sickened 14 patients at Henry Ford Hospital last week is the "relatively rare" strain called Salmonella Isangi, according to the state health department. It's a strain so rare, state officials have asked the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for more information about it, said Jim Collins, director of the communicable diseases division of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Public health assessment finalized following 2010 oil spill in Calhoun, Kalamazoo counties (Fox 28)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has finalized a public health assessment connected to the July 2010 oil spill in Calhoun and Kalamazoo counties. A news release from MDHHS said the public health assessment evaluated the levels of oil-related chemicals in the air following the oil spill. The assessment concluded residents are not expected to experience long-term harm to their health from breathing chemicals released into the air from the spilled oil.

Chemicals in Air from Kalamazoo River Spill Won't Lead to Health Problems, State Says (WMUK)
State officials say that the 2010 oil spill in the Kalamazoo River likely won't lead to long-term problems for residents who breathed in oil-related chemicals. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services today released its final report on potential health problems from chemicals from the spill in the air.

MDOT
Michigan is auto, and MiCHauto aims to keep it that way (MLive)

Michigan is home to a quarter of all U.S. automotive assembly plants.The state has the highest concentration of engineering and architecture talent in the country. Last year, the number of vehicles produced in Michigan hit 2.34 million units, easily eclipsing the next state's total output of about 800,000 cars and trucks.

MDOT covering up dead vegetation with mulch along freeway (Grand Haven Tribune)
That's the cost to have 53,700 cubic yards of mulch placed along I-696 in parts of Oakland and Macomb counties, an area that stretches from I-75 to I-94, the Detroit Free Press reported. "We are remulching all of the beds (basically anywhere where there isn't growth) with mulch," MDOT spokeswoman Diane Cross said in an email.

MPSC
Energy Summit holds discussions for future development (ABC 10 News)
Leaders and state commission members met this morning to discuss the future of energy here in the U.P. Members of the Michigan Public Service Commission, MISO, and other energy representatives gathered today at NMU to discuss local, state and regional developments. The main point of discussion was what to do when the Presque Isle Power Plant becomes defunct in 2020. Their solution is to build a new power plant by then.

Electric hike: UPPCO's proposal to raise rates needs state commission approval (Mining Gazette)
Upper Peninsula Power Company has requested Michigan Public Service Commission approval for a minimum 6.45 percent increase in base electric rates for 2016, but the state won't just be rubber-stamping the hike, Public Service spokeswoman Judy Palnau said Tuesday. Palnau said UPPCO will have to make their case for the increase before an administrative judge, a process that can involve public comment and even legal intervention from customers. That judge will issue a recommendation to the Public Service Commissioners, who make a final decision on a new rate.

MSP
Oakland County employees raise $7,000 for family of fallen Michigan State Police trooper (Oakland Press)
Oakland County government employees have utilized casual Friday to raise money for those in need in the past, but they went a little further to support the family of a Michigan State Police trooper killed in the line of duty. A typical collection yields about $300, but after Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson joked that police officers may not understand the premise of a casual dress day, he handed over a check for $7,000 on behalf of county employees Wednesday, Sept. 30 to the family of trooper Chad Wolf.

SOS
Voter Registration Deadline for Nov. 3 Election Nears (WHTC)
With Election Day five weeks from now, Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson is reminding residents that the voter registration deadline for the November 3rd balloting is next Monday, October 5th. Municipal government seats are primarily up for grabs in this off-year election statewide, including contested races in Holland, Douglas, Hudsonville and Grand Haven. There is also an eight-person GOP primary for most of Allegan County to see who will run against Democrat David Gernant in a March 8th Special Election for filling a state House seat vacated by Cindy Gamrat's expulsion.

Customers who bought from University Motor Mall weigh in on how the dealership did business (WLNS)
There aren't any cars for sale at University Motor Mall in Lansing Tuesday night after an investigation by the state found the dealership was failing to give customers credible titles and registration. State officials started to raise their eyebrows when customers of University Motor Mall weren't being issued credible titles for their newly purchased vehicles, leading them to question 'where were the vehicles coming from?'

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Rep. Tinsley-Talabi linked to Detroit corruption case (The Detroit News)
Federal officials are investigating state Rep. Alberta Tinsley-Talabi in a bribery and kickback scandal stemming from her time as a city councilwoman and a Detroit pension fund trustee, The Detroit News has learned. Tinsley-Talabi's nonprofit

group received at least one bribe from a businessman while she sat on a Detroit pension fund, and her City Council campaign got thousands more from businessmen involved in a widespread corruption case, federal prosecutors said.

Michigan lawmakers considering raising speed limit on rural highways (WWMT News 3)
From 70 to 80 miles per hour? For the third time, Michigan lawmakers are considering raising the state's speed limit on rural highways. A bill moving through the State House right now is getting mixed reactions from drivers. It's an issue we can all relate to in one way or another: if you do go the speed limit on the highway, you feel like other cars are zooming past you. This new legislation would aim to raise the speed limit in some spots to what most drivers are already doing.

Lawmakers vote to lift cap on teacher certification test fee (Detroit Free Press)
A bill heading to Gov. Rick Snyder for his signature lifts a cap on teacher certification test fees so they can go up for the first time in 23 years. The Senate voted 33-4 for the legislation Wednesday. The current fee is $50 for a basic skills exam and $75 for an elementary certification or subject-area test. The bill doesn't outline new fees but says the state Education Department cannot implement fees exceeding actual costs.

Bill nearing OK lets drivers show police insurance via phone (AP)
Drivers pulled over by the police could show proof of auto insurance on their mobile device under legislation nearing final approval in Michigan. The state Senate plans to vote on the bill Wednesday. It won approval in the House in March. The legislation would clarify that motorists can demonstrate proof that their car is insured by showing a paper or electronic copy of their insurance certificate.

Michigan motorists can prove auto insurance coverage on cell phone under approved bill (MLive)
Michigan motorists involved in traffic stops or crashes will have the option to show proof of no-fault auto insurance coverage in an electronic form under legislation heading to the desk of Gov. Rick Snyder. House Bill 4193, sponsored by Republican Rep. Aric Nesbitt, of Lawton, and unanimously approved by the Senate on Wednesday, would allow motorists to share insurance documents with police via cell phone or another capable device.

DETROIT

Banksy mural from Detroit sells for $137,500 (Detroit Free Press)
Going once. Going twice. Sold. The Banksy has left Detroit for good. The city's most famous and controversial piece of street art, painted in 2010 amid the ruins of the Packard Plant by the anonymous British celebrity artist known as Banksy, sold Wednesday at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, Calif., for $137,500 including the buyer's premium.

Land deal for Herman Kiefer complex in Detroit approved (MLive)
Upon closing, Ron Castellano and the Herman Kiefer Development LLC will have 90 days to spruce up the vacant houses and lots around the sprawling abandoned hospital complex in Detroit's Virginia Park neighborhood. That's step one. The Detroit News reports that the Detroit City Council on Tuesday passed a land deal allowing New York-based Castellano to acquire the 18-acre site and 526,000-square-foot Herman Kiefer Health Complex for $925,000.

Detroit mayor's dad, Patrick Duggan, retires as judge (The Detroit News)
The father of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is retiring as a federal judge. Patrick Duggan's last day on the bench is Wednesday. President Ronald Reagan nominated him in 1986, and he was quickly confirmed by the Senate. Duggan was a Wayne County judge for 10 years before moving to U.S. District Court.

Morouns lose on virtually all counts in bridge lawsuit (Detroit Free Press)
A federal judge on Wednesday dismissed virtually all of the remaining legal counts in a lawsuit against the U.S. government brought by owners of the Ambassador Bridge, rejecting Manuel (Matty) Moroun's contention that his company has an exclusive rights to operate a span to Canada in Detroit without competition. The 57-page opinion filed by U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer in Washington represents another victory for proponents of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, a publicly owned span proposed to be built almost entirely at Canada's expense.

OPINION

More Freedom of Information needed in Michigan (Holland Sentinel)
In the aftermath of the sex scandal that rocked Lansing over the course of the past month, there are many lessons to be learned. Chief among them is that our open records laws are an abject failure. The Freedom of Information Act in Michigan is nowhere near free, and the exemptions included for the governor and legislature mean that those at the heart of directing our state and creating our laws are completely concealed from scrutiny.

Our view: Laws taking effect a step toward fairness (Midland Daily News)
Michigan laws that take effect on Thursday might not be popular with online shoppers, but they make a lot of sense in terms of fairness and the state's budget needs. Thursday is the day when online retailers such as Amazon.com and others with some type of connection in Michigan, whether it be employees, office space or repair services, will start collecting the state's 6 percent sales tax.

Editorial: UAW members must face contract reality (The Detroit News)
The UAW rank and file is obviously not pleased with the tentative labor contract President Dennis Williams and FCA US CEO Sergio Marchionne agreed to two weeks ago, even though it provides significant economic rewards for workers.

Robinson: Demystify the minimum wage (The Detroit News)
One of the most widely discussed but least understood public policy debates essential to the well-being of our economy and every American citizen is the minimum wage. Labor unions, civil rights groups, and progressive and working-class Americans of all races, ethnicities, religions and backgrounds have been struggling for years to get our country to establish a fair, livable minimum wage, such as $15 an hour.

Editorial: Another assault on women's rights (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Forcing a woman to have an abortion is plainly wrong, but no more so than forcing her to continue a pregnancy she does not want. If Republican lawmakers were sincere about eliminating coercion in reproductive decision-making, they'd be looking at both issues.

Don't give in to corporate blackmail to pay for roads (Macomb Daily)
When you hit a pothole at 50 m.p.h. in a 20-ton fire truck, the driver struggles to maintain control of the vehicle. Yet firefighters (I was one for 26 years) risk that dangerous jolt every time they race to an emergency down a badly maintained road. That's why I was grateful when I heard that Washington had come up with a way to fund highway and bridge repair.

Editorial: Adding Larsen should make good court better (The Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder is making the case for the appointment of Supreme Court justices look quite appealing. The governor's third pick for an opening on the court, Joan Larsen, reflects his preference for justices with solid legal grounding over those with political connections.

Finley: Keep politics out of taxes (The Detroit News)
If you don't own a home, if you don't have dependent children, if you aren't a senior citizen and if you don't have outstanding college loans, don't bother to check out the "Blueprint for Michigan Families" offered by Democrats this week. It isn't for you.

Campbell: Unregulated prescribing authority wrong move
At the beginning of the summer, Gov. Rick Snyder announced the formation of a "Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force." It was an important move and perhaps an even more important acknowledgment — Michigan is facing a prescription drug abuse crisis.

Firm Picked to Evaluate Education Funding Has Long History of Recommending Spending Hikes

The Snyder administration's preliminary pick for a contractor to do a study on whether Michigan spends an “adequate” amount on public schools has a long history of coming to the same conclusion on similar questions: “Not adequate." The company’s 12 most recent state studies have all concluded that spending on public schools should be increased.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 9:47 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/2 Newsroom
Attachments: 151002 Newsroom.docx

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The Michigan Department of Transportation has opened a new parking lot for carpoolers south of Stadium Drive in Kalamazoo.

Work on U.S.10 bridges at I-75 to shift (Midland Daily News)
The westbound U.S. 10 bridge over I-75 will reopen to traffic on Saturday. On Sunday, Michigan Department of Transportation crews will shift eastbound traffic over to the newly constructed westbound bridge, closing the eastbound bridge.

Road improvement? Rough Ostego Avenue resurfacing is 'finished product' (Petoskey News Review)
Motorists who regularly travel South Otsego Avenue between the I-75 interchange and South Wisconsin Avenue/Grandview Boulevard in Gaylord may find the recent paving job hardly an improvement over the old, crumbling roadway, but what is being driven upon is the "finished product," according to a Michigan Department of Transportation official.

MEDC
Downtown Escanaba getting renovations thanks to grant (Upper Michigan's Source)
Six downtown Escanaba businesses will soon be getting a facelift.

Glassource expands in Grand Haven (MiBiz)
Glassource, a Grand Haven-based manufacturer of glass and mirror products, including shower doors, plans to invest $1.6 million to purchase and revamp an aged manufacturing facility on Beechtree Street in Grand Haven.

MPSC
Saginaw Plaza facility celebrated completion of ESPC with an open house (Business Wire)
Ameresco, Inc., (NYSE:AMRC), a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, announced the completion of the $437,000 Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) with Saginaw Plaza, LTD. to upgrade their facility in Lansing, MI. The facility is currently leased to the State and houses the Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE) and the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). MAE/MPSC worked closely with the property owner, Saginaw Plaza, and Ameresco to achieve facility improvements given the MAE/MPSC is Saginaw Plaza's long-term tenant.

Energy summit addresses citizen concerns (WNMU)
Residents had a chance to ask questions about local power generation at the U.P. Energy Summit held at NMU Wednesday.

MSHDA
Abandoned lot in Moores Park Neighborhood to become community green space (City Pulse)
Lansing's Moores Park neighborhood is trading in an abandoned house for a community gathering space — with a little help.

Blighted properties in Albion, Emmett to be torn down (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Some 30 residential buildings will be torn down in Albion and Emmett Township beginning this week.

Hastings City Council appoints new 3rd Ward council member (Hastings Banner)
Hastings City Clerk and Treasurer Tom Emery swears in newly appointed 3rd Ward Council Member Don Smith during the Hastings City Council meeting Monday evening. (Photo courtesy of Jean Gallup, WBCH)by Sandra Ponsetto

SUPREME COURT
Michigan Supreme Court could hear Holland v. Consumers (Holland Sentinel)
A court case possibly heading to the state supreme court boils down to which utility has the right to serve customer Benjamin's Hope, a Park Township nonprofit.

Michigan Supreme Court could make it easier to get new trials (WMUK)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could make it easier for criminal defendants to win new trials.

State Supreme Court to hear Swain appeal (Battle Creek Enquirer)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments that Lorinda Swain of Burlington is entitled to a new trial in her criminal sexual conduct case.

Michigan high court to hear long-running sex abuse case (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to look at the case of a Battle Creek-area woman who was convicted of criminal sexual conduct 13 years ago.

MI Supreme Court to hear Swain case (WWMT)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments that Lorinda Swain of Calhoun County is entitled to a new trial.

Jones to state employees: Put a ring on it for bennies (LSJ)
State Sen. Rick Jones wants to limit state-sponsored employee benefits to the spouses and children of state workers, but a state employee union official said that's an issue outside the Legislature's authority.

TREASURY
Michigan Department of Treasury: Keep your online receipts (Oakland Press)
The Michigan department of Treasury has issued a statement cautioning shoppers to keep receipts on all items purchased via the Internet, mail-order or telephone starting Oct. 1.

Michigan's new internet sales tax laws take effect (WDET)
The state will require more online retailers to charge Michigan's sales tax starting Thursday.

That was fast: Michigan Court of Appeals upholds retroactive repeal of compact (Lexology)
A mere 28 days after oral argument, a three-judge panel of the Michigan Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a Court of Claims decision that sanctioned the Michigan Legislature's retroactive withdrawal from the Multistate Tax Compact in 2014 PA 282, by ruling for the Michigan Department of Treasury in the consolidated appeal.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Bill to end "sanctuary cities" draws opposition from some state lawmakers (Michigan Radio)
A Michigan Senate bill that would ban "sanctuary city" ordinances, which protect people living in the U.S. illegally, is drawing opposition from some lawmakers.

Michigan Senate approves $7.7 million for settlement after fatal crash involving state trooper (AP)
Michigan expects to spend $7.7 million on a legal settlement following a state police car chase that killed a 64-year-old Flint woman and severely injured two others.

Michigan Senate OKs bill targeting deed fee scams (AP)
A bill advancing in Michigan's Legislature targets companies that charge unsuspecting residents 50 to 100 times what a local government charges for a copy of a property deed.

Michigan lawmakers consider tax-free accounts for people with disabilities (AP)
The Michigan Legislature is voting to let residents with disabilities open tax-free savings accounts to pay for long-term needs such as education and housing. The accounts would offer tax advantages similar to 529 college savings plans. The House unanimously approved half of a four-bill package Thursday.

Michigan House bill would ban sky lanterns over fire, environmental concerns (MLive)
A bill was introduced last week in the Michigan Legislature that would ban sky lanterns from lighting up the nighttime sky. But if nothing is done at the state level, one Michigan city wants to start the discussion locally.

House approves bill to parole inmates after minimum sentence (AP)
Michigan lawmakers have approved legislation designed to keep certain prisoners from being locked up beyond their minimum sentence unless the parole board has compelling reasons.

Budget bill add-on awaits future state funds for Flint water (MLive)
A funding mechanism aimed at the state paying for measures to reduce lead levels in Flint's drinking water has been added to a budget bill in the Michigan Senate.

DETROIT

Mayor Duggan updates Detroit expats on city's progress at 2015 Detroit Homecoming (WXYZ)
Mayor Mike Duggan spoke Thursday morning at the 2015 Detroit Homecoming event and provided attendees with a wide-ranging set of updates on everything from development projects to streetlights and the M-1 Rail project.

Duggan: Detroit will 'step up' to host Syrian refugees (The Detroit News)
Mayor Mike Duggan said Thursday Detroit is among the cities willing to "step up" as a host for refugees amid the crisis in war-torn Syria. Duggan said he met with President Barack Obama during a Michigan visit after Labor Day and has been in talks with federal officials for several weeks about the plan and is "very willing" to accept refugees.

Local charities make pitches at Detroit Homecoming (The Detroit News)
Putting the copper crown back on the Belle Isle aquarium, supporting 700 homeless Detroit schoolchildren and taking a stand against animal cruelty are among seven "pitches" made Thursday by Detroit expats on behalf of city-based charities at Detroit Homecoming.

Knight Cities Challenge seeks good ideas for Detroit (The Detroit News)
New ideas that will help Detroit succeed are being sought for the second Knight Cities Challenge, which opened Thursday. The challenge, an initiative of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, seeks new ideas to make Detroit and the 25 other communities where Knight invests more vibrant places to live and work.

OPINION

Our Editorial: Get Flint residents drinkable water (The Detroit News)
It doesn't matter if official reports say Flint's water is safe to drink. If residents turn on the tap and the water that comes out is oddly colored — or any color but clear — and stinky, they aren't going to drink it. Nor should they have to.

More billboards won't fix Flint's violence problem -- gun control will (MLive)
Flint -- along with four other cities -- is joining the Violence Reduction Network, which, in the words of one federal official, uses "every tool in the Justice Department's toolbox... to get the most bang for our buck."

Michigan energy planning should not be rushed (MLive)
In testimony given on Sept. 17 regarding Senate Bill 437 before the Senate Energy and Technology Committee, David Mengebier, a senior vice president for Consumers Energy, listed a number of potential risks to Michigan's electricity market and stated: "It is imperative that we get a fair Michigan policy in place this fall."

Susan J. Demas: Can Republicans finally knock off Debbie Stabenow in 2018? (MLive)
Every six years, Michigan Republicans get to play their least-favorite game: Who wants to lose to Debbie Stabenow? While they don't have to worry about taking on the state's senior U.S. senator next year, the 2018 election is already

upon us. Don't believe me? Even as five GOP presidential hopefuls (real ones, not George Pataki) roamed Mackinac Island last month during the Republicans' biennial shindig, politicos were all atwitter about '18.

Parole reforms promise prison cost savings (The Times Herald)
Michigan spends $14 billion a year on schools but only $2 billion a year on prisons. Transportation spending is more comparable to corrections spending. So how about, “He who closes a prison, paves over a pothole?” Lawmakers have taken up parole reforms in an effort to save money operating the state’s prison system.

Editor's Note: Strike no good for anyone (The Detroit News)
It’s hard to see how a strike by the UAW will help either the union or the domestic auto industry. The union’s Ford division is threatening a walkout at the Kansas City plant that makes the hot-selling F-150 pickup if a local agreement is not reached by Sunday.

Jacques: Plan for Detroit schools shouldn't be delayed (The Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder better act soon on his plans for Detroit schools. Because the momentum surrounding revamping education in the city is deflating. September has come and gone without any sign of the legislation that’s essential to getting the discussion started in Lansing. Snyder had originally wanted the handful of bills introduced by last month. But that deadline keeps getting pushed back.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

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NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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MDOT opens new carpool lot at Stadium and 11th in Kalamazoo (WKZO)
The Michigan Department of Transportation has opened a new parking lot for carpoolers south of Stadium Drive in Kalamazoo.

Work on U.S.10 bridges at I-75 to shift (Midland Daily News)
The westbound U.S. 10 bridge over I-75 will reopen to traffic on Saturday. On Sunday, Michigan Department of Transportation crews will shift eastbound traffic over to the newly constructed westbound bridge, closing the eastbound bridge.

Road improvement? Rough Ostego Avenue resurfacing is 'finished product' (Petoskey News Review)
Motorists who regularly travel South Otsego Avenue between the I-75 interchange and South Wisconsin Avenue/Grandview Boulevard in Gaylord may find the recent paving job hardly an improvement over the old, crumbling roadway, but what is being driven upon is the "finished product," according to a Michigan Department of Transportation official.

MEDC
Downtown Escanaba getting renovations thanks to grant (Upper Michigan's Source)
Six downtown Escanaba businesses will soon be getting a facelift.

Glassource expands in Grand Haven (MiBiz)
Glassource, a Grand Haven-based manufacturer of glass and mirror products, including shower doors, plans to invest $1.6 million to purchase and revamp an aged manufacturing facility on Beechtree Street in Grand Haven.

MPSC
Saginaw Plaza facility celebrated completion of ESPC with an open house (Business Wire)
Ameresco, Inc., (NYSE:AMRC), a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, announced the completion of the $437,000 Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) with Saginaw Plaza, LTD. to upgrade their facility in Lansing, MI. The facility is currently leased to the State and houses the Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE) and the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). MAE/MPSC worked closely with the property owner, Saginaw Plaza, and Ameresco to achieve facility improvements given the MAE/MPSC is Saginaw Plaza's long-term tenant.

Energy summit addresses citizen concerns (WNMU)
Residents had a chance to ask questions about local power generation at the U.P. Energy Summit held at NMU Wednesday.

MSHDA
Abandoned lot in Moores Park Neighborhood to become community green space (City Pulse)
Lansing's Moores Park neighborhood is trading in an abandoned house for a community gathering space — with a little help.

Blighted properties in Albion, Emmett to be torn down (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Some 30 residential buildings will be torn down in Albion and Emmett Township beginning this week.

Hastings City Council appoints new 3rd Ward council member (Hastings Banner)
Hastings City Clerk and Treasurer Tom Emery swears in newly appointed 3rd Ward Council Member Don Smith during the Hastings City Council meeting Monday evening. (Photo courtesy of Jean Gallup, WBCH)by Sandra Ponsetto

SUPREME COURT
Michigan Supreme Court could hear Holland v. Consumers (Holland Sentinel)
A court case possibly heading to the state supreme court boils down to which utility has the right to serve customer Benjamin's Hope, a Park Township nonprofit.

Michigan Supreme Court could make it easier to get new trials (WMUK)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case that could make it easier for criminal defendants to win new trials.

State Supreme Court to hear Swain appeal (Battle Creek Enquirer)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments that Lorinda Swain of Burlington is entitled to a new trial in her criminal sexual conduct case.

Michigan high court to hear long-running sex abuse case (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to look at the case of a Battle Creek-area woman who was convicted of criminal sexual conduct 13 years ago.

MI Supreme Court to hear Swain case (WWMT)
The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments that Lorinda Swain of Calhoun County is entitled to a new trial.

Jones to state employees: Put a ring on it for bennies (LSJ)
State Sen. Rick Jones wants to limit state-sponsored employee benefits to the spouses and children of state workers, but a state employee union official said that's an issue outside the Legislature's authority.

TREASURY
Michigan Department of Treasury: Keep your online receipts (Oakland Press)
The Michigan department of Treasury has issued a statement cautioning shoppers to keep receipts on all items purchased via the Internet, mail-order or telephone starting Oct. 1.

Michigan's new internet sales tax laws take effect (WDET)
The state will require more online retailers to charge Michigan's sales tax starting Thursday.

That was fast: Michigan Court of Appeals upholds retroactive repeal of compact (Lexology)
A mere 28 days after oral argument, a three-judge panel of the Michigan Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a Court of Claims decision that sanctioned the Michigan Legislature's retroactive withdrawal from the Multistate Tax Compact in 2014 PA 282, by ruling for the Michigan Department of Treasury in the consolidated appeal.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Bill to end "sanctuary cities" draws opposition from some state lawmakers (Michigan Radio)
A Michigan Senate bill that would ban "sanctuary city" ordinances, which protect people living in the U.S. illegally, is drawing opposition from some lawmakers.

Michigan Senate approves $7.7 million for settlement after fatal crash involving state trooper (AP)
Michigan expects to spend $7.7 million on a legal settlement following a state police car chase that killed a 64-year-old Flint woman and severely injured two others.

Michigan Senate OKs bill targeting deed fee scams (AP)
A bill advancing in Michigan's Legislature targets companies that charge unsuspecting residents 50 to 100 times what a local government charges for a copy of a property deed.

Michigan lawmakers consider tax-free accounts for people with disabilities (AP)
The Michigan Legislature is voting to let residents with disabilities open tax-free savings accounts to pay for long-term needs such as education and housing. The accounts would offer tax advantages similar to 529 college savings plans. The House unanimously approved half of a four-bill package Thursday.

Michigan House bill would ban sky lanterns over fire, environmental concerns (MLive)
A bill was introduced last week in the Michigan Legislature that would ban sky lanterns from lighting up the nighttime sky. But if nothing is done at the state level, one Michigan city wants to start the discussion locally.

House approves bill to parole inmates after minimum sentence (AP)
Michigan lawmakers have approved legislation designed to keep certain prisoners from being locked up beyond their minimum sentence unless the parole board has compelling reasons.

Budget bill add-on awaits future state funds for Flint water (MLive)
A funding mechanism aimed at the state paying for measures to reduce lead levels in Flint's drinking water has been added to a budget bill in the Michigan Senate.

DETROIT

Mayor Duggan updates Detroit expats on city's progress at 2015 Detroit Homecoming (WXYZ)
Mayor Mike Duggan spoke Thursday morning at the 2015 Detroit Homecoming event and provided attendees with a wide-ranging set of updates on everything from development projects to streetlights and the M-1 Rail project.

Duggan: Detroit will 'step up' to host Syrian refugees (The Detroit News)
Mayor Mike Duggan said Thursday Detroit is among the cities willing to "step up" as a host for refugees amid the crisis in war-torn Syria. Duggan said he met with President Barack Obama during a Michigan visit after Labor Day and has been in talks with federal officials for several weeks about the plan and is "very willing" to accept refugees.

Local charities make pitches at Detroit Homecoming (The Detroit News)
Putting the copper crown back on the Belle Isle aquarium, supporting 700 homeless Detroit schoolchildren and taking a stand against animal cruelty are among seven "pitches" made Thursday by Detroit expats on behalf of city-based charities at Detroit Homecoming.

Knight Cities Challenge seeks good ideas for Detroit (The Detroit News)
New ideas that will help Detroit succeed are being sought for the second Knight Cities Challenge, which opened Thursday. The challenge, an initiative of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, seeks new ideas to make Detroit and the 25 other communities where Knight invests more vibrant places to live and work.

OPINION

Our Editorial: Get Flint residents drinkable water (The Detroit News)
It doesn't matter if official reports say Flint's water is safe to drink. If residents turn on the tap and the water that comes out is oddly colored — or any color but clear — and stinky, they aren't going to drink it. Nor should they have to.

More billboards won't fix Flint's violence problem -- gun control will (MLive)
Flint -- along with four other cities -- is joining the Violence Reduction Network, which, in the words of one federal official, uses "every tool in the Justice Department's toolbox... to get the most bang for our buck."

Michigan energy planning should not be rushed (MLive)
In testimony given on Sept. 17 regarding Senate Bill 437 before the Senate Energy and Technology Committee, David Mengebier, a senior vice president for Consumers Energy, listed a number of potential risks to Michigan's electricity market and stated: "It is imperative that we get a fair Michigan policy in place this fall."

Susan J. Demas: Can Republicans finally knock off Debbie Stabenow in 2018? (MLive)
Every six years, Michigan Republicans get to play their least-favorite game: Who wants to lose to Debbie Stabenow? While they don't have to worry about taking on the state's senior U.S. senator next year, the 2018 election is already upon us. Don't believe me? Even as five GOP presidential hopefuls (real ones, not George Pataki) roamed Mackinac Island last month during the Republicans' biennial shindig, politicos were all atwitter about '18.

Parole reforms promise prison cost savings (The Times Herald)
Michigan spends $14 billion a year on schools but only $2 billion a year on prisons. Transportation spending is more comparable to corrections spending. So how about, "He who closes a prison, paves over a pothole?" Lawmakers have taken up parole reforms in an effort to save money operating the state's prison system.

Editor's Note: Strike no good for anyone (The Detroit News)
It's hard to see how a strike by the UAW will help either the union or the domestic auto industry. The union's Ford division is threatening a walkout at the Kansas City plant that makes the hot-selling F-150 pickup if a local agreement is not reached by Sunday.

Jacques: Plan for Detroit schools shouldn't be delayed (The Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder better act soon on his plans for Detroit schools. Because the momentum surrounding revamping education in the city is deflating. September has come and gone without any sign of the legislation that's essential to getting the discussion started in Lansing. Snyder had originally wanted the handful of bills introduced by last month. But that deadline keeps getting pushed back.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 10:03 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/5 Newsroom

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, Oct. 5, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Interview
Gov. Snyder talked with Frank Beckmann of WJR on Friday (WJR)
Topics include: Michigan Ambassador Program/Detroit Homecoming, Flint water and welcoming refugees to Michigan

Misc.
Michigan Political Points: Vice presidential speculation begins for Gov. Rick Snyder (Mlive)
Snyder flirted with a presidential run earlier this year, and it was only a matter of time before his name popped up as a possible running mate for the eventual Republican nominee. POLITICO magazine did the honors this week, twice linking Snyder's name to the veepstakes in an article about his push to boost legal immigration in Detroit and whether the state will take in Syrian refugees, which the governor has said is a possibility.

Flint water
Snyder: Flint may get connected to Detroit water system (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder's administration is considering hooking Flint back up to Detroit's water system temporarily in an effort to get a handle here on troublesome water quality and lead issues. Officials have identified $1 million in state funding that will be used to buy water filters for residents. The state will also work to expedite construction of a new water line to Lake Huron so a planned water authority that would service Flint could get up and running as soon as possible.

State to tackle unsafe water in Flint with tests, filters (Freep)
State officials released a 10-point plan to address Flint's controversial water system today that includes free testing of water, $1 million for water filters for residents and complete anticorrosion treatment of the city's water system, plagued for the past year by smelly, discolored water and now reports of increased lead levels in pipes.

Governor's plan for lead in Flint water includes free tests, $1M in filters (Mlive)
The state is committing up to $1 million to purchase water filters for Flint, part of an action plan being unveiled today, Oct. 2, to address concerns about lead levels in the city's drinking water. The plan includes immediate testing of water at

Flint schools at state expense, expansion of lead exposure testing for individuals and expediting treatment of Flint water to better control corrosion, officials said. The plan is being outlined at a news conference at Kettering University.

Avoiding tap water has become a way of life in Flint (Freep)
It wasn't until last week that Gov. Rick Snyder finally acknowledged the profound problems with Flint's water. Lead, from aging water service pipes, is leaching into the water the city pumps from the Flint River, exacerbated by a local treatment plant's failure to add appropriate chemicals.

Thousands in Flint will be able to get water filters (Rapid News Network)
In his timeline, Edwards says the state failed to require that the city have a corrosion-control program in place when the city switched over to Flint River water. But officials with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality dispute the findings of the draft report. The water is stirring up lead in old pipes in thousands of homes.

Michigan pledges $1M for filters, steps to help city's water (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder announced the funds for Flint on Friday, a day after local health officials declared a public emergency following studies that showed the elevated blood lead levels. Snyder also said water at local schools would be immediately tested.

State and health officials address Flint water crisis, introduce plan of action (WXYZ)
Michigan will spend $1 million to buy water filters and immediately test water in public schools in Flint after testing showed elevated levels of lead in the city's children, the governor said Friday, a day after local health officials declared a public health emergency.

State leaders lay out plan to fix Flint's water (WOOD TV)
The State of Michigan will be footing the bill for $1 million worth of water filters, and water testing for the city of Flint. The concern is that there are elevated levels of lead in the city's drinking water, after a state appointed emergency manager decided to switch from using Detroit water to using water from the Flint River to save money.

Here is the state's action plan for dealing with Flint's water crisis (Michigan Radio)
Researchers found elevated lead levels in Flint's drinking water, and pediatricians found that the water was likely poisoning some kids in the city. Today, the state revealed that it too had tested kids and their findings seem to be consistent. Dr. Eden Wells, the state's chief medical executive, said that before the city switched to Flint River water, kids' lead levels in two "high risk" zip codes were 2.7 times higher than the rest of Genesee County. Now they're 3.2 times higher - a statistically significant difference.

Who's to blame for Flint's water crisis? Virginia Tech researcher points the finger at MDEQ (Michigan Radio)
Yesterday, Gov. Rick Snyder admitted that the decision to switch the city of Flint's water supply from Detroit's system over to the Flint River was not well planned. "In terms of a mistake, what I would say is, is there are probably things that were not as fully understood as when that switch was made," Snyder said.

Flint data on lead water lines stored on 45,000 index cards (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder said this week the state is preparing to announce its plans for assisting the city with the lead-in-water problem. After months of assurances by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that Flint water met all requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Snyder said Wednesday, Sept. 30, that "it appears that lead levels could be higher or could be increased."

LT. GOV's ACTIVITIES

MI Hidden Talent Tour makes a stop at WCC (Washtenaw Voice)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein visited Washtenaw Community College on Sept. 24 to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities through the MI Hidden Talent Tour. They addressed a group of employers, advocates, and observers.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

Michigan AG Bill Schuette to unveil new book, share 'Big Lessons from a Small Town'

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, a potential 2018 gubernatorial candidate, has penned a new book focused on lessons he learned growing up in Midland and how they influenced him later in life.

DEQ

East Lansing-Meridian water authority receives grant (Lansing State Journal)

The East Lansing-Meridian Water and Sewer Authority will use a recent grant award to help protect drinking water quality. The $22,399 award from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will be used for a Wellhead Protection Groundwater Audit Tool, authority operations manager Clyde Dugan said.

Residents consider suing over smoldering rail cars on tracks near their homes (MLive)

Residents living near the Michigan Rail and Storage facility say they may have to go to court to stop owner Ron Cordes from leaving rail cars full of smoldering animal feed on a rail siding that produce a stench in their neighborhood.

Michigan officials: Phosphorus levels down in Lake Erie (Detroit Free Press)

State officials in Michigan say voluntary efforts are paying off to cut down the pollutants feeding algae in Lake Erie. Michigan's agriculture director says data shows the amount of phosphorus going into the lake from a tributary in southeast Michigan has been cut in half over the past seven years.

DHHS

County, hospitals collaborate to extend guardianship program (Grand Rapids Business Journal)

The Kent County Board of Commissioners made a commitment to vulnerable adults at a recent meeting. Commissioners on Sept. 24 approved a public-private deal with two area hospitals to ensure the Kent County Public Guardianship Program would survive state budget cuts to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

ARMC And MDHHS Announce Safe Sleep Collaboration (WBKR)

On Friday, October 2nd, the Alpena Regional Medical Center and their partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced a safe sleep collaboration.

DNR

Sebewaing approves new budget policy (Huron Daily Tribune)

The Sebewaing Village Council has approved, in a 4-3 vote, a Budget Development and Application Policy that aims to ensure financial accountability.

Michigan pledges $1M for filters, steps to fix city's water after tests show high lead levels (AP)

A cash-strapped Michigan city that broke away from Detroit's water system to save money last year is now getting at least $1 million from the state for home water filters amid complaints that its new system, which taps a local river, is linked to increased lead levels in children's blood.

MDARD

New card skimmer found at Grand Rapids-area gas station (WZZM 13)

State inspectors found a new card skimming device at an area gas station as part of a weekend "blitz" in West Michigan. The device was discovered Saturday morning at the Shell gas station at 28th Street SE and East Paris Avenue, said Jennifer Holton, a spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Credit card skimmer found at Kentwood gas station (WOOD TV)

Another credit card skimmer has been found inside a pump at a West Michigan gas station. Inspectors with the Michigan Department of Agriculture discovered the skimmer Saturday morning at the Shell station on the corner of 28th Street and East Paris Avenue in Kentwood.

Another gas station 'skimmer' found as state inspectors out in force (MLive)
State Agriculture Department inspectors discovered at least one new "skimming" device in the Grand Rapids area during a concentrated enforcement effort Saturday, Oct. 3.

MDE
Ithaca schools call special meeting to address $1 million state payback (Morning Sun News)
After hearing public comment and meeting with attorneys in closed session, the Ithaca Board of Education has just one action item on the agenda for a special meeting scheduled for Monday evening.

MDOT
MDOT seeks input on massive I-275 closure in 2016 (Detroit Free Press)
MDOT announced Friday that construction will begin in the spring of 2016 on I-275 between 5 Mile Road and the I-96/I-696/M-5 interchange. The project will involve replacing 13 miles of concrete, along with repair work on the entrance and exit ramps at each mile road and with 16 bridges along the route.

Find out which major road projects are on tap in Norton Shores (MLive)
When the construction season gets underway in Norton Shores during the 2016-17 fiscal year, work crews will begin reconstructing Norton Hills Road from Norcrest Drive to Applewood Lane.

MSP
State to pay $7.7M to settle fatal police chase lawsuit (MLive)
The state will pay $7.7 million to settle a lawsuit stemming from a police chase on the city's north side that left an innocent bystander dead. The state Senate voted 30-5 Thursday, Oct. 1, to amend the budget to authorize the additional spending needed to fund the settlement.

Police: OK2SAY program already saving teen lives (WOOD TV)
The state of Michigan is stepping up efforts to save students' lives. Thursday, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette visited Rockford Middle School to promote the state's OK2SAY program. The initiative allows students to confidentially report potential suicide situations, as well as violent or criminal acts targeting students or schools.

Michigan may soon adopt Blue Alert system (Fox 17)
President Obama signed the Blue Alert Act this past May after two New York City police officers were killed in the line of duty. Since then, 24 states have adopted the law and Michigan could be next. The Blue Alert system is similar to the Amber Alert system. Instead of missing and endangered children, the system is for law enforcement officers who are killed or seriously injured and when the suspect is still on the run.

Treasury
Scholarship plan for Muskegon area moves forward (WZZM 13)
A plan to offer two-year college scholarships to high school graduates through Muskegon Area Promise got the nod from state officials this week.
The Michigan Department of Treasury approved the request by Muskegon Area Promise to offer the scholarships starting with three school districts for the first two years before expanding county-wide in its third year.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Ex-lawmakers sued by former aides alleging retaliation (AP)

Two conservative former Michigan lawmakers who had an extramarital affair and attempted to conceal it have been sued by former aides. The Detroit News and MLive.com report former state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat were sued Friday by Keith Allard and Ben Graham in Ingham County Circuit Court.

Michigan lawmakers to tour U.S. Army's Detroit Arsenal (MLive)
Lawmakers from around the state plan to tour the U.S. Army TACOM (Tank Automotive and Armaments Command) Life Cycle Management Command in Warren on Monday.

Aides sue Courser, Gamrat for wrongful termination (Detroit Free Press)
Two fired aides to former state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat — whose affair and cover-up of the matter led to historic proceedings to expel them from office — are suing their former bosses for wrongful termination and violation of whistle-blower protection laws.

Michigan Senate OKs bill targeting deed fee scams (AP)
A bill advancing in Michigan's Legislature targets companies that charge unsuspecting residents 50 to 100 times what a local government charges for a copy of a property deed.

Lawmakers introduce bills to simplify voter registration (Hometownlife)
State Rep. Julie Plawecki, D-Dearborn Heights is among three lawmakers who introduced bills that would make voter registration automatic when a resident receives a driver's license or a Michigan state identification card, if that person meets the necessary qualifications to vote in Michigan.

Bills target property tax cuts for 'big box' stores (Detroit Free Press)
This week, lawmakers from both parties introduced bills aimed at stopping the reduced assessments, which rely on what's known as the "dark store" theory of determining the value of big, purpose-built, owner-occupied stores.

Michigan Legislature: Bills on helmets, puppy mills, more (Detroit Free Press)
Lawmakers want to revisit issues that have stalled in past legislative sessions or have already been decided. Republicans are once again looking at regulating large-scale commercial dog-breeding facilities, better known as puppy mills; looking to repeal a law that provided health benefits to the unmarried partners of state employees, and requiring the state to verify that employees of state contractors are legal residents of the U.S.

Prevailing wage backers push for public vote on repeal (AP)
The best chance advocates have to save a Michigan law that promises better wages on public works projects is if Republican legislators ignore a petition initiative and instead let voters decide the fate of prevailing wage.

Courser, opponents debate gun control at forum (The Detroit News)
One day after a gunman killed nine people in a shooting rampage at an Oregon community college, the issue of gun control once a hotly debate topic at a Lapeer County candidates forum to fill an open seat in the Michigan House.

DETROIT

Online tool to help Detroiters transform vacant lots (The Detroit News)
Detroit has about 23 square miles of vacant land, and as city officials prepare to demolish more blighted homes each month, that number could reach as high as 30 square miles in coming years. Now, there a tool to help Detroiters transform vacant land from neighborhood liabilities to landscaped assets.

Alumni celebrate Highland Park school history (The Detroit News)
Highland Park's shuttered high school sits empty, surrounded by overgrown weeds, crumbling infrastructure and debris. But on Sunday, the school's football field came to life again with alumni and faculty in celebration of the school district's 100-year anniversary and to honor the high school's rich legacy in the community.

Donation boosts Michigan hospice group's work with kids (The Detroit News)
Hospice of Michigan officials say a substantial donation is boosting their efforts to expand end-of-life care for children across the state. The nonprofit said in a news release the financial gift comes from pediatric psychotherapist Jo Elyn Nyman through funds from the Samuel and Jean Frankel Foundation, which her parents established.

'Detroit Homecoming' nabs promises to invest in city (The Detroit News)
The three-day conference aimed at wooing an elite group of successful former Detroiters to invest in their hometown wrapped up Friday with at least one big public vow to set up shop in the Motor City.

Judge rejects Detroit pensioners' bankruptcy appeal (The Detroit News)
A federal judge has rejected an appeal by Detroit pensioners that challenged cuts made under the city's court-approved bankruptcy plan. The retirees had sought to exempt pensions from adjustment under the city's reorganization plan, which allowed the city to shed $7 billion in debt and invest $1.7 billion into restructuring and service improvements over the next decade. They also argued that the treatment of pension claims violated the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Capitol Park first residences with fiber-optic Internet (The Detroit News)
A Capitol Park building converted to lofts will be the first residences in Detroit to get fiber optic-based Internet service, which can be 100 times faster than DSL and home cable connections.

Benzinga aims to use new digs to show off Detroit (Detroit Free Press)
Benzinga, the next start-up company to move from the suburbs to downtown Detroit, will soon occupy perhaps the most dramatic office vista in the city's core, with a panoramic view overlooking Campus Martius through a wall of glass from the second floor of the former Compuware Building.

Volunteers fight blight in Detroit neighborhoods (Detroit Free Press)
Hundreds of volunteers fanned out in three areas of Detroit Saturday, braving the breezy chill to board up vacant homes and clear out overgrown brush, debris and trash in neighborhoods that hadn't yet been touched by the city's blight-removal efforts.

OPINION

Avoiding tap water has become a way of life in Flint (Detroit Free Press)
Outside a taco shop on Flint's Fifth Street, Estella Walker balances a gallon jug of water on top of the stroller that holds her 3-month-old son, DeWayne. She's mixing bottles of formula for DeWayne and his 19-month-old sister Vanessa.

The case against term limits in the Michigan Legislature (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan's experiment with term limits stretches back 20 years, and it's hard, in retrospect, to think of when they actually improved government performance.

For Flint, vindication — for Snyder, more questions (Detroit Free Press)
Lead flows through Flint's water system and out of taps in people's homes.

Make college affordable again (Detroit Free Press)
College should be accessible and affordable to everyone regardless of where they live and how much money they have. We have been taught that education is the key to success, that a better education equals a better job. Why is it that not everyone is able to have this chance? Instead, college is becoming limited to those with money or those who can pay off a continuously compounding debt.

Ken Braun: Proposed laws would bring sensible speed limits and phantom student funding (MLive)
The Michigan House is taking another stab at sensible speed limits. Hearings have begun on House Bill 4423, sponsored by Republican Rep. Bradford Jacobsen of Oxford. The bill would allow for a maximum state speed limit of 80 miles per hour on rural freeways.

Rick Haglund: Gov. Snyder working hard to build future trade relationships (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder engaged in some important work recently as part of his goal to enhance Michigan's economic competitiveness long after he leaves office.

Drews and Johnson: Lobbying gone awry in Lansing (Detroit News)
Far too often these days, political debate devolves into exaggerations, misrepresentations, outright lies and "attacks" that make good "sound bites" but sacrifice truth and facts. A perfect example is the current lobbying effort by segments of the physician community to try to stop the state Legislature from passing Senate Bill 320.

Editorial: Finish rape kit tests statewide (Detroit News)
Michigan is steadily moving through its backlog of untested rape kits, and now a new appropriation from the Legislature should help outstate counties bring their testing up to date.

New international bridge to bring more pollution to already polluted neighborhood (Michigan Radio)
When the Gordie Howe International Bridge from Canada to the U.S. is complete, it's expected that thousands of trucks a day will travel through the Detroit neighborhood of Delray. Residents there want the government to keep additional pollution to a minimum.

Lessenberry: Flint's water crisis another example of how Gov. Snyder seems incapable of admitting mistakes (Michigan Radio)
One of the things I most dislike about most politicians is their unwillingness to admit when they've screwed up. Take Dennis Williams, the leader of the United Auto Workers union. He and his lieutenants were so out of touch with the membership that they negotiated a contract that the angry workers rejected by almost two to one.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 10:06 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/6 Newsroom
Attachments: 151006 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Mt. Pleasant visit

Snyder touts progress; vows three more years of work to do (Morning Sun)
Gov. Rick Snyder made the rounds in Mt. Pleasant Monday, with visits at Cental Michigan University's campus and the Soaring Eagle Casino and resort to speak at the 2015 Michigan Works! Annual Conference.

Governor Snyder Addresses Michigan Works Conference (9 &10 News)
Governor Rick Snyder was in the area this evening, speaking at the annual Michigan Works Conference. The governor highlighted ways Michigan Works is helping put people back to work across the state. He also spoke about where he would like to see more work done.

Snyder talks job creation, STEM and auto careers at Michigan Works conference (Mlive)
In the past four years, 420,000 private sector jobs have been created in Michigan. Michigan is No. 1 in manufacturing jobs and No. 5 in total private sector job creation, according to Gov. Rick Snyder. And the state's unemployment rate, which was 11.2 percent in December 2010, is at 5.1 percent today, he said.

Engineering students get a visit from one tough nerd (CM Life)
A team of Central Michigan University engineering students had a visit from one tough nerd today when Gov. Rick Snyder stopped by campus. Snyder was at CMU to talk to students about their Formula 1 cars, including SAE and Chippewa Racing. Both student groups built cars and had the opportunity to show them off to Snyder. Also on Snyder's itinerary is meeting with Dr. George Kikano, the dean of CMU's College of Medicine.

Flag honors

Gov. Snyder orders flags at half-staff to honor Oregon shooting victims (WLNS)
Governor Snyder joined President Obama Monday in the calling for flags to be flown at half-staff through Tuesday. The decision to lower flags was made to honor the victims of the Oregon shooting. The shootings killed nine people on Friday at Umpqua Community College.

Flags at Half Staff to Honor Oregon Shooting Victims (WILX)
Monday in Michigan flags were lowered to half-staff to honor the victims of the Oregon community college shooting. Governor Snyder joined President Obama's call for the lowering of the flags through Tuesday.

Governor calls for flags to be flown at half-staff (WNEM)
Gov. Rick Snyder joined President Barack Obama's call for flags to be lowered to half-staff to honor the victims of the Roseburg, Oregon shooting. "These fatal shootings were a senseless act of violence that claimed the lives of nine innocent U.S. citizens," Snyder said. "The state of Michigan and I join the families of these victims as well as our country in mourning their loss."

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Schuette writes 'Big Lessons from a Small Town' (Detroit Free Press)
Ever wonder why that nice young man with the blond hair and immaculate business suit has been pouring your coffee at political gatherings. Well, "Big Lessons from a Small Town," a book written by Attorney General Bill Schuette, will reveal the origins of Schuette as a waiter.

Michigan AG Bill Schuette takes a tip from Taylor Swift in releasing book of life lessons (MLive)
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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Mt. Pleasant visit
Snyder touts progress; vows three more years of work to do (Morning Sun)
Gov. Rick Snyder made the rounds in Mt. Pleasant Monday, with visits at Cental Michigan University's campus and the Soaring Eagle Casino and resort to speak at the 2015 Michigan Works! Annual Conference.

Governor Snyder Addresses Michigan Works Conference (9 &10 News)
Governor Rick Snyder was in the area this evening, speaking at the annual Michigan Works Conference. The governor highlighted ways Michigan Works is helping put people back to work across the state. He also spoke about where he would like to see more work done.

Snyder talks job creation, STEM and auto careers at Michigan Works conference (Mlive)
In the past four years, 420,000 private sector jobs have been created in Michigan. Michigan is No. 1 in manufacturing jobs and No. 5 in total private sector job creation, according to Gov. Rick Snyder. And the state's unemployment rate, which was 11.2 percent in December 2010, is at 5.1 percent today, he said.

Engineering students get a visit from one tough nerd (CM Life)
A team of Central Michigan University engineering students had a visit from one tough nerd today when Gov. Rick Snyder stopped by campus. Snyder was at CMU to talk to students about their Formula 1 cars, including SAE and Chippewa Racing. Both student groups built cars and had the opportunity to show them off to Snyder. Also on Snyder's itinerary is meeting with Dr. George Kikano, the dean of CMU's College of Medicine.

Flag honors
Gov. Snyder orders flags at half-staff to honor Oregon shooting victims (WLNS)
Governor Snyder joined President Obama Monday in the calling for flags to be flown at half-staff through Tuesday. The decision to lower flags was made to honor the victims of the Oregon shooting. The shootings killed nine people on Friday at Umpqua Community College.

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Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 3:09 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

state of Michigan

Daily update - October 6, 2015

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WDIV Detroit

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5 Rutgers things to know Tuesday: Purdue gives hope vs. Michigan State

NJ.com

With **Michigan State** set to visit High Point Solutions Stadium on Saturday (8 p.m., BTN), the Scarlet Knights were most keenly interested in the ...

Michigan State vs Purdue: Final grades for the Spartans - Spartan Avenue

It's time for Rutgers to step up against Michigan State - Asbury Park Press

Michigan vs. MSU now a pick 'em in Vegas - The Detroit News

Full Coverage

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Rutgers line at disadvantage against Michigan State

Asbury Park Press

Otherwise known as Rutgers' offensive line against **Michigan State's** defensive line ... 4 **Michigan State** opening as a 17-point favorite against Rutgers.

Rutgers draws motivation from blowout loss to Michigan State last year - NJ.com

Full Coverage

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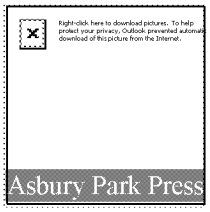

Dramatic transformation of education necessary to keep Michigan top-tier state (Guest column)

MLive.com

Michigan can no longer be a top-tier **state** without dramatically transforming the way we educate our children. Education has become dangerous for ...

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Tom Izzo weighs options at power forward after injury to Michigan State's Marvin Clark

MLive.com

Michigan State's Deyonta Davis reaches to dunk the ball during **Michigan State** men's basketball practice before they head off to Italy at the Breslin ...

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Rutgers injury report: Receiver John Tsimis out for Michigan State game

NJ.com

Most notably, wide receiver John Tsimis (lower body) has been ruled out for Saturday's home game against **Michigan State** (8 p.m., BTN).

Flag as irrelevant

MSU offensive line might be getting healthier

Detroit Free Press

EAST LANSING -- If the **Michigan State** depth chart can be taken as a hint, injured right tackle Kodi Kieler might be close to returning. He's on it this ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State Basketball Recruiting RUMORS: Josh Jackson Leaning Towards The Spartans?

Headlines & Global News

Josh Jackson is one of the top recruits in the nation and he may be leaning towards attending **Michigan State** as their recruiting class is already ...

Michigan State Recruiting 2016: Miles Bridges Picks Spartans, Could Help Tom Izzo Win Another ... - University Herald

Spartans Legend Says Miles Bridges is Ready for **Michigan State** - Today's U (blog)

Full Coverage

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Michigan State offense gets added 'dynamic' when Conno Cook runs

MLive.com

Michigan State quarterback Connor Cook was animated after ripping off a career-long 22-yard run against Purdue in Saturday's 24-21 victory at ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State, CalPoly, Virginia Tech Students win Amazing Packaging Race

MMH com

Jill Bickley (**Michigan State**), Paige Topole (CalPoly) and Kristine Roupas (Virginia Tech) made up the winning team in this year's Amazing Packaging ...

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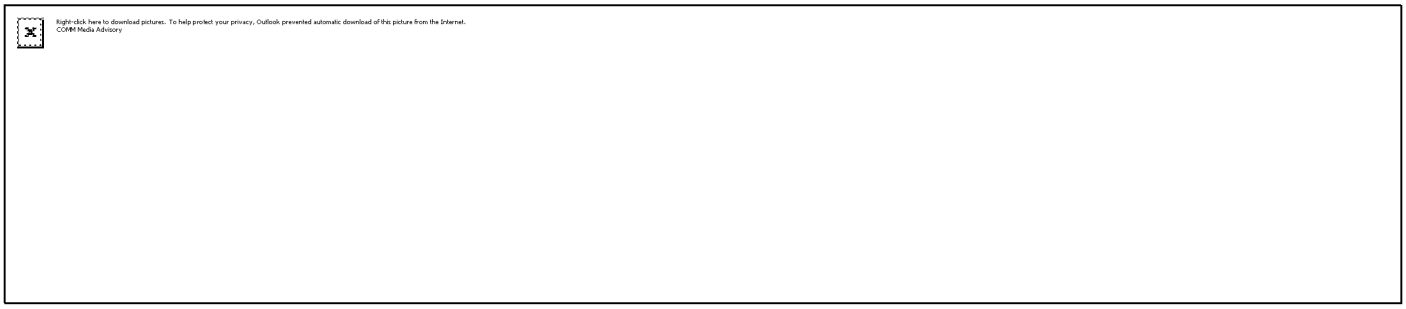
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:13 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Snyder Media Advisory for Thursday, Oct. 8



Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015
Contact: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
Office: 517-335-6397

Editor's Note: This advisory is for media planning purposes only and not for publication.

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m.
Gov. Rick Snyder will make an announcement regarding the Flint water system. He will be joined by Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, Director of Environmental Quality, Dan Wyant, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Nick Lyon, Dr. Eden Wells, Chief Medical Executive at DHHS, and Ridgway White of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

A livestream option is also available at www.michigan.gov/snyderlive. If you wish to embed the event please visit http://new.livestream.com/snyderlive for more information.

Media must present valid press credentials on site.

Location:
Mott Foundation/Commerce Center Building – Conference Center, Ground Floor
519 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
Snyder will offer remarks at the Celebration of Life Gala supporting Magen David Adom (Israel's national 911 and emergency services).

Media must present valid press credentials on site.

Location:
Adat Shalom Synagogue
29901 Middlebelt Rd.

Farmington Hills, MI

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This email was sent to leedsl@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

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Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:52 AM
Subject: 10/8 Newsroom
Attachments: 151008 Newsroom.docx

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Flint water

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Gov. Snyder says he'll make announcement on Flint water Thursday (Mlive)
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Governor Snyder to make announcement today about water crisis in Flint (WXYZ)
Governor Snyder is expected to make an announcement today regarding the ongoing water crisis in Flint. It comes amid growing concerns over testing that revealed high levels of lead in children after the city switched it's supply to the Flint River. Other people living there have complained of rashes, hair loss and other health concerns since the switch was made.

Snyder to announce plan for Flint drinking water crisis (WWMT)
Thursday, Governor Snyder will make an announcement about how the state is going to handle the Flint water crisis. This comes less than 24 hours after a committee of local experts in health, water and science recommended that Flint reconnect to Detroit's water system.

Put Flint back on Detroit water ASAP, expert panel tells mayor, governor (Mlive)
The city should end its use of the Flint River as a water source, a blue ribbon advisory committee recommended Wednesday, Oct. 7. Flint's Technical Advisory Committee, appointed earlier this year to make recommendations aimed at improving the safety and quality of Flint water, did not vote.

Bill signing

Snyder signs law to let drivers show insurance on phone (AP)

Michigan drivers pulled over by the police will be able to show proof of their auto insurance on a phone or another mobile device instead of having to provide a hard copy under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The law takes effect in three months.

Snyder Signs Bill Allowing Drivers to Show Electronic Proof of Insurance (Michigan Radio)

Michigan drivers will be able to show electronic proof of insurance during traffic stops. That's under a bill Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law on Wednesday. The new law will take effect in 90 days. Until then, drivers are still required to carry a physical copy of their proof of insurance or face court-imposed fines.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill allowing drivers to show proof of insurance on phone during traffic stop (UP Matters/TV 3)

Governor Rick Snyder has signed legislation that will allow drivers on Michigan roads to present proof of auto insurance using their cell phone or other mobile device if asked by a law enforcement officer.

MI drivers can now show proof of auto insurance on phones (WLNS)

Michigan drivers can now show proof of insurance on their phones during traffic stops, instead of having to carry paper proof. Gov. Rick Snyder today signed legislation into law that gives drivers the option of using their cell phones or other mobile devices to show proof of auto insurance when asked by a police officer during a traffic stop.

Higher education summit

Gov. Synder speaks at State University Summit (Grand Valley Lanthorn)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder spoke at the State University Summit on Oct. 7 at the Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium on the Grand Valley State University Pew Campus. The summit was comprised mostly of presidents and their board of trustees from all 15 public universities in the state.

Gov. Rick Snyder calls on Michigan universities to collaborate (Mlive)

Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday called on leaders of Michigan's public universities to work more closely with K-12 schools, community colleges and the private sector. Snyder, speaking at Grand Valley State University, said a greater community connection would help more students and parents "understand the value of getting a university skill set."

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint water

Governor plans announcement on troubled Flint water system (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder plans an announcement about the water system in Flint, which is facing a public health emergency over lead in its water. A posting on the state's website says Snyder on Thursday morning will be joined for the announcement by officials including Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, state Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant and state Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon.

Gov. Snyder says he'll make announcement on Flint water Thursday (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder says on Twitter that he will make an announcement about Flint water at 10 a.m. Thursday. The planned announcement comes less than 24 hours after Flint's Technical Advisory Committee recommended the city end its use of the Flint River as its water source.

Gov. Snyder plans announcement on troubled Flint water system (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder plans an announcement about the water system in Flint, which is facing a public health emergency over lead in its water. A posting on the state's website says Snyder on Thursday morning will be joined for the announcement by officials including Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, state Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant and state Department of Health and Human Services Director Nick Lyon.

Governor Snyder to make announcement today about water crisis in Flint (WXYZ)
Governor Snyder is expected to make an announcement today regarding the ongoing water crisis in Flint. It comes amid growing concerns over testing that revealed high levels of lead in children after the city switched it's supply to the Flint River. Other people living there have complained of rashes, hair loss and other health concerns since the switch was made.

Snyder to announce plan for Flint drinking water crisis (WWMT)
Thursday, Governor Snyder will make an announcement about how the state is going to handle the Flint water crisis. This comes less than 24 hours after a committee of local experts in health, water and science recommended that Flint reconnect to Detroit's water system.

Put Flint back on Detroit water ASAP, expert panel tells mayor, governor (Mlive)
The city should end its use of the Flint River as a water source, a blue ribbon advisory committee recommended Wednesday, Oct. 7. Flint's Technical Advisory Committee, appointed earlier this year to make recommendations aimed at improving the safety and quality of Flint water, did not vote.

Bill signing

Snyder signs law to let drivers show insurance on phone (AP)
Michigan drivers pulled over by the police will be able to show proof of their auto insurance on a phone or another mobile device instead of having to provide a hard copy under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The law takes effect in three months.

Snyder Signs Bill Allowing Drivers to Show Electronic Proof of Insurance (Michigan Radio)
Michigan drivers will be able to show electronic proof of insurance during traffic stops. That's under a bill Gov. Rick Snyder signed into law on Wednesday. The new law will take effect in 90 days. Until then, drivers are still required to carry a physical copy of their proof of insurance or face court-imposed fines.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill allowing drivers to show proof of insurance on phone during traffic stop (UP Matters/TV 3)
Governor Rick Snyder has signed legislation that will allow drivers on Michigan roads to present proof of auto insurance using their cell phone or other mobile device if asked by a law enforcement officer.

MI drivers can now show proof of auto insurance on phones (WLNS)
Michigan drivers can now show proof of insurance on their phones during traffic stops, instead of having to carry paper proof. Gov. Rick Snyder today signed legislation into law that gives drivers the option of using their cell phones or other mobile devices to show proof of auto insurance when asked by a police officer during a traffic stop.

Higher education summit
Gov. Synder speaks at State University Summit (Grand Valley Lanthorn)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder spoke at the State University Summit on Oct. 7 at the Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium on the Grand Valley State University Pew Campus. The summit was comprised mostly of presidents and their board of trustees from all 15 public universities in the state.

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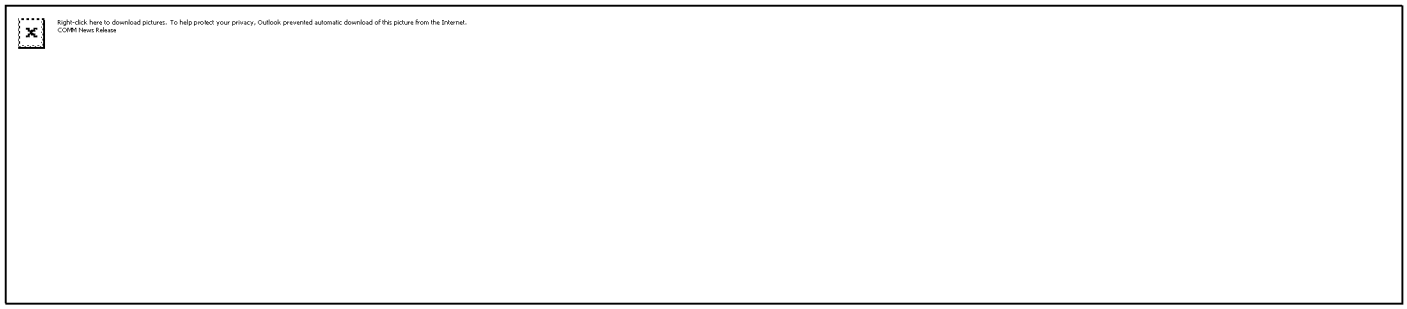
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:23 AM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder: Move back to Detroit water provides best protection for public health in Flint



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Governor's Office: 517-335-6397

Brad Wurfel, 517-284-6713

Department of Environmental Quality

Jennifer Eisner, 517-230-9804

Department of Health and Human Services

Kathryn Thomas, 810-766-1734 Mott Foundation

Jason Lorenz, 810-237-2039 City of Flint

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder: Move back to Detroit water provides best protection for public health in Flint

State, city, Mott Foundation, join to fund switch until KWA is ready

FLINT, Mich. – Flint families and children will be better protected by reconnecting with the Great Lakes Water Authority as the source of the city's drinking water until the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is completed, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

Snyder said Thursday that he will request the state Legislature to provide half, or $6 million, of the $12 million needed to reconnect with the authority through next summer, when the KWA is expected to be completed. The Flint city government will provide $2 million and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has

committed $4 million.

“All Flint residents need clean, safe drinking water,” Snyder said. “The technical experts helping the city on its water advisory all agree this move back to the Great Lakes Water Authority provides the best public health protection for children and families. This effort today is the result of people coming together to solve a problem. I appreciate Detroit’s willingness to reconnect with Flint, the Mott Foundation’s generous commitment, and the dedication of all parties to come together to protect Flint families and children.”

Flint city leaders requested the state’s help to fund the reconnection and to assist with health and infrastructure issues. Flint’s move to the Great Lakes Water Authority is expected to cost about $1.3 million per month until the Karegnondi Water Authority is completed next summer.

“It’s heartening to know so many people are working at so many levels to bring safe, clean water back to Flint,” Mott Foundation President Ridgway White said. “We believe this transitional solution is the right and necessary thing to do, and we’re glad we could help the state and the city make it happen.”

The move to Detroit water, which is expected to carry, carries many public health benefits. As large bodies of water, the Great Lakes are naturally prone to fewer problems from large rain events and other runoff issues that can sometimes be present in shallower rivers. Additionally, the Great Lakes Water Authority water already has additional corrosion control, using phosphates to help coat the insides of pipes and limit lead from leaching into the water.

However, reconnecting with the authority will not completely resolve the city’s problem with lead service lines or aging infrastructure. It will take time for pipes in Flint to become coated with the phosphate corrosion control. Additionally, some households in the city could experience lead in their drinking water until all lead pipes and plumbing are replaced.

"Reconnecting to Detroit is the fastest way to deliver clean, safe water to Flint and stabilize the infrastructure system,” Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said. “I appreciate the state, the Mott Foundation, Detroit, and the county's participation in a solution for Flint's water problems. The health and safety of Flint's families, children and seniors is my top priority, and reconnecting to Detroit is a major step that the city could not take alone given budget constraints."

To best protect public health, Snyder said state and local authorities will continue to carry out steps outlined on Oct. 2 in a comprehensive action plan, including continued testing, the use of faucet filters and providing residents with accurate information about steps to eliminate lead exposure. The Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services today also committed an additional $3.5 million for water filters, free lead testing through the state laboratory for Flint water customers, and hiring additional staff to conduct health exposure monitoring for lead in drinking water.

Free filters are available for current MDHHS clients at the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office locations. For residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs, free filters are available at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation. At the Lippincott location only, extended hours will be offered this weekend, including until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Other good practices for residents concerned about lead include turning on the cold water tap and running the water until it’s as cold as it will go. Additionally, only use cold water for cooking, drinking and

especially mixing baby formula.

School test results released; more investigation planned

The state today also released the first results from its lead screening program in schools and homes. Of 37 total samples taken at 13 buildings, four samples spread over three buildings exceeded the federal action level of 15 parts per billion.

However, this sampling provides only an initial screen, and the state is committing to further testing water and inspecting plumbing at these schools. Until testing is complete, schools are advised to continue using bottled water and filtration as a precaution to protect children.

In addition, free testing is still available for any other Flint school, including daycares and Head Starts. Free testing is also available for any Flint resident.

Additional information, including more detailed lead screening results, is available at www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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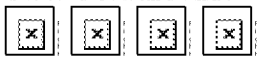
STAY CONNECTED:



This email was sent to leedsl@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 9:44 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/9 Newsroom
Attachments: 151009 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Friday, Oct. 9, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint Water
When did state know about lead in Flint water? 6 takeaways from Snyder plan (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has announced a $16 million plan to reduce lead in the city's drinking water, and he and other key players in carrying it out made several key points to remember on Thursday, Oct. 8.

Michigan gov seeks $6M to help fix city's water (USA Today)
Michigan's governor said Thursday that he would ask the state Legislature for half of the $12 million needed to help this city, struggling with elevated lead levels in its drinking water, reconnect to Detroit's water system.
Snyder: City's lead infrastructure need to be addressed (WNEM)
"I could hardly sleep knowing that our youngest and most vulnerable children would be at greater risk if precautionary steps were not taken," said Flint Mayor Dayne Walling.

Snyder signs law to let drivers show insurance on phone (The Detroit News)
Michigan drivers pulled over by the police will be able to show proof of their auto insurance on a phone or another mobile device instead of having to provide a hard copy under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The law takes effect in three months.

State: Flint will reconnect to Detroit water system (The Detroit News)
The City of Flint will reconnect with the Detroit water system in an effort to get safe drinking water to its residents amid widespread concerns over lead contamination. Gov. Rick Snyder made the announcement Thursday that the city would stop getting its water from the Flint River, saying the cost to rehook up with the Detroit Sewerage and Water Department would amount to $12 million. He wants the Legislature to approve a $6 million grant from the state, while the Mott Foundation would donate $4 million and the city of Flint would pay $2 million.

Governor Snyder Supports Switching Troubled Flint Water System Back To Detroit (AP)

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is calling for Flint to get its water from Detroit's system again to address a public health emergency over lead in the water supply. The governor announced Thursday that he will ask state lawmakers for $6 million, half of the $12 million need to reconnect with the Great Lakes Water Authority through next summer. Then Flint would transition to a new regional water authority.

Snyder expected to call for Flint reconnect to Detroit water (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to announce a multi-million dollar plan for reconnecting Flint to the Detroit water system today, Oct. 8, a source familiar with the plan has told The Flint Journal-MLive. Today's announcement, set for 10 a.m. at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation building, calls for buying nine months of water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department with at least $6 million coming from the state, $4 million from the foundation, and $2 million from the city, the source said.

Gov. Snyder: Flint to switch water sources, MI will pay half of $12M costs (WLNS)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is calling for Flint to get its water from Detroit's system again to address a public health emergency over lead in the water supply. The governor announced Thursday that he will ask state lawmakers for $6 million, half of the $12 million need to reconnect with the Great Lakes Water Authority through next summer. Then Flint would transition to a new regional water authority.

Snyder seeks $6 million to help fix Flint water (Detroit Free Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder said today he'll ask the Legislature for $6 million of the $12 million needed to help reconnect Flint to the Detroit water system, as a way to address elevated lead levels in its drinking water system. The C.S. Mott Foundation, a Flint-based non-profit founded by auto pioneer Charles Stewart Mott, has pledged $4 million toward the effort and the City of Flint will provide the additional $2 million.

Flint going back to the Detroit water system (WNEM)
The governor announced Thursday that he will ask state lawmakers for $6 million, half of the $12 million need to reconnect with the Great Lakes Water Authority through next summer. Then Flint would transition to a new regional water authority. Click here to see how Gov. Snyder says the switch would be paid for.

Gov. Rick Snyder supports switching Flint water system back to Detroit (Morning Sun)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder called Thursday for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency over the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes.

Gov. Snyder moves to come up with $12 million to switch Flint's water back to Detroit's supply (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder this morning held a press conference in which he said he supports reconnecting the city of Flint's water supply back to Detroit's water system. Snyder said he will ask the Legislature to provide half ($6 million) of the $12 million bill to reconnect the system. The city of Flint will pay $2 million, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation will contribute $4 million.

Snyder supports switching Flint back to Detroit water supply amid health concerns over lead (Minneapolis Star Tribune)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday called for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency and grapple with broader concerns about the effects of the aging pipes distributing the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, as well as adverse health reactions, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes.

Governor calls for $16M plan for Flint water crisis, switch to Detroit (Mlive)

Gov. Rick Snyder has announced a $16-million plan to reduce lead in the city's drinking water, with most of the funding to reconnect Flint to the Detroit water system in as soon as two weeks. "We believe it will be better for the citizens of Flint ... This is the city of Flint making the decision ... We're supporting that fully," said Snyder, who said he would ask the state Legislature for a total of $10 million to address the Flint water crisis.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Friday, Oct. 9, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint Water

When did state know about lead in Flint water? 6 takeaways from Snyder plan (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has announced a $16 million plan to reduce lead in the city's drinking water, and he and other key players in carrying it out made several key points to remember on Thursday, Oct. 8.

Michigan gov seeks $6M to help fix city's water (USA Today)
Michigan's governor said Thursday that he would ask the state Legislature for half of the $12 million needed to help this city, struggling with elevated lead levels in its drinking water, reconnect to Detroit's water system.

Snyder: City's lead infrastructure need to be addressed (WNEM)
"I could hardly sleep knowing that our youngest and most vulnerable children would be at greater risk if precautionary steps were not taken," said Flint Mayor Dayne Walling.

Snyder signs law to let drivers show insurance on phone (The Detroit News)
Michigan drivers pulled over by the police will be able to show proof of their auto insurance on a phone or another mobile device instead of having to provide a hard copy under legislation signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The law takes effect in three months.

State: Flint will reconnect to Detroit water system (The Detroit News)
The City of Flint will reconnect with the Detroit water system in an effort to get safe drinking water to its residents amid widespread concerns over lead contamination. Gov. Rick Snyder made the announcement Thursday that the city would stop getting its water from the Flint River, saying the cost to rehook up with the Detroit Sewerage and Water Department would amount to $12 million. He wants the Legislature to approve a $6 million grant from the state, while the Mott Foundation would donate $4 million and the city of Flint would pay $2 million.

Governor Snyder Supports Switching Troubled Flint Water System Back To Detroit (AP)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is calling for Flint to get its water from Detroit's system again to address a public health emergency over lead in the water supply. The governor announced Thursday that he will ask state lawmakers for $6 million, half of the $12 million need to reconnect with the Great Lakes Water Authority through next summer. Then Flint would transition to a new regional water authority.

Snyder expected to call for Flint reconnect to Detroit water (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder is expected to announce a multi-million dollar plan for reconnecting Flint to the Detroit water system today, Oct. 8, a source familiar with the plan has told The Flint Journal-MLive. Today's announcement, set for 10 a.m. at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation building, calls for buying nine

months of water from the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department with at least $6 million coming from the state, $4 million from the foundation, and $2 million from the city, the source said.

Gov. Snyder: Flint to switch water sources, MI will pay half of $12M costs (WLNS)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is calling for Flint to get its water from Detroit's system again to address a public health emergency over lead in the water supply. The governor announced Thursday that he will ask state lawmakers for $6 million, half of the $12 million need to reconnect with the Great Lakes Water Authority through next summer. Then Flint would transition to a new regional water authority.

Snyder seeks $6 million to help fix Flint water (Detroit Free Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder said today he'll ask the Legislature for $6 million of the $12 million needed to help reconnect Flint to the Detroit water system, as a way to address elevated lead levels in its drinking water system. The C.S. Mott Foundation, a Flint-based non-profit founded by auto pioneer Charles Stewart Mott, has pledged $4 million toward the effort and the City of Flint will provide the additional $2 million.

Flint going back to the Detroit water system (WNEM)
The governor announced Thursday that he will ask state lawmakers for $6 million, half of the $12 million need to reconnect with the Great Lakes Water Authority through next summer. Then Flint would transition to a new regional water authority. Click here to see how Gov. Snyder says the switch would be paid for.

Gov. Rick Snyder supports switching Flint water system back to Detroit (Morning Sun)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder called Thursday for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency over the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes.

Gov. Snyder moves to come up with $12 million to switch Flint's water back to Detroit's supply (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder this morning held a press conference in which he said he supports reconnecting the city of Flint's water supply back to Detroit's water system. Snyder said he will ask the Legislature to provide half ($6 million) of the $12 million bill to reconnect the system. The city of Flint will pay $2 million, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation will contribute $4 million.

Snyder supports switching Flint back to Detroit water supply amid health concerns over lead (Minneapolis Star Tribune)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday called for Flint to switch back to Detroit's water system to address a public health emergency and grapple with broader concerns about the effects of the aging pipes distributing the city's water supply. Flint stopped using water from the Detroit system last year as a cost-cutting measure, opting instead for a supply direct from the Flint River. But since the swap, residents have complained of the water's funky smell, taste and appearance, as well as adverse health reactions, and doctors discovered that the corrosive river water was drawing lead from aging pipes in some homes.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 9:24 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/12 Newsroom
Attachments: 151012 Newsroom.docx

Monday, Oct. 12, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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Michigan Gov. Snyder, administration under mounting scrutiny for Flint's water crisis (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder and his administration face mounting scrutiny for Flint's drinking water crisis, which began when a state emergency manager switched the supply source to save money and has culminated with high lead levels in some children.

Proclamation
Snyder proclaims October as Michigan's Cybersecurity Awareness Month (County Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed October as Michigan's Cybersecurity Awareness Month to remind citizens, businesses and governments to protect themselves against cyber attacks.

LT. GOV's ACTIVITIES

Rx Drug and Opioid Task Force
Snyder officials take on painkiller overdose 'epidemic' (Detroit News)
Later this month, a committee headed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will make recommendations for addressing Michigan's part in what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services calls America's "unprecedented drug overdose epidemic."

Recommendations coming on effort to curb Michigan overdoses (AP)
A committee headed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley is expected to make recommendations this month for addressing overdoses in Michigan linked to the abuse of pain and anxiety medications. The Detroit News reports prescription drug and opioid addiction has led to a fivefold increase in drug deaths in Michigan since 1999, a trend Calley says leaders "must come together to reverse ... before more Michiganders are hurt."

Trade mission

MEDC looks to establish relationships in India for small, midsize Michigan businesses (Crain's Detroit Business)
The Snyder administration is working to find new ways for Michigan's small and midsize companies to enter the Indian supply chain, the state said Friday. While on a weeklong trade trip to India, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. started to develop new outlets for Michigan- and Indian-based companies to connect as suppliers. The effort is in conjunction with the MEDC's Pure Michigan Business Connect program, which matches companies with in-state vendors.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley wraps up weeklong trade trip to India, highlights opportunities (AP)
Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley is wrapping up a weeklong trade trip to India, where he's highlighting investment and partnership opportunities. Calley's office says in a statement Friday that he's emphasizing Michigan's global role in automotive manufacturing and technology. He's been meeting with representatives of companies and is stressing the "competitive operating environment" in Michigan.

Lt. Governor Calley Wraps Up Trade Mission to India (WTVB/WKZO/WHTC)
After Governor Snyder took two separate trips to China, Japan and Germany earlier this summer, it's Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley's turn to leave the country and promote Michigan abroad. The Portland Republican has toured plants and facilities of American car companies in India during his week-long excursion, along with face-to-face meetings with senior executives of Indian firms involved in a variety of industries.

APPOINTMENTS

Gov. Rick Snyder appoints West Olive resident to Developmental Disabilities Council (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder, R-Michigan, recently announced the appointment of Steve Johnson, of West Olive, to the Developmental Disabilities Council. The 21-member council, housed within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, advocates for people with disabilities on a statewide level.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Attorney general reaches settlement in scam (AP)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette announced today a settlement with the company, called Division of Corporate Services Inc. Under the agreement, Schuette says the company must reimburse $150 to each of the 105 Michigan entities that paid up.

DEQ
Jackson County gets $1 million loan to help with new runway (WLNS)
Jackson County is getting a $1 million loan to help address brownfield conditions as part of a project to build a new runway at its airport. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on Friday announced the funding for the Jackson County Airport, also known as Reynolds Field.

Where does the Line 5 oil pipeline go from here? (Detroit Free Press)
A controversial 62-year-old oil pipeline at the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac has a future that's up in the air. Enbridge officials cite rigorous inspection of the line, and their readiness to react to any spill in the straits pipeline. The company last month conducted a readiness exercise with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and other federal, state and local agencies in the Straits.

DOC
State nears goal of hiring 1,000 corrections officers (The Detroit News)
The Michigan Department of Corrections is on target to meet its goal of hiring 700 to 1,000 corrections officers this year. With 686 officers who've passed through the department's 16-week training academy, and another class of 300 set to graduate on Nov. 6, that would bring the total to 986 for the year.

DNR

New walleye, perch regulations in effect on Saginaw Bay and river (MLive)

Several new fishing regulations went into effect Friday, Oct. 9, after decisions made during the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's meeting in Cedarville. Those changes include looser regulations for walleye fishing and tighter regulations for perch fishing in the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay.

Protesters urge Ann Arbor officials to call off 'deer massacre' (MLive)

A few dozen protesters lined Huron Street outside city hall, where the City Council less than two months ago voted 8-1 in favor of a four-year culling program. The city has budgeted $90,000 for deer management this year, including an estimated $25,000 to $35,000 for the first cull and $3,000 for a flyover count, plus funds to manage the program and measure the impacts of deer on natural areas.

MDARD

Michigan finds electronic thieves at the gas pump (The Detroit News)

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Rochelle Riley: State must stop robbing Detroit schools (Freep)
To understand the Detroit Public Schools budget, you need a calculator, a ouija board and a Bible — because it takes math, magic and a little prayer. But one thing is clear: The State of Michigan has been robbing Detroit children for years.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, Oct. 12, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint water
Michigan Gov. Snyder, administration under mounting scrutiny for Flint's water crisis (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder and his administration face mounting scrutiny for Flint's drinking water crisis, which began when a state emergency manager switched the supply source to save money and has culminated with high lead levels in some children.

Proclamation
Snyder proclaims October as Michigan's Cybersecurity Awareness Month (County Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed October as Michigan's Cybersecurity Awareness Month to remind citizens, businesses and governments to protect themselves against cyber attacks.

LT. GOV's ACTIVITIES
Rx Drug and Opioid Task Force
Snyder officials take on painkiller overdose 'epidemic' (Detroit News)
Later this month, a committee headed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will make recommendations for addressing Michigan's part in what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services calls America's "unprecedented drug overdose epidemic."

Recommendations coming on effort to curb Michigan overdoses (AP)
A committee headed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley is expected to make recommendations this month for addressing overdoses in Michigan linked to the abuse of pain and anxiety medications. The Detroit News reports prescription drug and opioid addiction has led to a fivefold increase in drug deaths in Michigan since 1999, a trend Calley says leaders "must come together to reverse ... before more Michiganders are hurt."

Trade mission
MEDC looks to establish relationships in India for small, midsize Michigan businesses (Crain's Detroit Business)
The Snyder administration is working to find new ways for Michigan's small and midsize companies to enter the Indian supply chain, the state said Friday. While on a weeklong trade trip to India, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. started to develop new outlets for Michigan- and Indian-based companies to connect as suppliers. The effort is in conjunction with the MEDC's Pure Michigan Business Connect program, which matches companies with in-state vendors.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley wraps up weeklong trade trip to India, highlights opportunities (AP)
Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley is wrapping up a weeklong trade trip to India, where he's highlighting investment and partnership opportunities. Calley's office says in a statement Friday that he's emphasizing Michigan's global role in automotive manufacturing and technology. He's been meeting

with representatives of companies and is stressing the "competitive operating environment" in Michigan.

Lt. Governor Calley Wraps Up Trade Mission to India (WTVB/WKZO/WHTC)
After Governor Snyder took two separate trips to China, Japan and Germany earlier this summer, it's Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley's turn to leave the country and promote Michigan abroad. The Portland Republican has toured plants and facilities of American car companies in India during his week-long excursion, along with face-to-face meetings with senior executives of Indian firms involved in a variety of industries.

APPOINTMENTS

Gov. Rick Snyder appoints West Olive resident to Developmental Disabilities Council (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder, R-Michigan, recently announced the appointment of Steve Johnson, of West Olive, to the Developmental Disabilities Council. The 21-member council, housed within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, advocates for people with disabilities on a statewide level.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Attorney general reaches settlement in scam (AP)
Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette announced today a settlement with the company, called Division of Corporate Services Inc. Under the agreement, Schuette says the company must reimburse $150 to each of the 105 Michigan entities that paid up.

DEQ
Jackson County gets $1 million loan to help with new runway (WLNS)
Jackson County is getting a $1 million loan to help address brownfield conditions as part of a project to build a new runway at its airport. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on Friday announced the funding for the Jackson County Airport, also known as Reynolds Field.

Where does the Line 5 oil pipeline go from here? (Detroit Free Press)
A controversial 62-year-old oil pipeline at the bottom of the Straits of Mackinac has a future that's up in the air. Enbridge officials cite rigorous inspection of the line, and their readiness to react to any spill in the straits pipeline. The company last month conducted a readiness exercise with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and other federal, state and local agencies in the Straits.

DOC
State nears goal of hiring 1,000 corrections officers (The Detroit News)
The Michigan Department of Corrections is on target to meet its goal of hiring 700 to 1,000 corrections officers this year. With 686 officers who've passed through the department's 16-week training academy, and another class of 300 set to graduate on Nov. 6, that would bring the total to 986 for the year.

DNR
New walleye, perch regulations in effect on Saginaw Bay and river (MLive)
Several new fishing regulations went into effect Friday, Oct. 9, after decisions made during the Michigan Natural Resources Commission's meeting in Cedarville. Those changes include looser regulations for walleye fishing and tighter regulations for perch fishing in the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay.

Protesters urge Ann Arbor officials to call off 'deer massacre' (MLive)

A few dozen protesters lined Huron Street outside city hall, where the City Council less than two months ago voted 8-1 in favor of a four-year culling program. The city has budgeted $90,000 for deer management this year, including an estimated $25,000 to $35,000 for the first cull and $3,000 for a flyover count, plus funds to manage the program and measure the impacts of deer on natural areas.

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Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 3:03 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
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state of Michigan

Daily update - October 12, 2015

NEWS

State of Michigan under mounting scrutiny for Flint's water crisis

Crain's Detroit Business

LANSING — Gov. Rick Snyder and his administration face mounting scrutiny for Flint's drinking water crisis, which began when a **state** emergency ...

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USA TODAY

MSU football: What we learned, what to watch

Detroit Free Press

Up next for the Spartans: **Michigan**. Matchup: No. 7 **Michigan State** (6-0, 2-0 Big Ten) at No. 12 **Michigan** (5-1, 2-0). When: 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Michigan vs. MSU betting line jumping in Vegas - Detroit Free Press

Michigan State at No. 7, **Michigan** at No. 12 in AP poll ahead of Saturday matchup - MLive.com

Rejuvenated **Michigan** senses pendulum swinging against **Michigan State** - Chicago Tribune

Full Coverage

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Detroit Free Press

Recap: Jim Harbaugh discusses victory over Northwestern, looks ahead to Michigan State

MLive.com

Michigan head football coach Jim Harbaugh celebrates with his team after wider receiver Jehu Chesson returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown ...

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MLive.com

Column: Straight talk for **Michigan State** fans; how things really are

MLive.com

Michigan State will need a dominating performance from its defensive line to upset **Michigan** at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday at **Michigan** Stadium.

Delayed plane ride puts MSU behind for UM preparation - Detroit Free Press

Michigan State's routine interrupted, Mark Dantonio goes into shell - MLive.com

Report: **Michigan State** faces unexpected challenge in return home - FOXSports.com

Full Coverage

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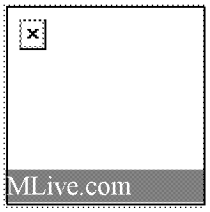

AP Top 25 Poll: **Michigan State** out of top four, Florida in top 10

Sports Illustrated

The AP Top 25 Poll after week six has been released. Utah has moved into the top four, while **Michigan State** has dropped to No. 7. Florida entered ...

Michigan, Florida continue to climb in Top 25 rankings - FOXSports.com

Full Coverage

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Jim Harbaugh finds inspiration for Michigan State-Michigan preparation from 'Lion King'

FOXSports.com

Michigan football coach Jim Harbaugh furthered his reputation for producing quirky quotes Monday by citing the classic Disney movie "The Ling King" ...

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B1G early look: Week 7 highlighted by huge showdown in **state of Michigan**

ESPN (blog)

The battle for the **state of Michigan**: Harbaugh's offseason of making waves has carried right into his first season on the sideline with the Wolverines, ...

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Women's Soccer: Sebo goal at **Michigan State** snaps two-game skid for Wildcats

Daily Northwestern

No. 22 Northwestern (10-3-2, 4-2-1 Big Ten) downed **Michigan State** (6-3-4, 2-2-2) 1-0 in East Lansing on Sunday behind an early goal from senior ...

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Michigan State University researchers study space exercise

Washington Times

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) - It may be a while before humans visit Mars, but researchers at **Michigan State** University are already studying ways to ...

Flag as irrelevant

Flipping the Field: Separating the winners from the non-losers

ESPN

They'd also have some stiff competition from a crowded field: TCU, Ohio **State**, **Michigan** State, Utah, Florida State, Florida, LSU -- all of them, whether ...

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Gov. Snyder on the big game: 'Go Blue!' (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder could go all "politician" and say he's rooting for both teams Saturday. But he didn't — well, for the most part. "As a proud Michigan alum, I say, 'Go Blue!'" Snyder said in an email to The News. "Though, I do say, 'Go Green' when the Spartans aren't playing the Wolverines."

Michigan governor weighs in on Spartans-Wolverines clash (Fox Sports)
Who will Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder be cheering on Saturday when the two big football powers in the state play each other at Michigan Stadium? He made it clear in an email to the Detroit News he will be sticking with his alma mater.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Detroit-area law enforcement join AG Bill Schuette to oppose parole reform (MLive)
Despite support in the state House of Representatives for a law that would increase paroles issued to low-risk Michigan inmates, many Detroit-area law enforcers, and state Attorney General Bill Schuette, are in opposition. Schuette, joined by officials from Macomb, Wayne, Oakland and Genesee counties, plans to elaborate on his stance during a press conference at 11 a.m. at the Pontiac Oakland County Sheriff's Department Headquarters Monday.

AG Bill Schuette rallies against parole reform, proposes more privatization (Mlive)
Attorney Bill Schuette joined Detroit-area law enforcers Monday to urge the state Senate not to pass a law that Schuette believes puts public safety at risk. He calls the law, which passed through the state House of Representatives 67-39 earlier this month and could come before the Senate this week, "cruise-control parole."

Medical marijuana case moving to trial (Times Herald)
The owners and some employees of Blue Water Compassion Center facilities in St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola counties will proceed to trial in January on charges ranging from conducting a criminal enterprise to conspiracy to deliver or manufacture marijuana. Debra, James, and Amanda Amsdill and Mark and Terra Sochacki did not take plea agreements offered to them by the state Attorney General's office, according to court records.

Establishment Republicans seem wary of Bill Schuette's bid for governor (Michigan Radio)
I asked them if Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette would be their next candidate for governor. To my surprise, almost none thought so. Their choice was Candice Miller. They saw her as a practical, down-to-earth, no-nonsense conservative who could get the job

done. Nobody doubts that Schuette will go after the Republican nomination. He is one of the most nakedly ambitious politicians I've ever seen. He turns 62 this week, and has been running for office since first elected a precinct delegate when he was 18.

Where is the criminal investigation into Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat? (WXYZ)
They could be running from the law. Instead they're running to get their old jobs back. Remember the all night, historic session of the Michigan House to oust two State Reps? House Republicans finally got the needed two-thirds votes from Democrats when they were promised a full and complete criminal investigation against Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat.

DEQ
What happens to Flint kids poisoned with lead? (Detroit Free Press)
The water crisis in Flint is a national disgrace and an abject failure of leadership. In Michigan — a state surrounded by 80% of our nation's fresh water — communities have every right to believe that their drinking water is clean and safe. Instead, the citizens of one of our oldest urban centers have been poisoned by their tap water and officials in Lansing are responsible.

Flint: The Cheapskate City That Poisoned Its Children (Newsweek)
The city of Flint, Michigan, has just learned a hard and tragic lesson about the value of clean water. In the winter of 2014, after years of escalating prices for the water it was purchasing from the Detroit drinking water system, Flint decided to change its water source to the Flint River.

Public comment period on Detroit toxic waste facility comes to a close (Michigan Radio)
Today is the last day for the public to weigh in on plans to expand a toxic waste facility in an east Detroit neighborhood. US Ecology wants permission to expand its capacity to treat and store hazardous materials to 10 times what it handles now. That includes byproducts from oil and gas fracking.

Gibraltar receives $2 million grant for storm water and sewer infrastructure (News-Herald)
Officials from the city of Gibraltar found out in late September that they were awarded a $2 million grant by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for maintenance of and improvements to the city's storm water and sewer management system. The city had to promise $350,000 in match funds in order to receive the grant. The grant process was competitive, with a total of 673 applications received and $541 million in application amounts total.

DNR
Michigan announces fishing regulation changes (Detroit Free Press)
Officials have approved a number of changes in Michigan fishing regulations, including rules affecting walleye and perch in Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. The state Natural Resources Commission approved the revisions during its meeting last week in Cedarville.

MDARD
Two more credit card skimmers found in SW Michigan (Fox 17)
State of Michigan inspectors have found two more credit card skimmers on West Michigan gas pumps. One of the skimmers, devices plugged in to the credit card readers that record the card data for scammers to use, was found at the Marathon station near the Kalamazoo airport on Portage Road in Portage. The second was found at another Marathon station off M-51 in Paw Paw.

Drivers beware: Workers find 2 more gas pump skimmers (Wood TV)
State workers say they've discovered two more credit card skimmers attached to West Michigan gas pumps. Officials with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Weights and Measures Division tell 24 Hour News 8 they were acting on a consumer complaint when they found a skimmer at a gas station near the Kalamazoo airport. The device, which steals credit card information, was located at the Marathon station at 5316 Portage Road in Portage.

Is it legal to cut deer in my garage for others? (Michigan State Extension)
The need for a permit or license depends on what processing activities are being done and what will be done with the meat. If the processor is cleaning and cutting deer for the hunters own use, then no license is required. This scenario is considered "Custom Exempt" meat processing and meat does not enter into commerce. Each package should be marked "Not for Sale". It is also suggested to mark the type of wild game on each package, such as "venison".

MDOC
Police Oppose Bill that Would Put Parole on 'Autopilot' (Royal Oak Patch)

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MDOT

Michigan aboard effort to bring traffic deaths to zero (C & G Newspapers)
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MSP

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Treasury

8 facts about property assessments and tax rates in Michigan (Mlive)
The average property-tax rate in Michigan is at its highest point since the passage of Proposal A in 1994, according to data collected by the Michigan Department of Treasury. But property tax revenue has fallen in recent years as a result of the lingering impact of the Great Recession, which has brought down property values and tax bills since 2008, that data shows.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

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Lawmakers, parents seek 'Wyatt's Law' to protect kids (The Detroit News)
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Parole reform legislation spurs debate (WOOD)

A new bill that recently passed the Michigan House of Representatives is designed to ensure more inmates are paroled after serving their minimum sentence. But not everyone supports the legislation, including the state's attorney general. Supporters say that the so-called presumptive parole bill would eventually save the state tens of millions of dollars.

DETROIT

Detroiters, advocates pack medical marijuana hearing (Detroit Free Press)
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Officials plan to announce the winners of 10 grants totaling $500,000 Tuesday in the first round of a competitive program that matches expanding businesses with vacant real estate. Dozens more businesses will be awarded technical assistance in the Motor City Match program, which is funded through the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation.

OPINION

What happens to Flint kids poisoned with lead? (Detroit Free Press)
"Just take little sips." That's what some parents in Flint are telling their kids. The water crisis in Flint is a national disgrace and an abject failure of leadership. In Michigan — a state surrounded by 80% of our nation's fresh water — communities have every right to believe that their drinking water is clean and safe. Instead, the citizens of one of our oldest urban centers have been poisoned by their tap water and officials in Lansing are responsible.

Michigan has no real solution to gun violence (Detroit Free Press)
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Prison time, forfeiture and medical pot: Lansing is on a bipartisan roll (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Legislature has been on a bipartisan binge lately, passing legislation that not everybody may like, but at least they have found a way to build consensus around three controversial issues. First, there was a strong bipartisan House vote to revamp the way the state keeps crooks behind bars, with an eye toward letting some of them out of the slammer after they have served their minimum sentence.

Our view: Time for an independent redistricting commission? (Midland Daily)
A recent League of Women Voters town hall titled "Redistricting in Michigan: Should Politicians Choose their Voters" drew a fairly big crowd of about 60 people. Evidently, there is some interest in the issue of how lawmakers often gerrymander districts so that their party — whether Democrats and Republicans — benefit.

Rick Haglund: Finding funds for road repair not an easy fix (MLive)
The Michigan state government has budgeted to spend $53.6 billion in the fiscal year that started Oct. 1. Surely lawmakers can scrape up the $1.2 billion Gov. Rick Snyder says Michigan needs annually to fix its deplorable roads, right? That's what some in the Republican-controlled Legislature maintain as
it refuses to vote for raising transportation taxes.

Our Editorial: Detroit's blight progress (The Detroit News)

Nearly 6,000 blighted structures in Detroit have been demolished since January 2014, and those demolitions have increased the value of surrounding homes, according to a recent report on the efforts. Other measures to improve quality of life and value of property in the city — code enforcement, sales of public side lots, even the installation of new street lights — have also helped pushed home values higher.

Improvements in college counseling are underway (The Detroit News)
High school seniors who are starting the college application process may be feeling stressed about their futures right now, and according to a recent poll, they aren't alone. The Center for Michigan has just released the results of a yearlong survey of Michigan residents that found 2 out of 3 participants rated college and career counseling as either "lousy" or "terrible."

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Gov. Snyder on the big game: 'Go Blue!' (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder could go all "politician" and say he's rooting for both teams Saturday. But he didn't — well, for the most part. "As a proud Michigan alum, I say, 'Go Blue!'" Snyder said in an email to The News. "Though, I do say, 'Go Green' when the Spartans aren't playing the Wolverines."

Michigan governor weighs in on Spartans-Wolverines clash (Fox Sports)
Who will Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder be cheering on Saturday when the two big football powers in the state play each other at Michigan Stadium? He made it clear in an email to the Detroit News he will be sticking with his alma mater.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
Detroit-area law enforcement join AG Bill Schuette to oppose parole reform (MLive)
Despite support in the state House of Representatives for a law that would increase paroles issued to low-risk Michigan inmates, many Detroit-area law enforcers, and state Attorney General Bill Schuette, are in opposition. Schuette, joined by officials from Macomb, Wayne, Oakland and Genesee counties, plans to elaborate on his stance during a press conference at 11 a.m. at the Pontiac Oakland County Sheriff's Department Headquarters Monday.

AG Bill Schuette rallies against parole reform, proposes more privatization (Mlive)
Attorney Bill Schuette joined Detroit-area law enforcers Monday to urge the state Senate not to pass a law that Schuette believes puts public safety at risk. He calls the law, which passed through the state House of Representatives 67-39 earlier this month and could come before the Senate this week, "cruise-control parole."

Medical marijuana case moving to trial (Times Herald)
The owners and some employees of Blue Water Compassion Center facilities in St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola counties will proceed to trial in January on charges ranging from conducting a criminal enterprise to conspiracy to deliver or manufacture marijuana. Debra, James, and Amanda Amsdill and Mark and Terra Sochacki did not take plea agreements offered to them by the state Attorney General's office, according to court records.

Establishment Republicans seem wary of Bill Schuette's bid for governor (Michigan Radio)
I asked them if Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette would be their next candidate for governor. To my surprise, almost none thought so. Their choice was Candice Miller. They saw her as a practical, down-to-earth, no-nonsense conservative who could get the job done. Nobody doubts that Schuette will go after the Republican nomination. He is one of the most nakedly ambitious politicians I've ever seen.

He turns 62 this week, and has been running for office since first elected a precinct delegate when he was 18.

Where is the criminal investigation into Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat? (WXYZ)
They could be running from the law. Instead they're running to get their old jobs back. Remember the all night, historic session of the Michigan House to oust two State Reps? House Republicans finally got the needed two-thirds votes from Democrats when they were promised a full and complete criminal investigation against Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat.

DEQ
What happens to Flint kids poisoned with lead? (Detroit Free Press)
The water crisis in Flint is a national disgrace and an abject failure of leadership. In Michigan — a state surrounded by 80% of our nation's fresh water — communities have every right to believe that their drinking water is clean and safe. Instead, the citizens of one of our oldest urban centers have been poisoned by their tap water and officials in Lansing are responsible.

Flint: The Cheapskate City That Poisoned Its Children (Newsweek)
The city of Flint, Michigan, has just learned a hard and tragic lesson about the value of clean water. In the winter of 2014, after years of escalating prices for the water it was purchasing from the Detroit drinking water system, Flint decided to change its water source to the Flint River.

Public comment period on Detroit toxic waste facility comes to a close (Michigan Radio)
Today is the last day for the public to weigh in on plans to expand a toxic waste facility in an east Detroit neighborhood. US Ecology wants permission to expand its capacity to treat and store hazardous materials to 10 times what it handles now. That includes byproducts from oil and gas fracking.

Gibraltar receives $2 million grant for storm water and sewer infrastructure (News-Herald)
Officials from the city of Gibraltar found out in late September that they were awarded a $2 million grant by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for maintenance of and improvements to the city's storm water and sewer management system. The city had to promise $350,000 in match funds in order to receive the grant. The grant process was competitive, with a total of 673 applications received and $541 million in application amounts total.

DNR
Michigan announces fishing regulation changes (Detroit Free Press)
Officials have approved a number of changes in Michigan fishing regulations, including rules affecting walleye and perch in Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay. The state Natural Resources Commission approved the revisions during its meeting last week in Cedarville.

MDARD
Two more credit card skimmers found in SW Michigan (Fox 17)
State of Michigan inspectors have found two more credit card skimmers on West Michigan gas pumps. One of the skimmers, devices plugged in to the credit card readers that record the card data for scammers to use, was found at the Marathon station near the Kalamazoo airport on Portage Road in Portage. The second was found at another Marathon station off M-51 in Paw Paw.

Drivers beware: Workers find 2 more gas pump skimmers (Wood TV)
State workers say they've discovered two more credit card skimmers attached to West Michigan gas pumps. Officials with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Weights and Measures Division tell 24 Hour News 8 they were acting on a consumer complaint when they found a

skimmer at a gas station near the Kalamazoo airport. The device, which steals credit card information, was located at the Marathon station at 5316 Portage Road in Portage.

Is it legal to cut deer in my garage for others? (Michigan State Extension)
The need for a permit or license depends on what processing activities are being done and what will be done with the meat. If the processor is cleaning and cutting deer for the hunters own use, then no license is required. This scenario is considered "Custom Exempt" meat processing and meat does not enter into commerce. Each package should be marked "Not for Sale". It is also suggested to mark the type of wild game on each package, such as "venison".

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 10:14 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/14 Newsroom
Attachments: 151014 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Roads

Road funding talks break down over income tax cut (Freep)
Negotiations over a long-sought road funding plan were close to an agreement Tuesday but reached an impasse when Democratic leaders balked at an across-the-board income tax cut proposed by Republican legislative leaders and agreed to in principle by Gov. Rick Snyder, officials said.

Snyder: Road fund talks hit dead end (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders declared an impasse Tuesday on how to raise an additional $1.2 billion annually to improve Michigan roads despite months of talks. Republican House Speaker Kevin Cotter of Mount Pleasant said a key sticking point in negotiations was offsetting hikes in the 19-cents-a-gallon state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees with a broader tax cut.

The latest obstacle in the fight to fix Michigan's roads (Fox 2 Detroit)
The fight to fix Michigan's crumbling highways stalls in Lansing - but is it another speedbump or a major roadblock. Just when it looked like Gov. Rick Snyder and four legislative leaders were inching their way toward a road fix deal, the "i" word came up - impasse.

Snyder: Road funding negotiations have reached 'an impasse' in Michigan Legislature (Mlive)
Long-running talks over a long-term plan to fix Michigan's crumbling roads have hit another speed bump in Lansing, where Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders have been unable to reach agreement on a funding plan. Negotiations reached "an impasse" on Tuesday, Snyder and House Speaker Kevin Cotter told reporters after emerging from a closed-door "quadrant" meeting that featured leaders from both sides of the aisle.

Michigan Gov. Snyder: $1.2 billion road-funding talks are at an impasse (AP)
Months of talks over a $1.2 billion plan to improve Michigan roads plan broke down Tuesday, with Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders declaring an impasse.

State road funding plan stalled for now (WLNS)
Michigan roads continue to crumble and lawmakers at the Capitol can't seem to make a decision on how to fix them. It looks like we'll be driving on bumpy roads for a while longer; Governor Rick Snyder said talks with lawmakers over a $1.2 billion road-funding plan are stalled. The discussions broke down during a private meeting earlier today, and while Governor Snyder didn't elaborate on why lawmakers are in a deadlock, Republican House Speaker Kevin Cotter said the biggest issue here is tax relief.

Gov. Snyder: Talks over $1.2 billion road-funding plan are at an impasse in Capitol (WDIV)
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Income tax debate at heart of latest Michigan road funding stalemate (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders have reached "an impasse" in long-running road funding talks, but this time around, they aren't arguing over the size of potential tax increases. Instead, Republicans and Democrats are butting heads over a form of tax relief they could pair with any potential bump in fuel taxes or fees.

Snyder: $1.2 billion road-funding talks are at an impasse (WXYZ)
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Bill signing
Gov. Snyder signs bill allowing municipalities to maintain electronic property tax rolls (UP Matters/TV 3)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation that will allow local governments to maintain electronic property tax rolls instead of requiring them to routinely print lengthy paper copies.

Three Bills Signed into Law by Governor Snyder (WHTC)
Three bills were signed into law by Governor Snyder, bringing the total number since the start of the year to 142. Local governments can now use a computerized tax system without the authorization of the Michigan Tax Commission, which will likely results in savings from not printing tax rolls.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley set to recognize disability advocates (WLNS)
You're probably aware by now that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. What you may not know is that Governor Rick Snyder has also declared it to be Investing in Abilities Month.

County considers spending more to fight drugs, suicide (Huron Daily Tribune)
Huron Behavioral Health is asking the county for $40,000 to help prevent rising drug overdoses and suicides. On Tuesday, county commissioners seemed to welcome the extra spending. Board Chair John Nugent, who also is on the HBH board of directors, asked if HBH should meet with the county's finance committee to allocate the extra sum — on top of the $193,250 it gets each year from county coffers.

FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES

Prevent accidental death in infants by sharing a room, not a bed (Coldwater Daily Reporter)
"I'm sure all mothers can agree, it is difficult to imagine the loss of a child, especially a loss that is 100 percent preventable," Sue Snyder, First lady of Michigan said. "It's critical we continue working to reverse the negative trend of unsafe sleep deaths in our state. Together, we can help ensure all caregivers are aware of the proper sleeping environment for baby. It is my hope we reach a day no family has to experience the grief that accompanies the preventable loss of an infant."

APPOINTMENTS

Gov. Snyder makes appointments to Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (County Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday announced the appointments of Peter Crawford, of Dansville, and Michael Sahr, of Saginaw, and the reappointment of Dennis Gardner, of Saginaw, to the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG
See something wrong? Tell someone with OK2SAY (Ferris State University)
Tatum and about 950 other students recently got a crash course in the state-run program, which aims to break the silence around bullying and threats of violence in schools. North Middle was the first of all 13 Rockford Public Schools to receive awareness sessions for OK2SAY, letting students know they can report misbehavior without fear of retaliation.

DHHS
Doctors who dismember a fetus during abortion could get prison time under bills (MLive)
A second-trimester abortion procedure that involves dismembering fetuses would be banned in Michigan under bills up in the House Criminal Justice Committee Tuesday morning.

Prevent accidental death in infants by sharing a room, not a bed (Daily Reporter)
Out of 133 infant deaths in Michigan reviewed in 2011 by Michigan Community Based Child Death Review Teams, 47 percent occurred after the infant was placed in an adult bed.

Breast Cancer: What you need to know if you have a family history (WLNS)
t's breast cancer awareness month. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services 1 in 9 women in the state have a family history of breast cancer

DEQ
Where are the records? Lawmaker wants answers on Flint water switch (Michigan Radio)
A state lawmaker is heading to court to force the city of Flint and a state agency to release documents related to the decision to make the Flint River the city's drinking water source.

Michigan to launch lead education effort statewide (Detroit Free Press)
The state — in the wake of the Flint water crisis — is launching an education campaign soon to help schools statewide learn how to get their water tested to determine whether it contains dangerously high levels of lead.

MDEQ Director: Flint water crisis has shaken faith in government (Michigan Radio)
State and local officials have done an about-face when it comes to Flint's water crisis.

MVAA
New collaboration brings resources to veterans in Northern Michigan (MI News 26)
Veterans in Northern Michigan will now have easier access to comprehensive health, employment, and education opportunities thanks to a collaboration that brings together local, state, and federal resources.

National program aimed at helping vets coming to West Michigan (WWMT-TV)
A national program is expanding into West Michigan, to help those who need it most. It's called VCAT (Veterans Community Action Team), and the program will serve 55,000 veterans and their families in several West Michigan counties.

DOC
MDOC is looking to hire 200 corrections officers in 2016 (Upper Michigan's Source)
One way to recruit potential correctional facility employees is to target the student population.

Job fair gives metro Detroiters returning from prison a second chance (WDIV)
Barbara L. McQuade said it's her office's job to reduce and prevent crime. McQuade said one way of preventing crime is giving former prisoners a job.

Presumptive parole isn't safe for Michigan (Detroit News)
Public safety is the first responsibility of government. Unfortunately, legislation now being debated by the Michigan legislature could put the public's safety at risk. Last week, the House passed legislation that dramatically changes our criminal justice system, and now the Senate is considering this package of bills. We strongly oppose these bills, because they will allow the release of violent offenders back onto our streets.

MDE
Count day helps state with funding (Livingston Daily)
School districts across Livingston County asked students to stand up and be counted this week for Michigan's official County Day.

Education chief unveils teacher evaluation system ahead of possible state House vote (Michigan Radio)
Michigan education officials are moving ahead with plans to improve teacher evaluations statewide.

State's new e-textbooks get harsh words from critics (Michigan Radio)
The first set of online textbooks released under Michigan's Open Book Project is drawing criticism from some educators and experts.

MEDC
New range of employment services available at Pontiac's OLSHA (Oakland Press)
Unemployed people who have a tough time finding transportation, child care or even job uniforms can find help through a new service being offered at OLHSA, the Pontiac-based Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.

Crystal mountain begins work on an $11 million expansion (Examiner)
Construction is now underway on an $11 million expansion at Crystal Mountain that will add eight new downhill trails, a triple chairlift and transform the village center with a 31,200 square-foot, LEED-certified expansion and surrounding plaza to the Inn at the Mountain.

MDOT
Public weighs in on upcoming I-275 construction project in Wayne and Oakland counties (WXYZ)
After seeking input from the public on an upcoming freeway project, the Michigan Department of Transportation has decided to shut down one direction of I-275 at a time.

Michigan Department of Transportation chooses plan for $80 million I-275 project (Macomb Daily)
After evaluating nearly 3,800 survey responses, the Michigan Department of Transportation has decided how to proceed with a $70-$80 million construction project which will affect many Oakland County motorists next year.

Department of Transportation unveiling Pure Michigan Byway (AP)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is getting ready to unveil its first new Pure Michigan Byway.

Income tax debate at heart of latest Michigan road funding stalemate (MLive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders have reached "an impasse" in long-running road funding talks, but this time around, they aren't arguing over the size of potential tax increases.

MSP
SW Michigan leads state in meth lab seizures (FOX 17)
A new report from the State Police shows just how bad the problem of meth is in Michigan.

No need for more speed on Michigan highways (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Many people like to drive fast, but the government's job is to keep motorists safe. Raising speed limits, even on rural highways, is no way to do that, and we hope the Legislature backs away from the idea.

SUPREME COURT
Michigan Supreme Court opens term with new justice, 11 cases (Crains)
The Michigan Supreme Court opened a new term this week with a new member and arguments in 11 cases.

Michigan Supreme Court to hear FOIA auto insurance case (WMUK)
The state Supreme Court will hear arguments on its opening day about whether Michigan's Freedom of Information Act applies to a fund that was created by the Legislature, but operated by auto insurance companies.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan House OKs powdered alcohol ban bill, headed to governor soon (Reuters)
Michigan would become the 27th state to ban the sale of powdered alcohol under a bill approved by state lawmakers on Tuesday that is one step from being sent to Governor Rick Snyder for his signature. The Michigan House of Representatives voted 102-3 on Tuesday to ban the sale, distribution or possession of powdered alcohol, advancing a bill the state Senate unanimously approved in May.

Crowd of 80th District candidates take GOP questions (Holland Sentinel)
A gaggle of candidates took the Fennville High School stage Tuesday night, Oct. 13, each one hoping to show voters why he or she would be the best person to take over the 80th Michigan House District seat.

Michigan Senate panel OKs concealed weapons in schools (Detroit Free Press)
Over strong objections from educators, a Senate panel approved legislation Tuesday to allow concealed weapons in schools and other places that are now off-limits for hidden weapons. The Senate Judiciary Committee, in 4-1 votes, approved Senate Bills 442 and 561.

Senate panel OKs concealed guns in 'gun-free' zones (AP)
Individuals with special permits would be allowed to bring concealed firearms inside schools and other "gun-free" areas under legislation advanced Tuesday by a Senate committee.

"Presumptive parole" bill would help Michigan reduce its prison population (Michigan Radio)
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Meth lab map shows why Michigan lawmakers are continuing crackdown (MLive)
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DETROIT

New $93M Wayne State center to study health disparities (The Detroit News)
Wayne State University on Wednesday is unveiling a center aimed at eliminating health disparities that affect Detroit residents, such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension. The $93 million facility — the Integrative Biosciences Center, or IBo — is the university's largest construction project. It will be home to faculty experts in environmental science, heart disease, diabetes, asthma and more.

Duggan defends city's demolition progress, costs (The Detroit News)

Mayor Mike Duggan on Tuesday defended the city's demolition efforts in the wake of a scathing news report centered on the bid process, costs and true progress of the program. The mayor made the morning presentation to Detroit's City Council amid a call from the panel for an audit of the Detroit Building Authority and land bank's demolition activities.

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Detroit land bank executive director out; interim named (Detroit Free Press)
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OPINION

For GOP, bloodying unions comes before fixing roads (Detroit Free Press)
The morning after last May's special election, state lawmakers in both parties agreed on one thing: No one should mistake the defeat of the fatally convoluted Proposal 1 as a sign that voters were satisfied with the dismal state of Michigan's roads and bridges.

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There is a great deal of pressure in our state Legislature to repeal Michigan's prevailing wage law. My fellow legislators must not cave under the pressure. The reality is that repealing Michigan's prevailing wage law would harm not just those in the skilled trades, but all Michiganders.

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It's disappointing — and telling — that Finley has chosen to attack our plan providing financial relief for nearly all of Michigan's families who have been hit over the last several years with Republican tax increases. Republicans imposed those tax increases on families in order to pay for a massive tax cut for corporations.

Flint's lessons (Toledo Blade)
Few cities have had as hard a time in recent years as Flint, Mich., which has suffered nearly all the troubles Detroit has, with less national attention. Once a prosperous General Motors company town of nearly 200,000 residents, Flint has been devastated by the downsizing of the auto industry and sent spiraling into emergency management.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Roads

Road funding talks break down over income tax cut (Freep)
Negotiations over a long-sought road funding plan were close to an agreement Tuesday but reached an impasse when Democratic leaders balked at an across-the-board income tax cut proposed by Republican legislative leaders and agreed to in principle by Gov. Rick Snyder, officials said.

Snyder: Road fund talks hit dead end (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders declared an impasse Tuesday on how to raise an additional $1.2 billion annually to improve Michigan roads despite months of talks. Republican House Speaker Kevin Cotter of Mount Pleasant said a key sticking point in negotiations was offsetting hikes in the 19-cents-a-gallon state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees with a broader tax cut.

The latest obstacle in the fight to fix Michigan's roads (Fox 2 Detroit)
The fight to fix Michigan's crumbling highways stalls in Lansing - but is it another speedbump or a major roadblock. Just when it looked like Gov. Rick Snyder and four legislative leaders were inching their way toward a road fix deal, the "i" word came up - impasse.

Snyder: Road funding negotiations have reached 'an impasse' in Michigan Legislature (Mlive)
Long-running talks over a long-term plan to fix Michigan's crumbling roads have hit another speed bump in Lansing, where Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders have been unable to reach agreement on a funding plan. Negotiations reached "an impasse" on Tuesday, Snyder and House Speaker Kevin Cotter told reporters after emerging from a closed-door "quadrant" meeting that featured leaders from both sides of the aisle.

Michigan Gov. Snyder: $1.2 billion road-funding talks are at an impasse (AP)
Months of talks over a $1.2 billion plan to improve Michigan roads plan broke down Tuesday, with Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders declaring an impasse.

State road funding plan stalled for now (WLNS)
Michigan roads continue to crumble and lawmakers at the Capitol can't seem to make a decision on how to fix them. It looks like we'll be driving on bumpy roads for a while longer; Governor Rick Snyder said talks with lawmakers over a $1.2 billion road-funding plan are stalled. The discussions broke down during a private meeting earlier today, and while Governor Snyder didn't elaborate on why lawmakers are in a deadlock, Republican House Speaker Kevin Cotter said the biggest issue here is tax relief.

Gov. Snyder: Talks over $1.2 billion road-funding plan are at an impasse in Capitol (WDIV)
Months of talks over a $1.2 billion plan to improve Michigan roads plan broke down Tuesday, with Gov.

Rick Snyder and legislative leaders declaring an impasse. Republican House Speaker Kevin Cotter said a key sticking point in negotiations was linking a road proposal to a broader tax cut.

Income tax debate at heart of latest Michigan road funding stalemate (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders have reached "an impasse" in long-running road funding talks, but this time around, they aren't arguing over the size of potential tax increases. Instead, Republicans and Democrats are butting heads over a form of tax relief they could pair with any potential bump in fuel taxes or fees.

Snyder: $1.2 billion road-funding talks are at an impasse (WXYZ)
Months of talks over a $1.2 billion plan to improve Michigan roads plan broke down Tuesday, with Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders declaring an impasse.

Bill signing
Gov. Snyder signs bill allowing municipalities to maintain electronic property tax rolls (UP Matters/TV 3)
Gov. Rick Snyder has signed legislation that will allow local governments to maintain electronic property tax rolls instead of requiring them to routinely print lengthy paper copies.

Three Bills Signed Into Law by Governor Snyder (WHTC)
Three bills were signed into law by Governor Snyder, bringing the total number since the start of the year to 142. Local governments can now use a computerized tax system without the authorization of the Michigan Tax Commission, which will likely results in savings from not printing tax rolls.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley set to recognize disability advocates (WLNS)
You're probably aware by now that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. What you may not know is that Governor Rick Snyder has also declared it to be Investing in Abilities Month.

County considers spending more to fight drugs, suicide (Huron Daily Tribune)
Huron Behavioral Health is asking the county for $40,000 to help prevent rising drug overdoses and suicides. On Tuesday, county commissioners seemed to welcome the extra spending. Board Chair John Nugent, who also is on the HBH board of directors, asked if HBH should meet with the county's finance committee to allocate the extra sum — on top of the $193,250 it gets each year from county coffers.

FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES

Prevent accidental death in infants by sharing a room, not a bed (Coldwater Daily Reporter)
"I'm sure all mothers can agree, it is difficult to imagine the loss of a child, especially a loss that is 100 percent preventable," Sue Snyder, First lady of Michigan said. "It's critical we continue working to reverse the negative trend of unsafe sleep deaths in our state. Together, we can help ensure all caregivers are aware of the proper sleeping environment for baby. It is my hope we reach a day no family has to experience the grief that accompanies the preventable loss of an infant."

APPOINTMENTS

Gov. Snyder makes appointments to Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee (County Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday announced the appointments of Peter Crawford, of Dansville, and Michael Sahr, of Saginaw, and the reappointment of Dennis Gardner, of Saginaw, to the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

AG

See something wrong? Tell someone with OK2SAY (Ferris State University)
Tatum and about 950 other students recently got a crash course in the state-run program, which aims to break the silence around bullying and threats of violence in schools. North Middle was the first of all 13 Rockford Public Schools to receive awareness sessions for OK2SAY, letting students know they can report misbehavior without fear of retaliation.

DHHS

Doctors who dismember a fetus during abortion could get prison time under bills (MLive)
A second-trimester abortion procedure that involves dismembering fetuses would be banned in Michigan under bills up in the House Criminal Justice Committee Tuesday morning.

Prevent accidental death in infants by sharing a room, not a bed (Daily Reporter)
Out of 133 infant deaths in Michigan reviewed in 2011 by Michigan Community Based Child Death Review Teams, 47 percent occurred after the infant was placed in an adult bed.

Breast Cancer: What you need to know if you have a family history (WLNS)
t's breast cancer awareness month. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services 1 in 9 women in the state have a family history of breast cancer

DEQ

Where are the records? Lawmaker wants answers on Flint water switch (Michigan Radio)
A state lawmaker is heading to court to force the city of Flint and a state agency to release documents related to the decision to make the Flint River the city's drinking water source.

Michigan to launch lead education effort statewide (Detroit Free Press)
The state — in the wake of the Flint water crisis — is launching an education campaign soon to help schools statewide learn how to get their water tested to determine whether it contains dangerously high levels of lead.

MDEQ Director: Flint water crisis has shaken faith in government (Michigan Radio)
State and local officials have done an about-face when it comes to Flint's water crisis.

MVAA

New collaboration brings resources to veterans in Northern Michigan (MI News 26)
Veterans in Northern Michigan will now have easier access to comprehensive health, employment, and education opportunities thanks to a collaboration that brings together local, state, and federal resources.

National program aimed at helping vets coming to West Michigan (WWMT-TV)
A national program is expanding into West Michigan, to help those who need it most. It's called VCAT (Veterans Community Action Team), and the program will serve 55,000 veterans and their families in several West Michigan counties.

DOC

MDOC is looking to hire 200 corrections officers in 2016 (Upper Michigan's Source)
One way to recruit potential correctional facility employees is to target the student population.

Job fair gives metro Detroiters returning from prison a second chance (WDIV)

Barbara L. McQuade said it's her office's job to reduce and prevent crime. McQuade said one way of preventing crime is giving former prisoners a job.

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MDE
Count day helps state with funding (Livingston Daily)
School districts across Livingston County asked students to stand up and be counted this week for Michigan's official County Day.

Education chief unveils teacher evaluation system ahead of possible state House vote (Michigan Radio)
Michigan education officials are moving ahead with plans to improve teacher evaluations statewide.

State's new e-textbooks get harsh words from critics (Michigan Radio)
The first set of online textbooks released under Michigan's Open Book Project is drawing criticism from some educators and experts.

MEDC
New range of employment services available at Pontiac's OLSHA (Oakland Press)
Unemployed people who have a tough time finding transportation, child care or even job uniforms can find help through a new service being offered at OLHSA, the Pontiac-based Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency.

Crystal mountain begins work on an $11 million expansion (Examiner)
Construction is now underway on an $11 million expansion at Crystal Mountain that will add eight new downhill trails, a triple chairlift and transform the village center with a 31,200 square-foot, LEED-certified expansion and surrounding plaza to the Inn at the Mountain.

MDOT
Public weighs in on upcoming I-275 construction project in Wayne and Oakland counties (WXYZ)
After seeking input from the public on an upcoming freeway project, the Michigan Department of Transportation has decided to shut down one direction of I-275 at a time.

Michigan Department of Transportation chooses plan for $80 million I-275 project (Macomb Daily)
After evaluating nearly 3,800 survey responses, the Michigan Department of Transportation has decided how to proceed with a $70-$80 million construction project which will affect many Oakland County motorists next year.

Department of Transportation unveiling Pure Michigan Byway (AP)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is getting ready to unveil its first new Pure Michigan Byway.

Income tax debate at heart of latest Michigan road funding stalemate (MLive)
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MSP

SW Michigan leads state in meth lab seizures (FOX 17)
A new report from the State Police shows just how bad the problem of meth is in Michigan.

No need for more speed on Michigan highways (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Many people like to drive fast, but the government's job is to keep motorists safe. Raising speed limits, even on rural highways, is no way to do that, and we hope the Legislature backs away from the idea.

SUPREME COURT

Michigan Supreme Court opens term with new justice, 11 cases (Crains)
The Michigan Supreme Court opened a new term this week with a new member and arguments in 11 cases.

Michigan Supreme Court to hear FOIA auto insurance case (WMUK)
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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 11:13 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/15 Newsroom
Attachments: 151015 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIG
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Unemployment rate
NSYNC was big and gas was under $2 the last time Michigan's unemployment did this (Mlive)
"We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come. Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States. Today we are below the national average for the first time since August 2000," said Gov. Rick Snyder in a statement. "This means more people in Michigan are able to use their skills and are finding fulfilling jobs to support themselves and their families, making our cities and our communities stronger in a variety of ways."

State jobless rate below national average (Freep)
he state's seasonally adjusted, monthly unemployment level, 5%, is slightly below the national average of 5.1%. It's the first time that has happened since August 2000, when both the state and national unemployment rates were below 5%, Michigan officials said. "We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come," Gov. Rick Snyder said in a statement. "Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States."

Michigan unemployment rate dips to 5 percent in September (AP)
Gov. Snyder reacted to the unemployment figures by saying it's important to see how far the state has come since August 2000.

Presumptive Parole
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder backs presumptive parole proposal as AG Bill Schuette leads opposition (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has long supported "smart justice" but came out specifically in favor of presumptive parole legislation this week, something Attorney General Bill Schuette has been leading the charge against.

Roads
Road deal: There may still be hope (Freep)
After a brief flurry of blame and recriminations when discussions hit an impasse Tuesday, legislative leaders from both parties declared a "cooling-off period" in road funding talks Wednesday and expressed confidence a $1.2-billion deal is still within reach.

Game bet

Calley, Snyder bet on UM-MSU outcome (Detroit News)

In anticipation of Saturday's Michigan-Michigan State gridiron showdown in Ann Arbor, Gov. Rick Snyder and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley have a bet going. Calley, a Michigan State University alumnus, has to wear a maize-and-blue UM tie for one day next week if Michigan's 5-1 football team prevails over the undefeated Spartans, according to Snyder's office. If MSU wins, the usually tie-less governor, who earned three degrees from UM by age 23, will have to wrap his neck in Calley's green-and-white tie.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

October is Investing in Abilities Month (WILX)

Rehabilitation programs across the state were honored at the state capitol today. Members of the Michigan Rehabilitation Services received awards for its commitment to hiring people with disabilities in the state. Governor Rick Snyder has declared October as investing in abilities month encouraging people to hire those with disabilities.

Marquette office of Michigan Rehabilitation Services awarded (UP Matters/TV 3)

Michiganders who work to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and individuals with disabilities were honored today with Michigan Rehabilitation Services Champion Awards.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DHHS

Controversy brews over Michigan's awarding $42 billion Medicaid HMO contracts (Crain's Detroit Business)

Some Medicaid health plan executives in Michigan are upset with the results of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' decision this week to designate counties the HMOs will be allowed to serve under a state contract that begins Jan. 1. At stake: $42 billion worth of contracts.

DNR

'Ask the DNR' TV special allows residents to call in with questions (MLive)

Officials from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be available to answer questions from residents during a one-hour live public television program this week. The "Ask the DNR" program will be aired by CMU Public Broadcasting (WCMU) at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15. The show will focus on fisheries, wildlife and law enforcement issues in the state.

DNR confirms 31 cougar sightings, puts cougar mounts on display (MLive)

Two cougar mounts have been popular with visitors at exhibits in the Upper Peninsula. The displays feature a captive cougar that died of natural causes and another that was poached, leading to three arrests. Since 2008, there have been 31 confirmed reports of cougars in the U.P., but wildlife officials have failed to find evidence of a breeding population, the state Department of Natural Resources said.

Improvements take shape at Lakeside Park (Times Herald)

Crews are making headway on upwards of $500,000 of improvements to Lakeside Park in Port Huron. Nancy Winzer, director of parks and recreation for the city, said a new restroom and concessions building and a splash pad will be open to the public in May. The restroom and concessions facilities were razed the week of Sept. 14, she said.

DTMB

Michigan picks state Christmas tree from UP (AP)

A 66-foot spruce from the western Upper Peninsula has been chosen as this year's state Christmas tree.

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget picked the tree and announced the choice on Wednesday.

The spruce is from Wakefield, east of Ironwood, and is being donated by Florence Daniels in memory of her late husband, Jim Daniels. He was a teacher, coach and U.P. Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

MDARD

Ocean's Halo Gluten Free Seaweed Chips recalled (The Detroit News)

A California food producer is voluntarily recalling a recent offering of Ocean's Halo Gluten Free Seaweed Chips due to an undeclared allergen, wheat, at a third party manufacturer, the company announced Wednesday. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development distributed the release from New Frontier Foods Inc.

Dole recalls 33,600 bags of spinach amid salmonella concerns (The Washington Post)
Dole is recalling 33,600 bags of spinach in a voluntary move over possible salmonella contamination, the company announced Tuesday. No illnesses connected to the spinach have been reported, according to the company. But a random sample test conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development came back positive for salmonella, prompting the precautionary recall.

MDE
Free, online textbooks include factual errors, poor grammar (AP)
Some who have reviewed the first batch of free, online textbooks commissioned under a Michigan Department of Education grant say they include factual inaccuracies, poor grammar, overgeneralizations, clumsy word choices and cultural insensitivity.

Dropping to one Flint high school worth exploring, says new superintendent (MLive)
The time may be right to begin a serious discussion about moving to a single high school that would serve the entire Flint School District, said new Flint Superintendent Bilal Tawwab. The Flint School District has had on-again, off-again discussions about consolidating its remaining two high schools as enrollment across the city has steadily declined over the past few years.

Ann Arbor schools chief asks lawmakers to keep concealed guns out of schools (MLive)
The Ann Arbor Public Schools superintendent asked Michigan lawmakers to keep schools safe by preventing concealed carry in schools. However, despite her testimony and the testimony of several other educators, the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 13 voted 4-1 to move the bills to the Senate Floor.

MDOT
Department of Transportation unveiling Pure Michigan Byway (AP)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is getting ready to unveil its first new Pure Michigan Byway. An event is planned for Friday in the Upper Peninsula community of Cedarville to make the designation for Michigan highway 134. The new M-134 North Huron Byway is located in Chippewa and Mackinac counties, following Lake Huron's north shore in the southeastern corner of the Upper Peninsula.

Roadside parks in Upper Peninsula to close for season (AP)
The Michigan Department of Transportation says its roadside parks in the Upper Peninsula are getting ready to close soon for the season. The agency says most will close Oct. 26. The two parks operated by MDOT in Keweenaw County are scheduled to close this Monday.

MSHDA
Project Connect event to help connect those in need with services that can help them (Huron Daily Tribune)
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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Unemployment rate
NSYNC was big and gas was under $2 the last time Michigan's unemployment did this (Mlive)
"We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come. Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States. Today we are below the national average for the first time since August 2000," said Gov. Rick Snyder in a statement. "This means more people in Michigan are able to use their skills and are finding fulfilling jobs to support themselves and their families, making our cities and our communities stronger in a variety of ways."

State jobless rate below national average (Freep)
he state's seasonally adjusted, monthly unemployment level, 5%, is slightly below the national average of 5.1%. It's the first time that has happened since August 2000, when both the state and national unemployment rates were below 5%, Michigan officials said. "We need to stay focused on our goal, but it also is important to look back to see how far we've come," Gov. Rick Snyder said in a statement. "Michigan's unemployment rate was once the worst in the United States."

Michigan unemployment rate dips to 5 percent in September (AP)
Gov. Snyder reacted to the unemployment figures by saying it's important to see how far the state has come since August 2000.

Presumptive Parole
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder backs presumptive parole proposal as AG Bill Schuette leads opposition (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has long supported "smart justice" but came out specifically in favor of presumptive parole legislation this week, something Attorney General Bill Schuette has been leading the charge against.

Roads
Road deal: There may still be hope (Freep)
After a brief flurry of blame and recriminations when discussions hit an impasse Tuesday, legislative leaders from both parties declared a "cooling-off period" in road funding talks Wednesday and expressed confidence a $1.2-billion deal is still within reach.

Game bet
Calley, Snyder bet on UM-MSU outcome (Detroit News)
In anticipation of Saturday's Michigan-Michigan State gridiron showdown in Ann Arbor, Gov. Rick Snyder and Lt. Gov. Brian Calley have a bet going. Calley, a Michigan State University alumnus, has to wear a maize-and-blue UM tie for one day next week if Michigan's 5-1 football team prevails over the

undefeated Spartans, according to Snyder's office. If MSU wins, the usually tie-less governor, who earned three degrees from UM by age 23, will have to wrap his neck in Calley's green-and-white tie.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

October is Investing In Abilities Month (WILX)
Rehabilitation programs across the state were honored at the state capitol today. Members of the Michigan Rehabilitation Services received awards for its commitment to hiring people with disabilities in the state. Governor Rick Snyder has declared October as investing in abilities month encouraging people to hire those with disabilities.

Marquette office of Michigan Rehabilitation Services awarded (UP Matters/TV 3)
Michiganders who work to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and individuals with disabilities were honored today with Michigan Rehabilitation Services Champion Awards.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DHHS
Controversy brews over Michigan's awarding $42 billion Medicaid HMO contracts (Crain's Detroit Business)
Some Medicaid health plan executives in Michigan are upset with the results of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' decision this week to designate counties the HMOs will be allowed to serve under a state contract that begins Jan. 1. At stake: $42 billion worth of contracts.

DNR
'Ask the DNR' TV special allows residents to call in with questions (MLive)
Officials from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will be available to answer questions from residents during a one-hour live public television program this week. The "Ask the DNR" program will be aired by CMU Public Broadcasting (WCMU) at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 15. The show will focus on fisheries, wildlife and law enforcement issues in the state.

DNR confirms 31 cougar sightings, puts cougar mounts on display (MLive)
Two cougar mounts have been popular with visitors at exhibits in the Upper Peninsula. The displays feature a captive cougar that died of natural causes and another that was poached, leading to three arrests. Since 2008, there have been 31 confirmed reports of cougars in the U.P., but wildlife officials have failed to find evidence of a breeding population, the state Department of Natural Resources said.

Improvements take shape at Lakeside Park (Times Herald)
Crews are making headway on upwards of $500,000 of improvements to Lakeside Park in Port Huron. Nancy Winzer, director of parks and recreation for the city, said a new restroom and concessions building and a splash pad will be open to the public in May. The restroom and concessions facilities were razed the week of Sept. 14, she said.

DTMB
Michigan picks state Christmas tree from UP (AP)
A 66-foot spruce from the western Upper Peninsula has been chosen as this year's state Christmas tree. The Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget picked the tree and announced the choice on Wednesday. The spruce is from Wakefield, east of Ironwood, and is being donated by Florence Daniels in memory of her late husband, Jim Daniels. He was a teacher, coach and U.P. Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

MDARD

Ocean's Halo Gluten Free Seaweed Chips recalled (The Detroit News)

A California food producer is voluntarily recalling a recent offering of Ocean's Halo Gluten Free Seaweed Chips due to an undeclared allergen, wheat, at a third party manufacturer, the company announced Wednesday. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development distributed the release from New Frontier Foods Inc.

Dole recalls 33,600 bags of spinach amid salmonella concerns (The Washington Post)

Dole is recalling 33,600 bags of spinach in a voluntary move over possible salmonella contamination, the company announced Tuesday. No illnesses connected to the spinach have been reported, according to the company. But a random sample test conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development came back positive for salmonella, prompting the precautionary recall.

MDE

Free, online textbooks include factual errors, poor grammar (AP)

Some who have reviewed the first batch of free, online textbooks commissioned under a Michigan Department of Education grant say they include factual inaccuracies, poor grammar, overgeneralizations, clumsy word choices and cultural insensitivity.

Dropping to one Flint high school worth exploring, says new superintendent (MLive)

The time may be right to begin a serious discussion about moving to a single high school that would serve the entire Flint School District, said new Flint Superintendent Bilal Tawwab. The Flint School District has had on-again, off-again discussions about consolidating its remaining two high schools as enrollment across the city has steadily declined over the past few years.

Ann Arbor schools chief asks lawmakers to keep concealed guns out of schools (MLive)

The Ann Arbor Public Schools superintendent asked Michigan lawmakers to keep schools safe by preventing concealed carry in schools. However, despite her testimony and the testimony of several other educators, the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, Oct. 13 voted 4-1 to move the bills to the Senate Floor.

MDOT

Department of Transportation unveiling Pure Michigan Byway (AP)

The Michigan Department of Transportation is getting ready to unveil its first new Pure Michigan Byway. An event is planned for Friday in the Upper Peninsula community of Cedarville to make the designation for Michigan highway 134. The new M-134 North Huron Byway is located in Chippewa and Mackinac counties, following Lake Huron's north shore in the southeastern corner of the Upper Peninsula.

Roadside parks in Upper Peninsula to close for season (AP)

The Michigan Department of Transportation says its roadside parks in the Upper Peninsula are getting ready to close soon for the season. The agency says most will close Oct. 26. The two parks operated by MDOT in Keweenaw County are scheduled to close this Monday.

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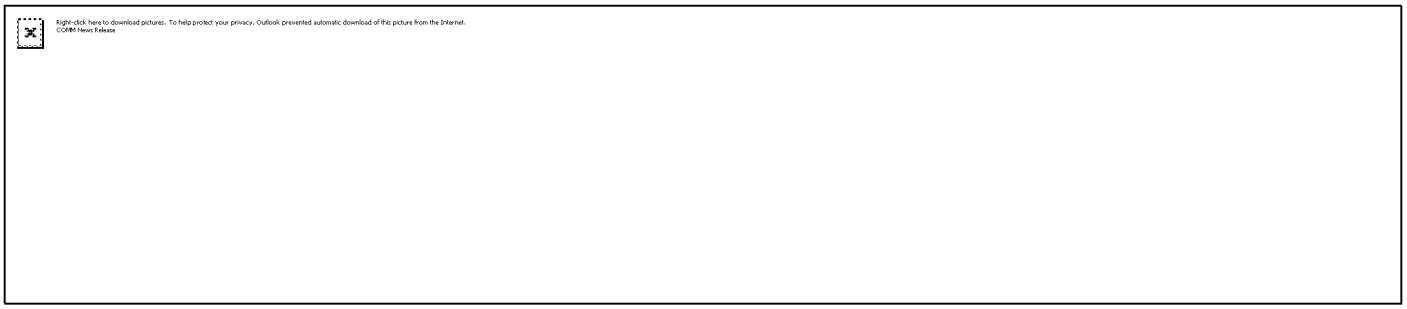
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:55 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill authorizing funding for Flint to move back to Detroit water system



Contacts: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015

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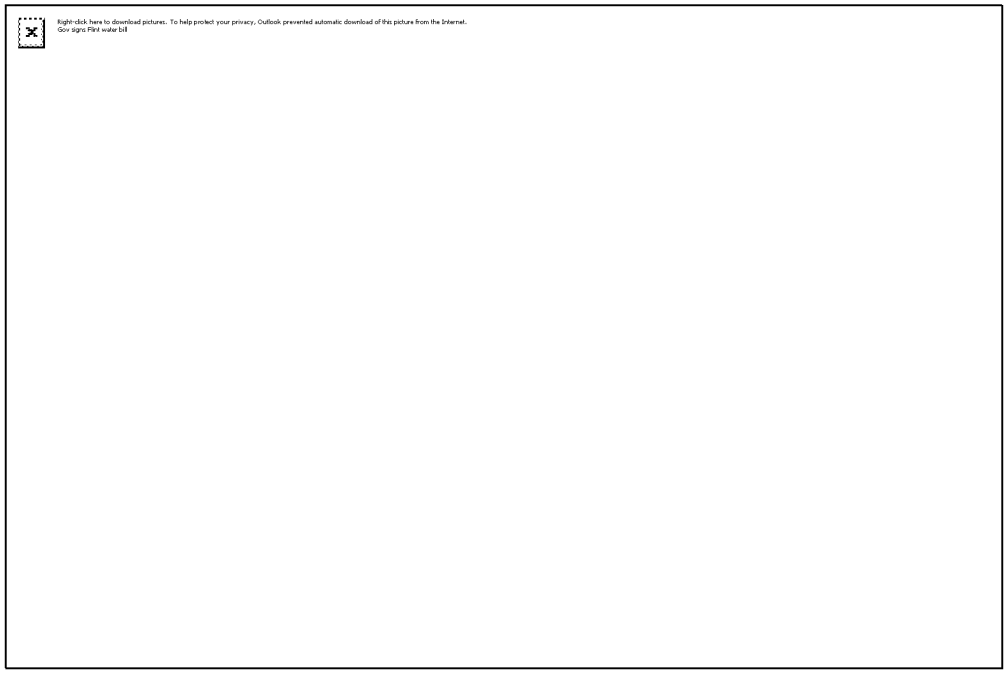
Temporary reconnection provides best protection for public health



LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder has signed bipartisan legislation that will direct funding to the City of Flint's emergency water services to reconnect the city's water supply to the Great Lakes

Water Authority until the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is completed.

"This funding is a coordinated response to a serious problem and I'm pleased so many parties came together to help deliver safe drinking water to the city of Flint," Snyder said. "Reconnecting to the Great Lakes Water Authority is only the first step, as the state will continue testing and inspections to ensure Flint families and children have clean water in their homes and schools."

House Bill 4102, sponsored by state Rep. Al Pscholka, authorizes $6 million to move the city back to Detroit's water system until the new pipeline is finished.

In addition to the $6 million:

- $300,000 goes to the Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water and environmental health services;
- $1 million will provide for DEQ to test drinking water samples;
- $1 million allows the Department of Health and Human Services to purchase and distribute water filters to Flint residents;
- $850,000 will aid in follow-up services for children, including testing, investigations, and case management for those with elevated blood lead levels;
- $200,000 will fund state plumbing inspections for schools and health facilities.
- The City of Flint city government will provide $2 million toward reconnecting the water supply and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has committed $4 million.

The bill was approved unanimously in both the House and Senate and is now Public Act 143 of 2015.

For more information on this and other legislation, please visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

####

STAY CONNECTED:

This email was sent to leedsl@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 10:34 AM
Subject: 10/16 Newsroom
Attachments: 151016 Newsroom.docx

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REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Friday, Oct. 16, 2015
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Supplemental bill signing/Flint water

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Friday, Oct. 16, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Supplemental bill signing/Flint water

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 9:52 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/19 Newsroom
Attachments: 151019 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
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In the News

Monday, Oct. 19, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR and LT. GOVERNOR's ACTIVITIES

Special Education task force

Gov. Snyder forms special education task force (Macomb Daily)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder announced the creation of a task force that will suggest reforms for Michigan's special education system, according to a press release from the governor's office. The task force, led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, will head the task force, which address the key findings of Calley's special education listening tour.

Gov. Snyder Announces New Special Education Reform Task Force (9&10 News)
Governor Rick Snyder is creating a task force to improve Michigan's special education system. The task force was announced Friday and is called the Special Education Reform Task Force. It will be led by Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, who has a daughter with autism.

New task force to target special education reform (TV 7&4)
Governor Rick Snyder is focusing on reforming Michigan's special education system to help special needs children reach their full potential. The creation of the new task force was announced Friday and will be led by Lt. Governor Brian Calley. The task force includes a representative from northern Michigan, Diane Heinzelman, who is the Director of Special Education, Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District and Chair of the Michigan Autism Council.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley to lead new task force for special education (Mlive)
A new Michigan task force on special education will recommend policy changes under the direction of Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. Calley recently went on a special education listening tour and presented his findings to the State Board of Education.

Lt. Gov. Calley to lead effort to reform special education (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder has created a task force that will recommend reforms to Michigan's special education system, following a broad set of recommendations made by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley last month.

Task force to recommend changes to special education system (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder has created a task force to recommend changes to Michigan's special education system to help special

needs children reach their potential. The task force announced Friday will be led by Gov. Brian Calley, who has a daughter with autism.

Governor Creates Special Ed Task Force (WHTC)
A blue ribbon task force headed by Lieutenant Governor Calley will come up with recommended reforms for Michigan's special education system that would help those with special needs "reach their full potential," according to Governor Snyder, who created the 16-member panel.

OPINION

Hiring people with disabilities is good business sense for Michigan employers (Crain's Detroit Business)
Earlier this year, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein launched a partnership to highlight the opportunities for hiring Michiganians with disabilities across the state. The MI Hidden Talent tour was focused on highlighting the skills of people with disabilities who are often overlooked.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Michigan DEQ vows changes in Flint water crisis (The Detroit News)
Dan Wyant, director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, said late Sunday that staff members applied the wrong standards of the Lead and Copper Rule that governs testing and monitoring for drinking water. The result was that proper controls regarding corrosion were not put in place when the city began drawing its water from the Flint River in spring 2014.

Federal task force will advise Flint, Michigan DEQ on city water (MLive)
The U.S. EPA Friday, Oct. 16, said it has established the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force to provide "technical expertise through regular conversations with designated officials" from the city and state. EPA will advise the state and city on the reconnection of Flint to Lake Huron water, including measures to make Flint's water less corrosive, a key to lowering lead levels.

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More than 6,300 lake sturgeon released into Michigan waters (AP)
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MDE
Lights On Afterschool effort to emphasize importance of after-school programs (MLive)
CIS relies heavily on local resources to fund its core work throughout the school day, (such as locating site coordinators within schools to identify needs and connect students to the right resources to remove barriers to school success) and CIS after school programs are available thanks to the support of federal dollars awarded through the Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers).

MDHHS
Michigan's new Medicaid regions could be costly for Henry Ford Health System (Crain's Detroit Business)

Lansing-based Sparrow Health System, which owns Sparrow PHP, a 20,000-member Medicaid HMO, also could take a hit, though much smaller than what's expected for Henry Ford, based on Medicaid contract recommendations issued last week by the state Department of Health and Human Services.

MDOT

Group presents 'Connecting Lenawee' plan to commissioners (Daily Telegram)
The 22-member task force gathered input from stakeholders in a series of meetings between May and September, according to his presentation to the commission. Stakeholders in future development of non-motorized trails and pathways include the Michigan Department of Transportation, Lenawee County Road Commission, cities, villages, townships, Kiwanis clubs, bicycle and walking clubs, Adrian College, Siena Heights University and the YMCA of Lenawee County.

Department of Transportation unveiling Pure Michigan Byway (AP)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is unveiling its first new Pure Michigan Byway at an event along a scenic route in the Upper Peninsula.

GR's Ford airport reopening reconstructed runway (AP)
Reconstruction work began in June. The total project cost is just over $4 million, with 90 percent covered by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program. The airport and the Michigan Department of Transportation contributed 5 percent each.

M-231 in Ottawa Co. to open by the end of the month (WZZM)
Friday morning, the Michigan Department of Transportation dedicated the pedestrian and bicycle pathway on M-231's new Grand River bridge to the memory of Sergeant Henry E. Plant. Sergeant Plant was a Civil War soldier and the first service member from Ottawa County to receive the Medal of Honor. Next week, MDOT will dedicate the new highway during a special ceremony at the Grand River bridge.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Legal fight could mean longer lines to renew licenses (Detroit Free Press)
A fight between the Michigan Secretary of State's Office and the contractor who built its Express SOS website could result in much longer lines at branch offices to renew driver licenses, the state has warned in a court filing that asks a judge to order the contractor back to work.

SUPREME COURT

Dispute Over Insurance Fund Records Back at Appeals Court (WOOD News Radio)
The Michigan Supreme Court has ordered a lower court to take another look at a dispute over public access to records of an auto insurance fund.

Judge Herrington appointed to first full term as chief of Huron County courts (Huron Daily Tribune)
The Michigan Supreme Court this week reappointed Huron County District Judge David B. Herrington as chief judge of the county's courts.

DETROIT

Auto supplier to break ground on $30M plant in Detroit (The Detroit News)
Mayor Mike Duggan and officials with India-based auto supplier Sakthi Automotive Group are expected to attend a groundbreaking ceremony Monday for a new multi-million dollar manufacturing facility in southwest Detroit.

Runners, spectators overtake Detroit streets (The Detroit News)
Over 27,000 runners and thousands of spectators paid little attention to frigid temperatures as they overtook downtown Detroit for the 38th Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank Marathon Sunday.

Gala raises $1.8M for Charles H. Wright Museum (The Detroit News)
Five donors gave $100,000 each to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History's gala which raised $1.8 million, making it the most successful fundraiser in the museum's history.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Sports betting could help fix Michigan roads, bill sponsor says (MLive)
Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, says his bill to legalize sports betting at casinos could help the state fund its crumbling roads.

Michigan bills would ban second-term abortion procedure (Midland Daily)
Michigan anti-abortion advocates are targeting a common second-trimester abortion procedure, pushing bills in the Republican-led Legislature to prohibit what they say is "dismemberment" of a fetus.

Planned Parenthood inspired bill in the Legislature (Freep)
The two-bill package would prohibit the sale of embryos or fetal tissue obtained through an elective abortion. It would also make the sale of the tissue a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

Lawmakers approve aid for Flint to switch water source (Crain's)
Flint will receive $6 million in state funding to help switch its drinking water source after the discovery of lead and other problems connected to water quality.

4 years after Michigan tenure reform, 'everything in place' for new teacher evaluation law (MLive)
The Michigan Legislature is nearing the finish line on a long-running effort to establish a statewide framework for evaluating teacher effectiveness, a process expected to soon end with final approval by the Senate and signature by the governor.

OPINION

Schuette and Meekhof, top guns in Lansing, trade shots on parole bill (MLive)
The folks pushing for prison sentencing reform did not crack open the champagne bottles, but there was reason to celebrate after the Michigan House, on a strong bipartisan vote, popped a bill allowing some inmates to get out of the slammer after serving their minimum sentence.

Snyder faces 6 big headaches as his second term unfolds (MLive)
The governor may not realize it yet, but he has contracted a severe case of second-term-itis, which may require an extra-heavy booster shot of Relentless Positive Action.

Jacques: What's next for Detroit schools? (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder plans to make rounds on Monday, discussing his vision for reforming Detroit schools.

Column: Boost schools, end prevailing wage (Detroit News)
Here's a multiple-choice question: Michigan's mandated prevailing wage law (A) Benefits only construction unions and no one else, (B) Doesn't allow for best bids on construction projects, (C) Has more than 300,000 possible job classification scenarios that are so onerous most local small businesses can't compete and are shut out of work, or (D) Forces schools to pay millions more for work that can be done for less and without compromising quality.

Editorial: Impasse on roads not an option (Detroit News)
Governing is no picnic sometimes. But when things bog down, leaders can't toss up their hands and walk away. The people who elected them to the offices they sought expect them to get the job done.

Mitchell: We need leadership to solve road challenge (Detroit News)

We have all seen the struggles here in Michigan to find a solution to fix our roads. Late last year the legislature tried to pass the buck to voters by cobbling together the largest tax increase in Michigan in the last 50 years with much of the money generated earmarked for spending that had nothing to do with the roads.

Avoid another Flint disaster, clean out waterways (Detroit Free Press)
It's a shame for the people of Flint and their children, who, like all of us, deserve clean drinking water. But after all the finger-pointing and crying about the lack of foresight and concerns of saving money, no one came close to the root of the problem: pollution of our rivers and lakes.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, Oct. 19, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR and LT. GOVERNOR's ACTIVITIES

Special Education task force

Gov. Snyder forms special education task force (Macomb Daily)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder announced the creation of a task force that will suggest reforms for Michigan's special education system, according to a press release from the governor's office. The task force, led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, will head the task force, which address the key findings of Calley's special education listening tour.

Gov. Snyder Announces New Special Education Reform Task Force (9&10 News)
Governor Rick Snyder is creating a task force to improve Michigan's special education system. The task force was announced Friday and is called the Special Education Reform Task Force. It will be led by Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, who has a daughter with autism.

New task force to target special education reform (TV 7&4)
Governor Rick Snyder is focusing on reforming Michigan's special education system to help special needs children reach their full potential. The creation of the new task force was announced Friday and will be led by Lt. Governor Brian Calley. The task force includes a representative from northern Michigan, Diane Heinzelman, who is the Director of Special Education, Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District and Chair of the Michigan Autism Council.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley to lead new task force for special education (Mlive)
A new Michigan task force on special education will recommend policy changes under the direction of Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. Calley recently went on a special education listening tour and presented his findings to the State Board of Education.

Lt. Gov. Calley to lead effort to reform special education (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder has created a task force that will recommend reforms to Michigan's special education system, following a broad set of recommendations made by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley last month.

Task force to recommend changes to special education system (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder has created a task force to recommend changes to Michigan's special education system to help special needs children reach their potential. The task force announced Friday will be led by Gov. Brian Calley, who has a daughter with autism.

Governor Creates Special Ed Task Force (WHTC)
A blue ribbon task force headed by Lieutenant Governor Calley will come up with recommended reforms for Michigan's special education system that would help those with special needs "reach their full potential," according to Governor Snyder, who created the 16-member panel.

OPINION

Hiring people with disabilities is good business sense for Michigan employers (Crain's Detroit Business)
Earlier this year, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein launched a partnership to highlight the opportunities for hiring Michiganians with disabilities across the state. The MI Hidden Talent tour was focused on highlighting the skills of people with disabilities who are often overlooked.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Michigan DEQ vows changes in Flint water crisis (The Detroit News)
Dan Wyant, director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, said late Sunday that staff members applied the wrong standards of the Lead and Copper Rule that governs testing and monitoring for drinking water. The result was that proper controls regarding corrosion were not put in place when the city began drawing its water from the Flint River in spring 2014.

Federal task force will advise Flint, Michigan DEQ on city water (MLive)
The U.S. EPA Friday, Oct. 16, said it has established the Flint Safe Drinking Water Task Force to provide "technical expertise through regular conversations with designated officials" from the city and state. EPA will advise the state and city on the reconnection of Flint to Lake Huron water, including measures to make Flint's water less corrosive, a key to lowering lead levels.

DNR
More than 6,300 lake sturgeon released into Michigan waters (AP)
State officials say more than 6,300 juvenile lake sturgeon were released into Michigan waterways this summer and fall in a continuing effort to restore the ancient species. The Department of Natural Resources teamed with Native American tribes and other partners on the projects, including Michigan State University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

MDARD
Michigan gets nearly $2 million for special crop ventures (AP)
The U.S. Agriculture Department has sent $1.9 million to Michigan for specialty crop development ventures. The state Department of Agriculture and Rural Development says the grants will expand the marketing, research and education of specialty crops.

MDE
Lights On Afterschool effort to emphasize importance of after-school programs (MLive)
CIS relies heavily on local resources to fund its core work throughout the school day, (such as locating site coordinators within schools to identify needs and connect students to the right resources to remove barriers to school success) and CIS after school programs are available thanks to the support of federal dollars awarded through the Michigan Department of Education (21st Century Community Learning Centers).

MDHHS
Michigan's new Medicaid regions could be costly for Henry Ford Health System (Crain's Detroit Business)
Lansing-based Sparrow Health System, which owns Sparrow PHP, a 20,000-member Medicaid HMO, also could take a hit, though much smaller than what's expected for Henry Ford, based on Medicaid contract recommendations issued last week by the state Department of Health and Human Services.

MDOT
Group presents 'Connecting Lenawee' plan to commissioners (Daily Telegram)

The 22-member task force gathered input from stakeholders in a series of meetings between May and September, according to his presentation to the commission. Stakeholders in future development of non-motorized trails and pathways include the Michigan Department of Transportation, Lenawee County Road Commission, cities, villages, townships, Kiwanis clubs, bicycle and walking clubs, Adrian College, Siena Heights University and the YMCA of Lenawee County.

Department of Transportation unveiling Pure Michigan Byway (AP)
The Michigan Department of Transportation is unveiling its first new Pure Michigan Byway at an event along a scenic route in the Upper Peninsula.

GR's Ford airport reopening reconstructed runway (AP)
Reconstruction work began in June. The total project cost is just over $4 million, with 90 percent covered by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program. The airport and the Michigan Department of Transportation contributed 5 percent each.

M-231 in Ottawa Co. to open by the end of the month (WZZM)
Friday morning, the Michigan Department of Transportation dedicated the pedestrian and bicycle pathway on M-231's new Grand River bridge to the memory of Sergeant Henry E. Plant. Sergeant Plant was a Civil War soldier and the first service member from Ottawa County to receive the Medal of Honor. Next week, MDOT will dedicate the new highway during a special ceremony at the Grand River bridge.

SECRETARY OF STATE
Legal fight could mean longer lines to renew licenses (Detroit Free Press)
A fight between the Michigan Secretary of State's Office and the contractor who built its Express SOS website could result in much longer lines at branch offices to renew driver licenses, the state has warned in a court filing that asks a judge to order the contractor back to work.

SUPREME COURT
Dispute Over Insurance Fund Records Back at Appeals Court (WOOD News Radio)
The Michigan Supreme Court has ordered a lower court to take another look at a dispute over public access to records of an auto insurance fund.

Judge Herrington appointed to first full term as chief of Huron County courts (Huron Daily Tribune)
The Michigan Supreme Court this week reappointed Huron County District Judge David B. Herrington as chief judge of the county's courts.

DETROIT

Auto supplier to break ground on $30M plant in Detroit (The Detroit News)
Mayor Mike Duggan and officials with India-based auto supplier Sakthi Automotive Group are expected to attend a groundbreaking ceremony Monday for a new multi-million dollar manufacturing facility in southwest Detroit.

Runners, spectators overtake Detroit streets (The Detroit News)
Over 27,000 runners and thousands of spectators paid little attention to frigid temperatures as they overtook downtown Detroit for the 38th Detroit Free Press/Talmer Bank Marathon Sunday.

Gala raises $1.8M for Charles H. Wright Museum (The Detroit News)
Five donors gave $100,000 each to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History's gala which raised $1.8 million, making it the most successful fundraiser in the museum's history.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Sports betting could help fix Michigan roads, bill sponsor says (MLive)
Rep. Robert Kosowski, D-Westland, says his bill to legalize sports betting at casinos could help the state fund its crumbling roads.

Michigan bills would ban second-term abortion procedure (Midland Daily)
Michigan anti-abortion advocates are targeting a common second-trimester abortion procedure, pushing bills in the Republican-led Legislature to prohibit what they say is "dismemberment" of a fetus.

Planned Parenthood inspired bill in the Legislature (Freep)
The two-bill package would prohibit the sale of embryos or fetal tissue obtained through an elective abortion. It would also make the sale of the tissue a crime punishable by up to five years in prison.

Lawmakers approve aid for Flint to switch water source (Crain's)
Flint will receive $6 million in state funding to help switch its drinking water source after the discovery of lead and other problems connected to water quality.

4 years after Michigan tenure reform, 'everything in place' for new teacher evaluation law (MLive)
The Michigan Legislature is nearing the finish line on a long-running effort to establish a statewide framework for evaluating teacher effectiveness, a process expected to soon end with final approval by the Senate and signature by the governor.

OPINION

Schuette and Meekhof, top guns in Lansing, trade shots on parole bill (MLive)
The folks pushing for prison sentencing reform did not crack open the champagne bottles, but there was reason to celebrate after the Michigan House, on a strong bipartisan vote, popped a bill allowing some inmates to get out of the slammer after serving their minimum sentence.

Snyder faces 6 big headaches as his second term unfolds (MLive)
The governor may not realize it yet, but he has contracted a severe case of second-term-itis, which may require an extra-heavy booster shot of Relentless Positive Action.

Jacques: What's next for Detroit schools? (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder plans to make rounds on Monday, discussing his vision for reforming Detroit schools.

Column: Boost schools, end prevailing wage (Detroit News)
Here's a multiple-choice question: Michigan's mandated prevailing wage law (A) Benefits only construction unions and no one else, (B) Doesn't allow for best bids on construction projects, (C) Has more than 300,000 possible job classification scenarios that are so onerous most local small businesses can't compete and are shut out of work, or (D) Forces schools to pay millions more for work that can be done for less and without compromising quality.

Editorial: Impasse on roads not an option (Detroit News)
Governing is no picnic sometimes. But when things bog down, leaders can't toss up their hands and walk away. The people who elected them to the offices they sought expect them to get the job done.

Mitchell: We need leadership to solve road challenge (Detroit News)
We have all seen the struggles here in Michigan to find a solution to fix our roads. Late last year the legislature tried to pass the buck to voters by cobbling together the largest tax increase in Michigan in

the last 50 years with much of the money generated earmarked for spending that had nothing to do with the roads.

Avoid another Flint disaster, clean out waterways (Detroit Free Press)
It's a shame for the people of Flint and their children, who, like all of us, deserve clean drinking water. But after all the finger-pointing and crying about the lack of foresight and concerns of saving money, no one came close to the root of the problem: pollution of our rivers and lakes.

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state of Michigan

Daily update - October 19, 2015

NEWS

What a College Football Miracle Looks Like

The Atlantic

On Saturday evening, the University of **Michigan's** football team stood ten meager seconds away from a major win against undefeated **Michigan State**, ...

MSU 27, UM 23: Botched punt leads to stunning defeat - Detroit Free Press

Column: The punt that wasn't, and 10 seconds of Michigan football history that will live forever - MLive.com

Raw footage of **Michigan State** touchdown shows football without the sugarcoating - The Verge

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Rick Haglund: **Michigan** policymakers are **state's** biggest mobility hurdle

MLive.com

A Google self-driving car is on exhibit at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif. The head of self-driving cars for Google on ...

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Did Ohio **State** almost feel sorry for **Michigan**? 5 Doug Lesmerises observations

cleveland.com

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- Is is possible that **Michigan's** downfall was so shocking Saturday that the Ohio **State** Buckeyes almost felt ... sorry for the ...

Men's Soccer Drops Tough Match at **Michigan State**, 2-1 - GoPSUsports.com

Full Coverage

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The College Football Top 25: From a Michigan State miracle to suddenly sexy Stanford

Washington Post

Justifiably, the **Michigan State** head coach was even more measured than usual after his 82nd and strangest victory across nine Spartan seasons, that ...

The Michigan Punt Blunder ---- 4 Winners, 4 Losers - Houston Press

Full Coverage

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Boise State kicker to Michigan punter: Prepare for 'dark, dark, low place'

CBSSports.com

It's five years later and Kyle Brotzman still hasn't healed. Watching a replay of Michigan **State-Michigan** Saturday night didn't help. "He's going to be ...

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State admits mistakes in Flint water switch

Detroit Free Press

FLINT ---- The **State of Michigan** has removed its top drinking water quality official and admitted it botched corrosion control in Flint water pipes, which ...

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Shades of Michigan State with punt block for TD in final seconds for Maryland school

USA TODAY High School Sports

Good Counsel (Olney, Md.) had its own version of the Michigan **State-Michigan** finish on Saturday. With overtime looming, Keandre Jones blocked a ...

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Michigan State's Watts-Jackson has hip surgery after scoring winning TD against Michigan

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Feed Loader **Michigan State** safety Grayson Miller (44) celebrates as teammates jump on defensive back Jalen Watts-Jackson after Watts-Jackson ...

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Michigan State stands pat in Top 25 poll after miracle win over Michigan

FOXSports.com

Michigan State was feeling good after Saturday's win but it didn't help its Top 25 standing. ... 7 after its miracle against **Michigan** and Alabama is No.

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Cleveland Cavs owner Dan Gilbert loves Michigan State Spartans football win over Michigan

FOXSports.com

Michigan State's stunning victory over **Michigan** on Saturday was felt more ... So a regular-season win against **Michigan** meant more to Gilbert than:.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Detroit schools reform
Snyder: Unpaid bills could tip DPS into financial chaos (Detroit News)
As Gov. Rick Snyder steps up his push for the Legislature to bail out the debt-ridden Detroit Public Schools, his administration is bracing for unpaid vendors to seek court orders that could trigger what he describes as a "chaotic" financial free-fall for Michigan's largest school system.

How Snyder plans to sell his $715 million plan for Detroit schools to Michigan lawmakers (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will ask lawmakers to facilitate his 10-year, $715 million plan to improve education in the state's largest city and help Detroit Public Schools crawl out from under a mountain of debt. Snyder, speaking Monday morning during a media roundtable in Detroit, outlined pending legislation, saying that improving education in Detroit and paying off debt will provide a long-term benefit to the state.

Snyder's plan to overhaul DPS could cost $715M (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder has renewed his push to overhaul Detroit's troubled education system, announcing today that creating a debt-free city school district will cost the state up to $715 million over 10 years. The crux of the governor's proposal — parts of which were first released in April — involves splitting Detroit Public Schools into two entities, a "new" and "old" district, as a way to pay off DPS' massive debt. It would also add extra oversight in areas like finances, school placement and school performance.

Gov. Snyder: Michigan liable if Detroit schools not fixed (AP)
Michigan should divert $70 million annually to Detroit's school district over a decade to pay off an estimated $715 million in operating debt or else the state-run district could face financial defaults and put the state at risk of owing more later, Gov. Rick Snyder warned Monday.

Snyder details plans to fix Detroit schools; could cost state $715 million (Crain's Detroit Business)
Gov. Rick Snyder today outlined a $715 million plan to split Detroit's troubled public school system into two separate districts to help improve academic performance while paying down more than a half billion dollars in operating debt. The proposed legislative package would phase out the existing Detroit Public Schools district after it pays down the

district's remaining debt — about $515 million — while creating the new Detroit Community School District that would be charged with everything else, from teaching students to negotiating teacher contracts.

Gov. Snyder proposes new plan to overhaul Detroit's school system (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Snyder's plan would split the current school district in two. Similar to the GM bankruptcy, there would essentially be an "old" Detroit Public Schools district and a new district. The old district would pay down the school system's debt with the current school millage in Detroit.

Governor Snyder: It'll Take $715 Million to Bail Out Detroit Schools (WHTC)
Governor Snyder said that a package currently in the Legislature aimed at reversing longstanding problems in Detroit Public Schools isn't a quick fix, but admitted that the state would have to provide 715 million dollars over 10 years to pay off the district's over half-billion-dollar operating debt while ensuring that schools stay open for 47 thousand Motor City students.

Michigan governor readies legislation to fix Detroit schools (Reuters)
Detroit's public schools should be split between a new community school district and the current district to raise academic performance and avoid financial collapse, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said on Monday. The new district would be responsible for operations, while current district would be charged with eliminating a budget deficit.

Skubick: Snyder calls for state tax money to revamp Detroit schools (WLNS)
Governor Snyder has released an ambitious proposal to re-vamp the Detroit school system, using state tax dollars to do it. The package faces a rough road ahead. And you thought fixing the roads was a tough challenge.

Governor Snyder outlines proposed education plan for Detroit (WXYZ)
In a roundtable discussion that was held Monday morning, Governor Rick Snyder outlined his proposed education plan for Detroit. "There is no question that Detroit children need a solid education so they can compete in a global economy but also for their city to accelerate its revitalization," Snyder said. "This is an opportunity to recast a structure that isn't meeting the needs of the city's families for a variety of reasons. Starting with a plan presented by community leaders, we have crafted a new approach that will give families quality public school options while stabilizing district finances."

Snyder reveals $700 million plan to save Detroit Public Schools (Fox 2 Detroit)
About $715 million, that's how many tax dollars it will take to wipe out debt at Detroit Public Schools and start fresh. Gov. Rick Snyder announced details of the massive overhaul Monday. "This is a critically important issue because we're talking about the lives of thousands and thousands of children," Snyder said.

Governor Snyder Faces Uphill Battle for Detroit Schools' Rescue Plan (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder wants the Legislature to adopt an expensive, controversial plan to overhaul Detroit's schools by the end of the year. Snyder outlined his plan in Detroit on Monday. The goal is to rescue Detroit Public Schools (DPS) from crushing debt and dismal academic results. The proposal would split the district in two. A new body would oversee education and normal school operations. The old DPS would exist only to collect taxes and pay down debt.

Gov. Rick Snyder releases details of Detroit education plan (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder will ask lawmakers to direct $70 million more a year over a decade to Detroit's school district to address $715 million in operating debt. Snyder says if nothing is done and the troubled state-run district has "financial defaults," Michigan will be on the hook for more in the future. He warned Monday that every other K-12 district would face higher retirement system bills.

Flint water
Snyder defends environmental director on Flint crisis (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday defended his environmental department director's handling of the Flint water crisis, but said he's asked for a report on how the agency didn't detect lead-leaching corrosion in the city's aging pipelines. Dan

Wyant, director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, said late Sunday that staff members applied the wrong standards of the federal Lead and Copper Rule that governs testing and monitoring for drinking water.

Interviews

Gov. Snyder: We need the public to speak up, ask legislators to get roads deal done (WXYZ)

Talks are at an impasse to fix our roads, and we're nearly six months since the failure of Proposal one, with no roads deal in sight. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder told us he thought that they had a good solution, but politics interjected.

Gov. Snyder: We all win if Middle Eastern refugees come to Michigan (WXYZ)

Last month, Gov. Rick Snyder said he believes Michigan should be a welcoming state to Syrian refugees after The White House announced the U.S. planned to accept 10,000 refugees in fiscal year 2016. Snyder joined The Now Detroit on Monday to talk more about his ideas.

Gov. Snyder: I'm pro-Gordie Howe Bridge, not anti-Ambassador Bridge (WXYZ)

With Canadian inspectors examining the Ambassador Bridge after evidence of crumbling concrete, we wanted to get Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's thoughts on the issue. According to Snyder, he hasn't spent too much time thinking about it because it is on the Canadian side, and it's between the Canadian government and the bridge company. He did say he hopes they get it resolved.

Gov. Snyder talks Detroit schools with Paul W. Smith (WJR Radio)

Governor Rick Snyder tells Paul W. Smith it's time to take a serious look at Detroit's troubled school district and get it fixed.

Gov. Snyder talks Detroit schools with MPS (Michigan's Big Show)

Special Education task force

State Rep. Liberati appointed by governor to special education task force (Southgate News Herald)

Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Rep. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) to a committee tasked with improving Michigan's special education system. The Special Education Reform Task Force, being led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, will be developing policy recommendations based on findings of a statewide special education listening tour Calley conducted, according to a statement from Liberati's office.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

DEQ chief says state used wrong federal water rules in Flint for 17 months (Mlive)

The city used the wrong federal standards to treat Flint River water for 17 months, the state's chief environmental officer now says. Dan Wyant, director of the state Department of Environmental Quality, said DEQ officials were confused on federal regulations that required the city to make Flint River water less corrosive.

Michigan Official: Federal Water Rules Not Followed In Flint (WILX)

The head of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality says federal rules governing drinking water weren't followed properly in Flint, where problems with lead prompted officials to declare a public health emergency. DEQ Director Dan Wyant on Sunday acknowledged mistakes by the state in its handling of the situation and says "necessary changes" are being made.

Flint wants tougher consequences for MDEQ mistakes (Michigan Radio)

People in Flint say the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality needs to do more than admit mistakes in the handling of the city's tainted water crisis. Last week, Flint switched back to Detroit water after numerous problems with lead and other issues in the city's drinking water. The head of MDEQ admits monitoring errors were made and a top agency official has been reassigned.

Gov's plan to fix DPS: The best we've got (The Detroit Free Press)

We'd all better hope Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's public schools works, because it's the best option on the table. But neither Detroit Public Schools' profound challenges — nor the district's dearth of options — ensure the plan's success, either in the Michigan Legislature or among Detroiters.

DEQ replaces water official after state acknowledges 'mistake' in Flint (Mlive)
State Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant is replacing his top municipal drinking water official after acknowledging oversight mistakes with the Flint water system in a news release Monday, Oct. 19. Wyant issued a written statement Monday, saying the state enforced the wrong federal standards for treating Flint River water for more than 17 months, failing to require that the city make it less corrosive.

DMVA
Veterans Community Action Team brings collaboration, resources to 30,000 U.P. veterans (UP Matters/TV 3)
More than 30,000 veterans in the Upper Peninsula will have easier access to comprehensive health, employment, education and quality-of-life opportunities thanks to a collaboration that brings together local, state and federal resources and services. The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is expanding its Veterans Community Action Team program to veterans and their families living in Michigan's Prosperity Region 1, which includes all of the U.P.'s 15 counties.

VA leader: GR Vets Home 'improving' despite citations (Wood TV 8)
There's a big shakeup in leadership happening at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans: Two top administrators are out and a new CEO takes over next week. But why the reason for the change, and what does it mean for veterans? Monday, 24 Hour News 8 sought answers from Jim Dunn, the deputy director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA).

MDARD
Threat of Avian Flu Returns (WILX)
Farmers in Michigan are working hard to keep Avian Flu away from our chicken and eggs. "Bio security is very important," said Valerie Vail-Shirey with Michigan Allied Poultry Industries. "Whether you have a flock of 6 birds, 6 hens in your backyard to 50 turkeys, or a commercial flock of 6 million, it is important that you know your'e not transferring from farm to farm."

Tiny cranberry gets big attention this time of year (The Detroit News)
The harvest has begun for what might be one of Michigan's smallest agricultural crops. Cranberries are being collected from their water-flooded beds at the Michigan Cranberry Co., where up to 25 employees don waders and place booms around the floating fruit to be suctioned into containers for processing. "We have 45 beds we harvest," said Sharon Huggett during a recent tour of the cranberry farm. "We sell the cranberries wholesale and up to 67 acres of our 230 acres are sold to Ocean Spray."

MDE
Critics question Michigan's online textbooks (WLNS)
The Michigan Department of Education has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on e-textbooks, hoping to save money for school districts. But critics say many are full of misinformation and errors. The free textbooks were commissioned under a $600,000 grant from the state and were written by Michigan social studies teachers.

MDOC
Plans move ahead for $30M Detroit manufacturing facility (AP)
Plans by India-based Sakthi Automotive Group for a roughly $30 million manufacturing facility on Detroit's southwest side are moving forward.
A groundbreaking is Monday on the project, which was announced in May. Mayor Mike Duggan and Sakthi officials are among those attending. The 180,000-square-foot facility is part of a larger project that includes the redevelopment of the former Southwestern High School.

MDHHS

Disabled residents denied Medicaid could now be eligible, Sen. Stamas says (MLive)
Any disabled Michigan resident denied Medicaid eligibility in the past because of their income level should recheck their eligibility, a state senator advises. State Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland, issued a press release reminding constituents of a change to eligibility requirements in Michigan's "Freedom to Work" program that took effect on Oct. 1.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services offers carbon monoxide warning (Holland Sentinal)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is reminding the community to be mindful of carbon monoxide dangers in the approaching winter months. "Carbon monoxide is difficult to detect; however, carbon monoxide poisoning is completely preventable," said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive at the MDHHS, said in a news release. "Now is the time to ensure that furnaces and water heaters are working properly, and that carbon monoxide detectors are installed and have fresh batteries. If you suspect you have been exposed to carbon monoxide, leave the area immediately and seek medical attention."

MI Foster Kids Are Often Identity Theft Victims (WSJM)
Experts in Michigan say that kids as young as six are becoming victims of Identity theft, and there's an effort to ensure they're better protected. Angelique Day, Director of the Transition to Independence Program at Wayne State University, says that a foster kid's personal information is often visible to many people as they go through the system, which why the thefts occur. Day says that recovering from identity theft itself is a time consuming and costly endeavor, and it's critical to discover fraud before it's too late.

Michigan receives grant to develop behavioral health clinics (AP)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded more than $980,000 to develop certified community behavioral health clinics. Michigan is among 24 states chosen to receive a planning grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The state health department will use the funding to develop criteria for certified community behavioral health clinics, establish a payment system and prepare an application to participate in a two-year demonstration program.

MEDC
Indian parts supplier breaks ground on $31 million investment in Southwest Detroit (Mlive)
Imported from Detroit gets fresh meaning as an automotive parts supplier's $31 million investment at an empty school officially gets underway. Sakthi Automotive Group is rehabbing a historic part of Southwestern High School and the former American Mailers Building on Fort Street in Southwest Detroit as part of a 181,000-square-foot facility that will produce tier-1 parts for automakers.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan bills would ban second-term abortion procedure (The Detroit News)
Michigan anti-abortion advocates are targeting a common second-trimester abortion procedure, pushing bills in the Republican-led Legislature to prohibit what they say is "dismemberment" of a fetus. Similar criminal bans have been approved in two other states, Kansas and Oklahoma, where they temporarily are on hold after court rulings. The Michigan legislation was the subject of a House hearing on Tuesday and could advance this fall.

GOP opponents seek to quash Courser comeback (The Detroit News)
Todd Courser is trying to make a special primary election next month a referendum on his eight months in the Michigan House of Representatives, while his Republican opponents say it's more about what Courser didn't do in office. "Obviously this is a referendum on me," Courser said at a recent public forum for the 11 GOP candidates seeking to fill the House seat he abandoned a month ago. His resignation averted an ouster by his legislative colleagues for what he has since nonchalantly called his "first worldwide sex scandal and cover-up."

'Green Tea' Party? Far right Republicans, liberal Democrats aligning on Michigan renewable energy issue (Mlive)
Rep. Jeff Irwin is a proud progressive, and Rep. Gary Glenn is widely considered one of the most conservative Republicans in the Michigan legislature. But they're working together on an energy package that would encourage

renewable energy in Michigan. Virtually undiscussed in the House until very recently, net metering — the process of individuals producing their own energy and selling excess back onto the grid — has in some ways dominated the Senate Energy and Technology committee's discussion on energy reform.

Mich. GOP calls on Gilbert to refund spouse's cash (The Detroit News)
The Michigan Republican Party wants Democratic congressional candidate and former "Little House on the Prairie" star Melissa Gilbert to refund her husband's $5,400 campaign contribution and put it toward paying the money she owes in back taxes. Timothy Busfield, an actor and director, made two $2,700 donations to his wife's campaign on Sept. 30, according to campaign finance reports.

DETROIT

Regional water authority names interim CEO to top spot (The Detroit News)
The regional Great Lakes Water Authority's board of directors voted Monday to name Sue McCormick as its CEO. The six-member board voted 5-1 during a special meeting to choose McCormick as the authority's top administrator, pending the successful negotiation of a contract.

Detroit marathon sets record, inspires proposals (The Detroit Free Press)
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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Detroit schools reform

Snyder: Unpaid bills could tip DPS into financial chaos (Detroit News)
As Gov. Rick Snyder steps up his push for the Legislature to bail out the debt-ridden Detroit Public Schools, his administration is bracing for unpaid vendors to seek court orders that could trigger what he describes as a "chaotic" financial free-fall for Michigan's largest school system.

How Snyder plans to sell his $715 million plan for Detroit schools to Michigan lawmakers (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will ask lawmakers to facilitate his 10-year, $715 million plan to improve education in the state's largest city and help Detroit Public Schools crawl out from under a mountain of debt. Snyder, speaking Monday morning during a media roundtable in Detroit, outlined pending legislation, saying that improving education in Detroit and paying off debt will provide a long-term benefit to the state.

Snyder's plan to overhaul DPS could cost $715M (Freep)
Gov. Rick Snyder has renewed his push to overhaul Detroit's troubled education system, announcing today that creating a debt-free city school district will cost the state up to $715 million over 10 years. The crux of the governor's proposal — parts of which were first released in April — involves splitting Detroit Public Schools into two entities, a "new" and "old" district, as a way to pay off DPS' massive debt. It would also add extra oversight in areas like finances, school placement and school performance.

Gov. Snyder: Michigan liable if Detroit schools not fixed (AP)
Michigan should divert $70 million annually to Detroit's school district over a decade to pay off an estimated $715 million in operating debt or else the state-run district could face financial defaults and put the state at risk of owing more later, Gov. Rick Snyder warned Monday.

Snyder details plans to fix Detroit schools; could cost state $715 million (Crain's Detroit Business)
Gov. Rick Snyder today outlined a $715 million plan to split Detroit's troubled public school system into two separate districts to help improve academic performance while paying down more than a half billion dollars in operating debt. The proposed legislative package would phase out the existing Detroit Public Schools district after it pays down the district's remaining debt — about $515 million — while creating the new Detroit Community School District that would be charged with everything else, from teaching students to negotiating teacher contracts.

Gov. Snyder proposes new plan to overhaul Detroit's school system (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Snyder's plan would split the current school district in two. Similar to the GM bankruptcy, there would essentially be an "old" Detroit Public Schools district and a new district. The old district would pay down the school system's debt with the current school millage in Detroit.

Governor Snyder: It'll Take $715 Million to Bail Out Detroit Schools (WHTC)
Governor Snyder said that a package currently in the Legislature aimed at reversing longstanding problems in Detroit Public Schools isn't a quick fix, but admitted that the state would have to provide 715 million dollars over 10 years to pay off the district's over half-billion-dollar operating debt while ensuring that schools stay open for 47 thousand Motor City students.

Michigan governor readies legislation to fix Detroit schools (Reuters)
Detroit's public schools should be split between a new community school district and the current district to raise academic performance and avoid financial collapse, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder said on Monday. The new district would be responsible for operations, while current district would be charged with eliminating a budget deficit.

Skubick: Snyder calls for state tax money to revamp Detroit schools (WLNS)
Governor Snyder has released an ambitious proposal to re-vamp the Detroit school system, using state tax dollars to do it. The package faces a rough road ahead. And you thought fixing the roads was a tough challenge.

Governor Snyder outlines proposed education plan for Detroit (WXYZ)
In a roundtable discussion that was held Monday morning, Governor Rick Snyder outlined his proposed education plan for Detroit. "There is no question that Detroit children need a solid education so they can compete in a global economy but also for their city to accelerate its revitalization," Snyder said. "This is an opportunity to recast a structure that isn't meeting the needs of the city's families for a variety of reasons. Starting with a plan presented by community leaders, we have crafted a new approach that will give families quality public school options while stabilizing district finances."

Snyder reveals $700 million plan to save Detroit Public Schools (Fox 2 Detroit)
About $715 million, that's how many tax dollars it will take to wipe out debt at Detroit Public Schools and start fresh. Gov. Rick Snyder announced details of the massive overhaul Monday. "This is a critically important issue because we're talking about the lives of thousands and thousands of children," Snyder said.

Governor Snyder Faces Uphill Battle for Detroit Schools' Rescue Plan (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder wants the Legislature to adopt an expensive, controversial plan to overhaul Detroit's schools by the end of the year. Snyder outlined his plan in Detroit on Monday. The goal is to rescue Detroit Public Schools (DPS) from crushing debt and dismal academic results. The proposal would split the district in two. A new body would oversee education and normal school operations. The old DPS would exist only to collect taxes and pay down debt.

Gov. Rick Snyder releases details of Detroit education plan (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder will ask lawmakers to direct $70 million more a year over a decade to Detroit's school district to address $715 million in operating debt. Snyder says if nothing is done and the troubled state-run district has "financial defaults," Michigan will be on the hook for more in the future. He warned Monday that every other K-12 district would face higher retirement system bills.

Flint water
Snyder defends environmental director on Flint crisis (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday defended his environmental department director's handling of the Flint water crisis, but said he's asked for a report on how the agency didn't detect lead-leaching corrosion in the city's aging pipelines. Dan Wyant, director of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, said late Sunday that staff members applied the wrong standards of the federal Lead and Copper Rule that governs testing and monitoring for drinking water.

Interviews

Gov. Snyder: We need the public to speak up, ask legislators to get roads deal done (WXYZ)
Talks are at an impasse to fix our roads, and we're nearly six months since the failure of Proposal one, with no roads deal in sight. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder told us he thought that they had a good solution, but politics interjected.

Gov. Snyder: We all win if Middle Eastern refugees come to Michigan (WXYZ)
Last month, Gov. Rick Snyder said he believes Michigan should be a welcoming state to Syrian refugees after The White House announced the U.S. planned to accept 10,000 refugees in fiscal year 2016. Snyder joined The Now Detroit on Monday to talk more about his ideas.

Gov. Snyder: I'm pro-Gordie Howe Bridge, not anti-Ambassador Bridge (WXYZ)
With Canadian inspectors examining the Ambassador Bridge after evidence of crumbling concrete, we wanted to get Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's thoughts on the issue. According to Snyder, he hasn't spent too much time thinking about it because it is on the Canadian side, and it's between the Canadian government and the bridge company. He did say he hopes they get it resolved.

Gov. Snyder talks Detroit schools with Paul W. Smith (WJR Radio)
Governor Rick Snyder tells Paul W. Smith it's time to take a serious look at Detroit's troubled school district and get it fixed.

Gov. Snyder talks Detroit schools with MPS (Michigan's Big Show)

Special Education task force

State Rep. Liberati appointed by governor to special education task force (Southgate News Herald)
Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed Rep. Frank Liberati (D-Allen Park) to a committee tasked with improving Michigan's special education system. The Special Education Reform Task Force, being led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, will be developing policy recommendations based on findings of a statewide special education listening tour Calley conducted, according to a statement from Liberati's office.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

DEQ chief says state used wrong federal water rules in Flint for 17 months (Mlive)
The city used the wrong federal standards to treat Flint River water for 17 months, the state's chief environmental officer now says. Dan Wyant, director of the state Department of Environmental Quality, said DEQ officials were confused on federal regulations that required the city to make Flint River water less corrosive.

Michigan Official: Federal Water Rules Not Followed In Flint (WILX)
The head of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality says federal rules governing drinking water weren't followed properly in Flint, where problems with lead prompted officials to declare a public health emergency. DEQ Director Dan Wyant on Sunday acknowledged mistakes by the state in its handling of the situation and says "necessary changes" are being made.

Flint wants tougher consequences for MDEQ mistakes (Michigan Radio)
People in Flint say the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality needs to do more than admit mistakes in the handling of the city's tainted water crisis. Last week, Flint switched back to Detroit water after numerous problems with lead and other issues in the city's drinking water. The head of MDEQ admits monitoring errors were made and a top agency official has been reassigned.

Gov's plan to fix DPS: The best we've got (The Detroit Free Press)
We'd all better hope Gov. Rick Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's public schools works, because it's the best option on the table. But neither Detroit Public Schools' profound challenges — nor the district's dearth of options — ensure the plan's success, either in the Michigan Legislature or among Detroiters.

DEQ replaces water official after state acknowledges 'mistake' in Flint (Mlive)
State Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant is replacing his top municipal drinking water official after acknowledging oversight mistakes with the Flint water system in a news release Monday, Oct. 19. Wyant issued a written statement Monday, saying the state enforced the wrong federal standards for treating Flint River water for more than 17 months, failing to require that the city make it less corrosive.

DMVA
Veterans Community Action Team brings collaboration, resources to 30,000 U.P. veterans (UP Matters/TV 3)
More than 30,000 veterans in the Upper Peninsula will have easier access to comprehensive health, employment, education and quality-of-life opportunities thanks to a collaboration that brings together local, state and federal resources and services. The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is expanding its Veterans Community Action Team program to veterans and their families living in Michigan's Prosperity Region 1, which includes all of the U.P.'s 15 counties.

VA leader: GR Vets Home 'improving' despite citations (Wood TV 8)
There's a big shakeup in leadership happening at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans: Two top administrators are out and a new CEO takes over next week. But why the reason for the change, and what does it mean for veterans? Monday, 24 Hour News 8 sought answers from Jim Dunn, the deputy director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA).

MDARD
Threat of Avian Flu Returns (WILX)
Farmers in Michigan are working hard to keep Avian Flu away from our chicken and eggs. "Bio security is very important," said Valerie Vail-Shirey with Michigan Allied Poultry Industries. "Whether you have a flock of 6 birds, 6 hens in your backyard to 50 turkeys, or a commercial flock of 6 million, it is important that you know your'e not transferring from farm to farm."

Tiny cranberry gets big attention this time of year (The Detroit News)
The harvest has begun for what might be one of Michigan's smallest agricultural crops. Cranberries are being collected from their water-flooded beds at the Michigan Cranberry Co., where up to 25 employees don waders and place booms around the floating fruit to be suctioned into containers for processing. "We have 45 beds we harvest," said Sharon Huggett during a recent tour of the cranberry farm. "We sell the cranberries wholesale and up to 67 acres of our 230 acres are sold to Ocean Spray."

MDE
Critics question Michigan's online textbooks (WLNS)
The Michigan Department of Education has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on e-textbooks, hoping to save money for school districts. But critics say many are full of misinformation and errors. The free textbooks were commissioned under a $600,000 grant from the state and were written by Michigan social studies teachers.

MDOC
Plans move ahead for $30M Detroit manufacturing facility (AP)

Plans by India-based Sakthi Automotive Group for a roughly $30 million manufacturing facility on Detroit's southwest side are moving forward.
A groundbreaking is Monday on the project, which was announced in May. Mayor Mike Duggan and Sakthi officials are among those attending. The 180,000-square-foot facility is part of a larger project that includes the redevelopment of the former Southwestern High School.

MDHHS

Disabled residents denied Medicaid could now be eligible, Sen. Stamas says (MLive)
Any disabled Michigan resident denied Medicaid eligibility in the past because of their income level should recheck their eligibility, a state senator advises. State Sen. Jim Stamas, R-Midland, issued a press release reminding constituents of a change to eligibility requirements in Michigan's "Freedom to Work" program that took effect on Oct. 1.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services offers carbon monoxide warning (Holland Sentinal)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is reminding the community to be mindful of carbon monoxide dangers in the approaching winter months. "Carbon monoxide is difficult to detect; however, carbon monoxide poisoning is completely preventable," said Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive at the MDHHS, said in a news release. “Now is the time to ensure that furnaces and water heaters are working properly, and that carbon monoxide detectors are installed and have fresh batteries. If you suspect you have been exposed to carbon monoxide, leave the area immediately and seek medical attention.”

MI Foster Kids Are Often Identity Theft Victims (WSJM)
Experts in Michigan say that kids as young as six are becoming victims of Identity theft, and there’s an effort to ensure they’re better protected. Angelique Day, Director of the Transition to Independence Program at Wayne State University, says that a foster kid’s personal information is often visible to many people as they go through the system, which why the thefts occur. Day says that recovering from identity theft itself is a time consuming and costly endeavor, and it’s critical to discover fraud before it’s too late.

Michigan receives grant to develop behavioral health clinics (AP)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded more than $980,000 to develop certified community behavioral health clinics. Michigan is among 24 states chosen to receive a planning grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The state health department will use the funding to develop criteria for certified community behavioral health clinics, establish a payment system and prepare an application to participate in a two-year demonstration program.

MEDC

Indian parts supplier breaks ground on $31 million investment in Southwest Detroit (Mlive)
Imported from Detroit gets fresh meaning as an automotive parts supplier's $31 million investment at an empty school officially gets underway. Sakthi Automotive Group is rehabbing a historic part of Southwestern High School and the former American Mailers Building on Fort Street in Southwest Detroit as part of a 181,000-square-foot facility that will produce tier-1 parts for automakers.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan bills would ban second-term abortion procedure (The Detroit News)
Michigan anti-abortion advocates are targeting a common second-trimester abortion procedure, pushing bills in the Republican-led Legislature to prohibit what they say is “dismemberment” of a fetus. Similar criminal bans have been approved in two other states, Kansas and Oklahoma, where they

temporarily are on hold after court rulings. The Michigan legislation was the subject of a House hearing on Tuesday and could advance this fall.

GOP opponents seek to quash Courser comeback (The Detroit News)
Todd Courser is trying to make a special primary election next month a referendum on his eight months in the Michigan House of Representatives, while his Republican opponents say it's more about what Courser didn't do in office. "Obviously this is a referendum on me," Courser said at a recent public forum for the 11 GOP candidates seeking to fill the House seat he abandoned a month ago. His resignation averted an ouster by his legislative colleagues for what he has since nonchalantly called his "first worldwide sex scandal and cover-up."

'Green Tea' Party? Far right Republicans, liberal Democrats aligning on Michigan renewable energy issue (Mlive)
Rep. Jeff Irwin is a proud progressive, and Rep. Gary Glenn is widely considered one of the most conservative Republicans in the Michigan legislature. But they're working together on an energy package that would encourage renewable energy in Michigan. Virtually undiscussed in the House until very recently, net metering — the process of individuals producing their own energy and selling excess back onto the grid — has in some ways dominated the Senate Energy and Technology committee's discussion on energy reform.

Mich. GOP calls on Gilbert to refund spouse's cash (The Detroit News)
The Michigan Republican Party wants Democratic congressional candidate and former "Little House on the Prairie" star Melissa Gilbert to refund her husband's $5,400 campaign contribution and put it toward paying the money she owes in back taxes. Timothy Busfield, an actor and director, made two $2,700 donations to his wife's campaign on Sept. 30, according to campaign finance reports.

DETROIT

Regional water authority names interim CEO to top spot (The Detroit News)
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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 10:09 AM
Subject: 10/21 Newsroom
Attachments: 151021 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Detroit schools reform

Skillman Foundation responds to Governor Snyder's plan for DPS debt (WDET)
Stephen Henderson speaks with Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren co-chair and Skillman Foundation CEO Tonya Allen for a response to Governor Snyders plan to reduce the DPS debt. Allen issued a statement that says "we appreciate Gov. Snyder's good-faith effort to comprehensively address longstanding serious issues that impact the quality of education for Detroit schoolchildren… Detroit is a city on the rise, and its recovery will be less than complete until schoolchildren here have the same quality school choice as kids in other thriving areas of the state"

Snyder's plan to fix Detroit's schools will fall on deaf legislative ears (Michigan Radio)
Governor Rick Snyder yesterday unveiled his new plan to fix Detroit Public Schools. Actually, it is a variation on one he put forth in April. Like that plan, it seems heavily based on the model General Motors adopted to emerge from bankruptcy.

Snyder renews push for Detroit schools restructuring (Bond Buyer)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says his $715 million restructuring plan for Detroit's school system is less expensive for the state than doing nothing.

Governor announces plan to replace Detroit Public Schools (WSJM)
Governor Rick Snyder has a plan to get Detroit Public Schools out of debt, but it will cost the state $715 million over the next 10 years. Snyder's proposal includes creating a new school district and education commission to replace DPS and could be drafted into a series of bills in the next two weeks.

Governor Snyder: DPS needs an overhaul (WDET)
Governor Rick Snyder is asking the Legislature to take bills on Detroit schools overhaul, including creating a new district run by a board that's appointed by him and by Mayor Mike Duggan. State lawmakers will have to approve the plan and funding for the new school system.

Bill Signings

Gov. Snyder signs bills protecting use of service animals (Up North Live)
Michigan residents who use service animals will now have better access to public spaces such as retail stores, restaurants and health care facilities.

Gov. Snyder signs package of bills allowing better access for people using service animals (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder has approved a bill package that allows people who use service animals better access to places like restaurants, retail stores and health care facilities.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bipartisan bills protecting use of service animals for Michigan residents (UP Matters)
Michigan residents who use service animals will have better access to public spaces, such as restaurants, retail stores and health care facilities after Gov. Rick Snyder today signed a bill package to modernize state law and advance the use of these animals. The bills were spurred in part by recent incidents of people being turned away from businesses because they were accompanied by service animals.

Gov. Snyder signs civil asset forfeiture reform bills (FOX 17)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed a package of bills aimed at reforming the state's civil asset forfeiture procedures.

Snyder signs changes in police forfeiture of assets (AP)
Law enforcement will have to adhere to new reporting requirements and meet a higher evidentiary standard for seizing and taking ownership of people's property under laws signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Governor signs bills reforming civil asset forfeiture (Macomb Daily)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed into law new reforms that will make it harder for law enforcement authorities to retain cars, boats and cash seized as part of criminal investigations that do not result in criminal charges.

Michigan teacher evaluation bill heads to Snyder after final approval in Senate (MLive)
The Michigan Senate on Tuesday gave final approval to legislation that would create a new framework for teacher evaluations, replacing statewide rules that were set to take effect this school year.

Gordie Howe Bridge
Gov. envisions progress on bridge with Canada's new PM (Detroit News)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said he plans to work with newly elected Canadian Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau in plans for a new bridge between Windsor and Detroit.

Michigan, Ohio need to work together one economic growth (Monroe News)
Michigan and Ohio need to rely on each other to grow the region. That was the message at a session on economic development and partnerships Oct. 16 at Monroe Bank & Trust headquarters.

Flag Honors
Governor orders flags lowered for Farmington Hills man (Hometown Life)
Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday ordered U.S. flags within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff on Thursday, Oct. 22, in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

Snyder orders flags lowered for fallen state worker (LSJ)
Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. flags at state facilities to be lowered to half-staff Thursday in honor of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in an Aug. 9 plane crash.

Gov. Snyder orders flags to be lowered in honor of conservation officer (Up North Live)
Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. flags within the State Capitol and all state buildings to lower their flags to half-staff on Thursday in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

Flags to be lowered in honor of DNR officer killed in crash (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder says U.S. flags will be lowered to half-staff within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings in honor of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in a small plane crash.

Gov. Snyder orders flags lowered to honor DNR officer killed in plane crash (9&10)
U.S. flags will fly at half-staff this Thursday in honor of a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in a plane crash in Northern Michigan.

Gov. Rick Snyder orders flags lowered to honor former conservation officer (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder released an order Oct. 20 for U.S. flags within the Michigan State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff Oct. 22 in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lt. Gov. Calley holding fund-raiser in Lansing Thursday (Detroit Free Press)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley has scheduled a fund-raiser in Lansing on Thursday, in the strongest sign to date he is eyeing the governor's office in 2018, when Gov. Rick Snyder must step down because of term limits.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Michigan DEQ Director Dan Wyant acknowledges mistakes by the state in handling Flint water emergency (Austrian Tribune)
n Monday, the leader of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality accepted that critical mistakes were made that resulted into the contamination of drinking water of Flint. DEQ Director Dan Wyant on Sunday admitted the mistakes that the state made in handling of the situation. He said that they are bringing the necessary changes.

Michigan DEQ 'completely failed' Flint residents says Ananich, calling for water investigation (MLive)
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality "completely failed" to protect Flint residents from contaminated drinking water, according to Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who is calling for a formal investigation by the Legislature.

Auditor general looking into state agency responsible for monitoring Flint water (Michigan Radio)
A formal review is underway into the state agency that made mistakes in its monitoring of Flint's drinking water.

DHHS
Michigan receives grant to develop behavioral health clinics (Up North Live)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded more than $980,000 to develop certified community behavioral health clinics.

Michigan receives $980,000 grant to develop behavioral health clinics (Crains)
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Northern Michigan Public health Alliance wins award (Petoskey News)
The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance has received the coveted Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director's Award for Excellence in Local Public Health. The award was presented Oct. 7 during Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference at Crystal Mountain.

DNR
That's a big fish! State record set for smallmouth bass (Detroit Free Press)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a new state-record catch for smallmouth bass.

Giant smallmouth bass caught this past weekend breaks Michigan record that stood since 1906 (WXYZ)
A 9.33-pound fish caught this past Sunday is a pretty big deal. The smallmouth bass breaks a longstanding record for the state's largest catch.

Construction begins on $65 million Orleans Lansing mixed-use development (Crains)
As construction whirred in the background this morning, civic and economic leaders celebrated the start of Orleans Landing on Detroit's east riverfront.

DNR to tear down Ostego Township dam (WOOD TV)
Fishermen and boaters may soon have a new place to play in West Michigan. The Otsego Township Dam on the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County is being removed.

MDARD
MI Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development honors its outstanding employees for 2015 (EIN Newsdesk)
Commitment to teamwork, leadership, outstanding customer service and excellence are just a few characteristics describing the winners of the 2015 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development annual employee awards. Winners are both nominated and selected by their fellow MDARD colleagues. "MDARD employees are constantly looking for ways to grow and expand Michigan's food and agriculture businesses while providing the best possible customer service," said Clover Adams. "These awards offer an opportunity to say 'thank you' to staff for their innovation, dedication, and excellence."

Reflections of the 2016 Michigan poultry show ban in 4-H youth programs (MSU Extension)
This has been a challenging year for the over 4,000 Michigan 4-H youth who participate in a poultry 4-H project. On June 1, 2015, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that a ban on poultry shows and swaps was to be immediately enacted in response to a growing concern about highly pathogenic avian influenza entering the state. Michigan is home to a very large poultry industry, with large scale poultry operations spread across the state. Highly pathogenic avian influenza would be absolutely devastating if it were to affect the Michigan poultry industry.

MEDC
M-134 designated first new Pure Michigan Byway (Sault Ste. Marie Evening News)
The Pure Michigan campaign hit the road Friday, as a 50-mile stretch of Upper Peninsula highway was officially designated the first new Pure Michigan Byway.

Scenic M-134 designated as state's first Pure Michigan byway (St. Ignace News)
"We're going to get a lot of mileage out of this," said Jeff Hagan about the new designation of M-134 as the North Huron Byway. Mr. Hagan, of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, was part of a panel in Cedarville convened to promote the designation of the road Friday, October 16.

Michigan International Speedway announces new title sponsor for June race (WXYZ)
Michigan International Speedway announced a new three-year sponsorship for the June NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Race on Tuesday.

Firekeepers Casino replaces Quicken Loans in 2016 as NASCAR race title sponsor at MIS (Crains)
Battle Creek-based FireKeepers Casino Hotel has replaced Quicken Loans Inc. as title sponsor of the June NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Michigan International Speedway.

MSP
Troopers handle 7 car vs. deer crashes in 2 days (MLive)
The Michigan State Police Jackson Post provided the following report Tuesday morning, Oct. 20.

MSP crack down on distracted driving (C&G)
Drivers with their heads in the clouds may have met with the law recently.

Michigan State Police conduct sex offender sweep (ABC 10)
Michigan State Police troopers from the Negaunee Post have completed a sex offender sweep of 198 residences in Marquette County.

New forms help police track distracted driving mishaps (WOOD TV)
We all hear about the serious crashes involving distracted drivers.

Pilot program seeks to reduce illegal passing in Michigan (School Transportation News)
A pilot program intended to reduce the illegal passing of stopped school buses through the use of enhanced lights called the Driver Alert System (DAS) started Monday in Michigan at 10 school districts throughout the state.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Senate leader calls for vote on 'last, best' roads deal for Michigan (AP)
The leader of the Michigan Senate called Tuesday for votes on a "last, best" $1.2 billion road-funding plan he said legislative leaders had agreed to before talks stalled last week, saying his Republican counterpart in the House should send the legislation to a conference committee.

Senate calls for fast action on deal to fix state roads (Lansing State Journal)
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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Detroit schools reform

Skillman Foundation responds to Governor Snyder's plan for DPS debt (WDET)
Stephen Henderson speaks with Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren co-chair and Skillman Foundation CEO Tonya Allen for a response to Governor Snyders plan to reduce the DPS debt. Allen issued a statement that says "we appreciate Gov. Snyder's good-faith effort to comprehensively address longstanding serious issues that impact the quality of education for Detroit schoolchildren… Detroit is a city on the rise, and its recovery will be less than complete until schoolchildren here have the same quality school choice as kids in other thriving areas of the state"

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Snyder renews push for Detroit schools restructuring (Bond Buyer)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder says his $715 million restructuring plan for Detroit's school system is less expensive for the state than doing nothing.

Governor announces plan to replace Detroit Public Schools (WSJM)
Governor Rick Snyder has a plan to get Detroit Public Schools out of debt, but it will cost the state $715 million over the next 10 years. Snyder's proposal includes creating a new school district and education commission to replace DPS and could be drafted into a series of bills in the next two weeks.

Governor Snyder: DPS needs an overhaul (WDET)
Governor Rick Snyder is asking the Legislature to take bills on Detroit schools overhaul, including creating a new district run by a board that's appointed by him and by Mayor Mike Duggan. State lawmakers will have to approve the plan and funding for the new school system.

Bill Signings

Gov. Snyder signs bills protecting use of service animals (Up North Live)
Michigan residents who use service animals will now have better access to public spaces such as retail stores, restaurants and health care facilities.

Gov. Snyder signs package of bills allowing better access for people using service animals (AP)

Gov. Rick Snyder has approved a bill package that allows people who use service animals better access to places like restaurants, retail stores and health care facilities.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bipartisan bills protecting use of service animals for Michigan residents (UP Matters)
Michigan residents who use service animals will have better access to public spaces, such as restaurants, retail stores and health care facilities after Gov. Rick Snyder today signed a bill package to modernize state law and advance the use of these animals. The bills were spurred in part by recent incidents of people being turned away from businesses because they were accompanied by service animals.

Gov. Snyder signs civil asset forfeiture reform bills (FOX 17)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed a package of bills aimed at reforming the state's civil asset forfeiture procedures.

Snyder signs changes in police forfeiture of assets (AP)
Law enforcement will have to adhere to new reporting requirements and meet a higher evidentiary standard for seizing and taking ownership of people's property under laws signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Governor signs bills reforming civil asset forfeiture (Macomb Daily)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed into law new reforms that will make it harder for law enforcement authorities to retain cars, boats and cash seized as part of criminal investigations that do not result in criminal charges.

Michigan teacher evaluation bill heads to Snyder after final approval in Senate (MLive)
The Michigan Senate on Tuesday gave final approval to legislation that would create a new framework for teacher evaluations, replacing statewide rules that were set to take effect this school year.

Gordie Howe Bridge
Gov. envisions progress on bridge with Canada's new PM (Detroit News)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said he plans to work with newly elected Canadian Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau in plans for a new bridge between Windsor and Detroit.

Michigan, Ohio need to work together one economic growth (Monroe News)
Michigan and Ohio need to rely on each other to grow the region. That was the message at a session on economic development and partnerships Oct. 16 at Monroe Bank & Trust headquarters.

Flag Honors
Governor orders flags lowered for Farmington Hills man (Hometown Life)
Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday ordered U.S. flags within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff on Thursday, Oct. 22, in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

Snyder orders flags lowered for fallen state worker (LSJ)
Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. flags at state facilities to be lowered to half-staff Thursday in honor of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in an Aug. 9 plane crash.

Gov. Snyder orders flags to be lowered in honor of conservation officer (Up North Live)
Gov. Rick Snyder has ordered U.S. flags within the State Capitol and all state buildings to lower their flags to half-staff on Thursday in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

Flags to be lowered in honor of DNR officer killed in crash (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder says U.S. flags will be lowered to half-staff within the State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings in honor of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in a small plane crash.

Gov. Snyder orders flags lowered to honor DNR officer killed in plane crash (9&10)
U.S. flags will fly at half-staff this Thursday in honor of a Department of Natural Resources conservation officer who died in a plane crash in Northern Michigan.

Gov. Rick Snyder orders flags lowered to honor former conservation officer (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder released an order Oct. 20 for U.S. flags within the Michigan State Capitol Complex and on all state buildings to be lowered to half-staff Oct. 22 in honor of Department of Natural Resources conservation officer First Lt. Arthur Green III.

LT. GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Lt. Gov. Calley holding fund-raiser in Lansing Thursday (Detroit Free Press)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley has scheduled a fund-raiser in Lansing on Thursday, in the strongest sign to date he is eyeing the governor's office in 2018, when Gov. Rick Snyder must step down because of term limits.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Michigan DEQ Director Dan Wyant acknowledges mistakes by the state in handling Flint water emergency (Austrian Tribune)
n Monday, the leader of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality accepted that critical mistakes were made that resulted into the contamination of drinking water of Flint. DEQ Director Dan Wyant on Sunday admitted the mistakes that the state made in handling of the situation. He said that they are bringing the necessary changes.

Michigan DEQ 'completely failed' Flint residents says Ananich, calling for water investigation (MLive)
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality "completely failed" to protect Flint residents from contaminated drinking water, according to Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, who is calling for a formal investigation by the Legislature.

Auditor general looking into state agency responsible for monitoring Flint water (Michigan Radio)
A formal review is underway into the state agency that made mistakes in its monitoring of Flint's drinking water.

DHHS

Michigan receives grant to develop behavioral health clinics (Up North Live)
The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has been awarded more than $980,000 to develop certified community behavioral health clinics.

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Northern Michigan Public health Alliance wins award (Petoskey News)
The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance has received the coveted Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director's Award for Excellence in Local Public Health. The award was presented Oct. 7 during Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference at Crystal Mountain.

DNR
That's a big fish! State record set for smallmouth bass (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a new state-record catch for smallmouth bass.

Giant smallmouth bass caught this past weekend breaks Michigan record that stood since 1906 (WXYZ)
A 9.33-pound fish caught this past Sunday is a pretty big deal. The smallmouth bass breaks a longstanding record for the state's largest catch.

Construction begins on $65 million Orleans Lansing mixed-use development (Crains)
As construction whirred in the background this morning, civic and economic leaders celebrated the start of Orleans Landing on Detroit's east riverfront.

DNR to tear down Ostego Township dam (WOOD TV)
Fishermen and boaters may soon have a new place to play in West Michigan. The Otsego Township Dam on the Kalamazoo River in Allegan County is being removed.

MDARD
MI Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development honors its outstanding employees for 2015 (EIN Newsdesk)
Commitment to teamwork, leadership, outstanding customer service and excellence are just a few characteristics describing the winners of the 2015 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development annual employee awards. Winners are both nominated and selected by their fellow MDARD colleagues. "MDARD employees are constantly looking for ways to grow and expand Michigan's food and agriculture businesses while providing the best possible customer service," said Clover Adams. "These awards offer an opportunity to say 'thank you' to staff for their innovation, dedication, and excellence."

Reflections of the 2016 Michigan poultry show ban in 4-H youth programs (MSU Extension)
This has been a challenging year for the over 4,000 Michigan 4-H youth who participate in a poultry 4-H project. On June 1, 2015, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that a ban on poultry shows and swaps was to be immediately enacted in response to a growing concern

about highly pathogenic avian influenza entering the state. Michigan is home to a very large poultry industry, with large scale poultry operations spread across the state. Highly pathogenic avian influenza would be absolutely devastating if it were to affect the Michigan poultry industry.

MEDC

M-134 designated first new Pure Michigan Byway (Sault Ste. Marie Evening News)
The Pure Michigan campaign hit the road Friday, as a 50-mile stretch of Upper Peninsula highway was officially designated the first new Pure Michigan Byway.

Scenic M-134 designated as state's first Pure Michigan byway (St. Ignace News)
"We're going to get a lot of mileage out of this," said Jeff Hagan about the new designation of M-134 as the North Huron Byway. Mr. Hagan, of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission, was part of a panel in Cedarville convened to promote the designation of the road Friday, October 16.

Michigan International Speedway announces new title sponsor for June race (WXYZ)
Michigan International Speedway announced a new three-year sponsorship for the June NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Race on Tuesday.

Firekeepers Casino replaces Quicken Loans in 2016 as NASCAR race title sponsor at MIS (Crains)
Battle Creek-based FireKeepers Casino Hotel has replaced Quicken Loans Inc. as title sponsor of the June NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Michigan International Speedway.

MSP

Troopers handle 7 car vs. deer crashes in 2 days (MLive)
The Michigan State Police Jackson Post provided the following report Tuesday morning, Oct. 20.

MSP crack down on distracted driving (C&G)
Drivers with their heads in the clouds may have met with the law recently.

Michigan State Police conduct sex offender sweep (ABC 10)
Michigan State Police troopers from the Negaunee Post have completed a sex offender sweep of 198 residences in Marquette County.

New forms help police track distracted driving mishaps (WOOD TV)
We all hear about the serious crashes involving distracted drivers.

Pilot program seeks to reduce illegal passing in Michigan (School Transportation News)
A pilot program intended to reduce the illegal passing of stopped school buses through the use of enhanced lights called the Driver Alert System (DAS) started Monday in Michigan at 10 school districts throughout the state.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Senate leader calls for vote on 'last, best' roads deal for Michigan (AP)
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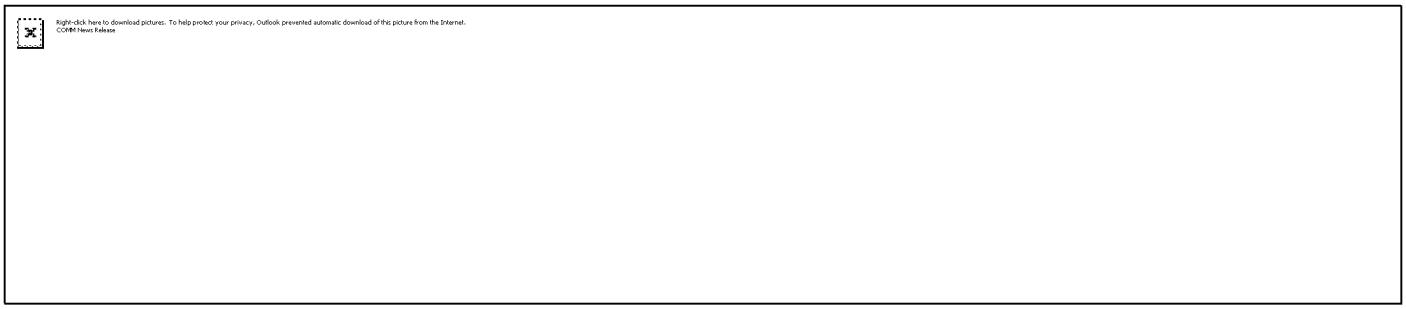
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 2:07 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder announces Flint Water Task Force to review state, federal and municipal actions, offer recommendations



Contacts: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder announces Flint Water Task Force to review state, federal and municipal actions, offer recommendations

Experts in public health, water management, environmental protection to focus on steps to protect residents

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the creation of an independent advisory task force charged with reviewing actions regarding water use and testing in Flint and offer recommendations for future guidelines to protect the health and safety of all state residents.

Task force members include experts in public health and medicine, water management, and environmental protection from both sides of the aisle, and will be co-chaired by Ken Sikkema of Public Sector Consultants and Chris Kolb, of the Michigan Environmental Council. Also serving will be Dr. Matthew Davis of the University of Michigan Health System, Eric Rothstein, of the Galardi Rothstein Group and Dr. Lawrence Reynolds of Mott Children's Health Center in Flint.

"Transitioning back to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department-Great Lakes Water Authority is a good first step to protecting public health in Flint, but it's not the last step," Snyder said. "Bringing in outside experts to evaluate our actions and help monitor and advise on potential changes to law, procedures and practices will be key to continuing work on the comprehensive action plan and ensuring safe drinking water for all the residents in Flint and all of Michigan."

Snyder said the administration will fully cooperate with task force members, saying he wants an unbiased report focusing on steps taken in the past and recommendations that could improve practices to ensure all residents have access to safe, clean water.

Ken Sikkema is a senior policy fellow at Public Sector Consultants, where he specializes in public finance, environment, and energy policy. Prior to joining the firm, Sikkema served in both the Michigan House and Senate, culminating with four years as Senate majority leader. He has also served as both an adjunct and visiting professor at Grand Valley State University.

Chris Kolb is president of the Michigan Environmental Council, a statewide coalition of 70 environmental, public health and faith-based nonprofit groups. Before joining the MEC, Kolb represented Ann Arbor in the state House for six years and served six years on the Ann Arbor City Council. He has been president of the MEC for six years.

Matthew Davis, M.D., M.A.P.P., is professor of pediatrics and internal medicine at the University of Michigan Health System and professor of public policy at the Gerald R. Ford School at the University of Michigan, having joined the faculty in 2000. Davis also is a professor of health management and policy at the School of Public Health. He previously served as the chief medical executive of the Michigan Department of Community Health/Department of Health and Human Services.

Eric Rothstein is a national water issues consultant and principal at the Galardi Rothstein Group. He served as an independent advisor on the creation of the Great Lakes Water Authority. Rothstein also has served as Jefferson County, Alabama's rate consultant and municipal adviser for litigation related to the county's bankruptcy and issuance of $1.7 billion in sewer warrants and led strategic financial planning for the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management. He has more than 30 years of experience in water, wastewater and stormwater utility finance and rate-making assessments.

Lawrence Reynolds, M.D., is a pediatrician in Flint who serves as president of the Mott Children's Health Center. He received his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and has been in practice for 36 years. He has served as president of the Genesee County Medical Society and the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has been honored for his humanitarian and advocacy efforts on behalf of children from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Snyder has said reconnecting with the authority is a critical step to resolving water quality issues and addressing related health concerns. It will not immediately resolve the city's problem with lead service lines or aging infrastructure. It will take time for pipes in Flint to become coated with the phosphate corrosion control.

To best protect public health, state and local authorities will continue to carry out steps outlined on Oct. 2 in a comprehensive action plan, including continued testing, the use of faucet filters and providing residents with accurate information about steps to eliminate lead exposure. The Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services are continuing to provide free water filters, free lead testing through the state laboratory for Flint water customers, and hiring additional staff to conduct health exposure monitoring for lead in drinking water.

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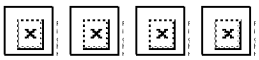

This email was sent to iwedsl@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2015 9:50 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/22 Newsroom
Attachments: 151022 Newsroom.docx

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint task force

Snyder announces task force to review Flint water crisis (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder has announced the creation of an independent advisory task force to review Flint's water use and testing. The group includes public health and medicine, water management and environmental protection experts.

Task force appointed to examine Flint water controversy (Freep)
As Gov. Rick Snyder appointed an independent task force to examine the controversy over Flint's tainted water Wednesday, more lawmakers called for investigations into how the problem went unsolved for so long. Snyder's task force will look into the actions that went into water use in the beleaguered city, as well as the testing that took place on the water after the city switched from Detroit's water and sewerage system to pulling water out of the Flint River.

Gov. Snyder names task force to review actions in Flint water crisis (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a task force to review "actions regarding water use and testing in Flint" and to make recommendations for future guidelines. The governor announced creation of the task force in a news release Wednesday, Oct. 21, the same day U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, and state Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, called for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a similar review.

Governor Snyder Appoints Task Force to Review Flint Water Crisis (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a task force to review Flint's water contamination crisis. The task force is made up of medical professionals, environmental experts, and a former Republican state lawmaker.

Gov. Snyder creates task force to investigate actions around the Flint water crisis (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder announced the creation of an "independent advisory task force" that will look into the actions surrounding the management and testing of Flint's drinking water system. The goal, according to a press release from the governor's office, is to investigate what happened and to prevent the kind of problems that occurred with Flint's drinking water system in other systems in the state.

Football bet

Snyder sports Spartans tie after losing bet on Michigan: 'Now let's all root to beat Ohio State' (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder doesn't usually wear neck ties, but he sported a green and white Spartans version on Wednesday after losing a friendly bet with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. Snyder, who graduated from the University of Michigan, had picked the Wolverines to win Saturday's football game against Michigan State — a bet that was looking pretty good for about 59 minutes and 50 seconds.

Gov. Rick Snyder loses bet, wears MSU tie (WZZM)
For Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, it's not easy wearing green. Snyder, a proud graduate of the University of Michigan, sports a Michigan State green and white tie Wednesday -- all because of a lost bet over the weekend rivalry game with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

Snyder becomes tied-up as a Spartan (Detroit News)
University of Michigan graduate Rick Snyder, who also is governor of Michigan, made good on his big game bet with Michigan State University grad Brian Calley, his lieutenant governor.

Gov. Rick Snyder wears MSU tie to honor bet with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley (Oakland Press/Morning Sun)
After Saturday's come-from-behind victory in which Michigan State won 27-23 over Michigan, Governor Snyder honored his friendly wager with Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley by showing up to work in a Michigan State University tie for one week. Snyder graduated from the University of Michigan, while Calley is a Michigan State alum.

Gov. Snyder honors bet, wears MSU tie (WNEM)
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Kildee, Ananich call for federal investigation into Flint water crisis (MLive)
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is being asked to investigate the cause of water problems in Flint by U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, and state Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint. In separate letters to Gina McCarthy, administrator of the EPA, today, Oct. 21, the legislators asked for the federal review of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's oversight of water treatment here.

House passes sweeping roads plan raising gas tax, fees (The Detroit Free Press)
In mostly party-line votes, the House of Representatives passed a comprehensive plan to fix the state's roads that includes a gas tax hike, a 40% increase in registration fees and a $600-million shift of money from the state's general

fund to roads. The plan faces a challenge in the Senate and with Gov. Rick Snyder who wanted no more than $400 million from the general fund to go to roads.

DETROIT

$2.5M Knight Foundation grant to boost Detroit business (The Detroit News)
The Knight Foundation is pumping $2.5 million into the Detroit business economy with a grant to the Detroit Development Fund. The grant, announced Wednesday, will support early stage retail and creative businesses in the city and advance the fund's mission of revitalizing economically distressed areas in Detroit. It will also have a focus on minority and female entrepreneurs, officials said.

Fitch: Michigan's Statutory Lien Bill Would Raise Recoveries (Business Wire)
If enacted, Michigan's statutory lien bill will significantly improve recovery value if a municipality defaults, compared to other general creditors, including employees, Fitch Ratings says. However, it will not reduce the risk of default. The legislation would also help improve investor views on the state's local credits, which were damaged as a result of the losses bondholders suffered in the Detroit bankruptcy. Detroit's unlimited tax general obligation bondholders recovered 74 cents on the dollar. Had this bill been in place, recoveries could have been higher.

Chancellor says EAA has acted to prevent corruption (The Detroit News)
The leader of Gov. Rick Snyder's K-12 Detroit school system responded Wednesday to the federal probe of bank records tied to current and former district officials, saying the Education Achievement Authority "has taken every measure possible" to prevent corruption. "We have placed our trust in our educators and expect them to do everything in their power to improve the situations of the students they serve," EAA Chancellor Veronica Conforme wrote in a statement. "The misuse of funds implied by this investigation is intolerable. If any of those under investigation are found to be guilty, we will take the swiftest possible action against them."

Principal's kickback scheme may signal greater fraud (USA Today)
In a series of conversations with her boss, Kenyetta "KC" Wilbourn laid bare the nature of alleged corruption in a special school district the state created in 2012 to turn around Michigan's lowest performing schools. Wilbourn, then principal of Mumford High School in Detroit, acknowledged in November that she would help vendors score school business by ghost writing their responses to bids. She would take a cut of vendor payments and allow vendors to overbill.

DPS makes state pension payment, vows to pay $100M debt (The Detroit News)
After a lapse of nearly a year, Detroit Public Schools has resumed paying $750,000 a month to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System and is pledging to work out a way to repay nearly $100 million it owes the pension plan. The district and the state Office of Retirement Services said Wednesday that DPS paid $750,000 on Oct. 15, under an agreement reached in August between DPS Emergency Manager Darnell Earley and Phil Stoddard, who was director of OPS until Friday.

Key players provide inside look at Detroit bankruptcy (The Michigan Daily)
Key players in Detroit's now-infamous bankruptcy proceedings convened at the Ford School of Public Policy on Wednesday to discuss the city's growth since the city first filed for bankruptcy in 2013. The panel focused on the impact of the Detroit "grand bargain," which decreased the city's $18 billion debt, restored public safety services and increased funding to city infrastructure.

Documents outline probe into Michigan school district (AP)
The federal government has been conducting a corruption investigation into Michigan's turnaround district for low-performing public schools, focusing on current and former top officials as well vendor payments, according to newly released documents. Subpoenas and other records released Tuesday by the district called the Education Achievement Authority show the investigation began more than 16 months ago, the Detroit Free Press reported, and the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office initially sought email and banking records.

OPINION

MDEQ e-mails show stunning indifference to Flint peril (Detroit Free Press)
Lackadaisical and dismissive -- that's the tone of a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokeswoman's response to a July e-mail noting that a member of a second media outlet had made an inquiry about elevated lead levels in Flint's drinking water. And it's a perfectly tone-deaf representation of that agency's response to the public health crisis then brewing in that impoverished town.

Flint, Detroit not only U.S. cities vulnerable to water problems (MLive)
Safe drinking water is essential to public health and to living in a modern society. Over the past century, the remarkable decline in deaths from infectious diseases in the United States and across the world can be largely attributed to the provision of clean water. In 1998, Quentin Young, former president of the American Public Health Association, observed, "Turning on any kitchen faucet for a glass of drinking water without hesitation or peril is a silent homage to public health success, which would not have been possible at the start of the twentieth century."

Editorial: Michigan jobless rate shows economic growth (Detroit News)
At 5 percent, Michigan's unemployment rate has fallen below the national average, currently 5.1 percent, for the first time in a decade and a half. The news is a welcome part of Michigan's effort to recover from the Lost Decade. And although it signals some growth, there's more to do.

Rep. Miller: Fiorina should be next president (Detroit News)
I am convinced Carly Fiorina is the person who is best prepared to protect both our security at home and our vital national interest across the globe as the next president of the United States.

CEO to lead Detroit job development efforts (Detroit News)
Mayor Mike Duggan knows a strong workforce is essential to Detroit's revival. And Friday, he's making public a major overhaul of the city's approach to workforce development.

Pagan: Pay equity still a battle (Hometown Life)
As a young elected official, I am immensely proud of the advances past generations have made toward equality for women. Each day I take to the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives, I am reminded of the shoulders I stand on from the women who have come before me. From earning the right to vote to fighting social injustice to dying on a picket line, we have come a long way.

#####

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Flint task force

Snyder announces task force to review Flint water crisis (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder has announced the creation of an independent advisory task force to review Flint's water use and testing. The group includes public health and medicine, water management and environmental protection experts.

Task force appointed to examine Flint water controversy (Freep)
As Gov. Rick Snyder appointed an independent task force to examine the controversy over Flint's tainted water Wednesday, more lawmakers called for investigations into how the problem went unsolved for so long. Snyder's task force will look into the actions that went into water use in the beleaguered city, as well as the testing that took place on the water after the city switched from Detroit's water and sewerage system to pulling water out of the Flint River.

Gov. Snyder names task force to review actions in Flint water crisis (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a task force to review "actions regarding water use and testing in Flint" and to make recommendations for future guidelines. The governor announced creation of the task force in a news release Wednesday, Oct. 21, the same day U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, and state Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, called for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a similar review.

Governor Snyder Appoints Task Force to Review Flint Water Crisis (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder has appointed a task force to review Flint's water contamination crisis. The task force is made up of medical professionals, environmental experts, and a former Republican state lawmaker.

Gov. Snyder creates task force to investigate actions around the Flint water crisis (Michigan Radio)
Gov. Rick Snyder announced the creation of an "independent advisory task force" that will look into the actions surrounding the management and testing of Flint's drinking water system. The goal, according to a press release from the governor's office, is to investigate what happened and to prevent the kind of problems that occurred with Flint's drinking water system in other systems in the state.

Football bet

Snyder sports Spartans tie after losing bet on Michigan: 'Now let's all root to beat Ohio State' (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder doesn't usually wear neck ties, but he sported a green and white Spartans version on Wednesday after losing a friendly bet with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley. Snyder, who graduated from the University of Michigan, had picked the Wolverines to win Saturday's football game against Michigan State — a bet that was looking pretty good for about 59 minutes and 50 seconds.

Gov. Rick Snyder loses bet, wears MSU tie (WZZM)
For Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, it's not easy wearing green. Snyder, a proud graduate of the University of

Michigan, sports a Michigan State green and white tie Wednesday -- all because of a lost bet over the weekend rivalry game with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley.

Snyder becomes tied-up as a Spartan (Detroit News)
University of Michigan graduate Rick Snyder, who also is governor of Michigan, made good on his big game bet with Michigan State University grad Brian Calley, his lieutenant governor.

Gov. Rick Snyder wears MSU tie to honor bet with Lt. Gov. Brian Calley (Oakland Press/Morning Sun)
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is being asked to investigate the cause of water problems in Flint by U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, and state Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint. In separate letters to Gina McCarthy, administrator of the EPA, today, Oct. 21, the legislators asked for the federal review of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's oversight of water treatment here.

House passes sweeping roads plan raising gas tax, fees (The Detroit Free Press)
In mostly party-line votes, the House of Representatives passed a comprehensive plan to fix the state's roads that includes a gas tax hike, a 40% increase in registration fees and a $600-million shift of money from the state's general fund to roads. The plan faces a challenge in the Senate and with Gov. Rick Snyder who wanted no more than $400 million from the general fund to go to roads.

DETROIT

$2.5M Knight Foundation grant to boost Detroit business (The Detroit News)
The Knight Foundation is pumping $2.5 million into the Detroit business economy with a grant to the Detroit Development Fund. The grant, announced Wednesday, will support early stage retail and creative businesses in the city and advance the fund's mission of revitalizing economically distressed areas in Detroit. It will also have a focus on minority and female entrepreneurs, officials said.

Fitch: Michigan's Statutory Lien Bill Would Raise Recoveries (Business Wire)
If enacted, Michigan's statutory lien bill will significantly improve recovery value if a municipality defaults, compared to other general creditors, including employees, Fitch Ratings says. However, it will not reduce the risk of default. The legislation would also help improve investor views on the state's local credits, which were damaged as a result of the losses bondholders suffered in the Detroit bankruptcy. Detroit's unlimited tax general obligation bondholders recovered 74 cents on the dollar. Had this bill been in place, recoveries could have been higher.

Chancellor says EAA has acted to prevent corruption (The Detroit News)
The leader of Gov. Rick Snyder's K-12 Detroit school system responded Wednesday to the federal probe of bank records tied to current and former district officials, saying the Education Achievement Authority "has taken every measure possible" to prevent corruption. "We have placed our trust in our educators and expect them to do everything in their power to improve the situations of the students they serve," EAA Chancellor Veronica Conforme wrote in a statement. "The misuse of funds implied by this investigation is intolerable. If any of those under investigation are found to be guilty, we will take the swiftest possible action against them."

Principal's kickback scheme may signal greater fraud (USA Today)
In a series of conversations with her boss, Kenyetta "KC" Wilbourn laid bare the nature of alleged corruption in a special school district the state created in 2012 to turn around Michigan's lowest performing schools. Wilbourn, then principal of Mumford High School in Detroit, acknowledged in November that she would help vendors score school business by ghost writing their responses to bids. She would take a cut of vendor payments and allow vendors to overbill.

DPS makes state pension payment, vows to pay $100M debt (The Detroit News)

After a lapse of nearly a year, Detroit Public Schools has resumed paying $750,000 a month to the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System and is pledging to work out a way to repay nearly $100 million it owes the pension plan. The district and the state Office of Retirement Services said Wednesday that DPS paid $750,000 on Oct. 15, under an agreement reached in August between DPS Emergency Manager Darnell Earley and Phil Stoddard, who was director of OPS until Friday.

Key players provide inside look at Detroit bankruptcy (The Michigan Daily)
Key players in Detroit's now-infamous bankruptcy proceedings convened at the Ford School of Public Policy on Wednesday to discuss the city's growth since the city first filed for bankruptcy in 2013. The panel focused on the impact of the Detroit "grand bargain," which decreased the city's $18 billion debt, restored public safety services and increased funding to city infrastructure.

Documents outline probe into Michigan school district (AP)
The federal government has been conducting a corruption investigation into Michigan's turnaround district for low-performing public schools, focusing on current and former top officials as well vendor payments, according to newly released documents. Subpoenas and other records released Tuesday by the district called the Education Achievement Authority show the investigation began more than 16 months ago, the Detroit Free Press reported, and the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office initially sought email and banking records.

OPINION

MDEQ e-mails show stunning indifference to Flint peril (Detroit Free Press)
Lackadaisical and dismissive -- that's the tone of a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality spokeswoman's response to a July e-mail noting that a member of a second media outlet had made an inquiry about elevated lead levels in Flint's drinking water. And it's a perfectly tone-deaf representation of that agency's response to the public health crisis then brewing in that impoverished town.

Flint, Detroit not only U.S. cities vulnerable to water problems (MLive)
Safe drinking water is essential to public health and to living in a modern society. Over the past century, the remarkable decline in deaths from infectious diseases in the United States and across the world can be largely attributed to the provision of clean water. In 1998, Quentin Young, former president of the American Public Health Association, observed, "Turning on any kitchen faucet for a glass of drinking water without hesitation or peril is a silent homage to public health success, which would not have been possible at the start of the twentieth century."

Editorial: Michigan jobless rate shows economic growth (Detroit News)
At 5 percent, Michigan's unemployment rate has fallen below the national average, currently 5.1 percent, for the first time in a decade and a half. The news is a welcome part of Michigan's effort to recover from the Lost Decade. And although it signals some growth, there's more to do.

Rep. Miller: Fiorina should be next president (Detroit News)
I am convinced Carly Fiorina is the person who is best prepared to protect both our security at home and our vital national interest across the globe as the next president of the United States.

CEO to lead Detroit job development efforts (Detroit News)
Mayor Mike Duggan knows a strong workforce is essential to Detroit's revival. And Friday, he's making public a major overhaul of the city's approach to workforce development.

Pagan: Pay equity still a battle (Hometown Life)

As a young elected official, I am immensely proud of the advances past generations have made toward equality for women. Each day I take to the floor of the Michigan House of Representatives, I am reminded of the shoulders I stand on from the women who have come before me. From earning the right to vote to fighting social injustice to dying on a picket line, we have come a long way.

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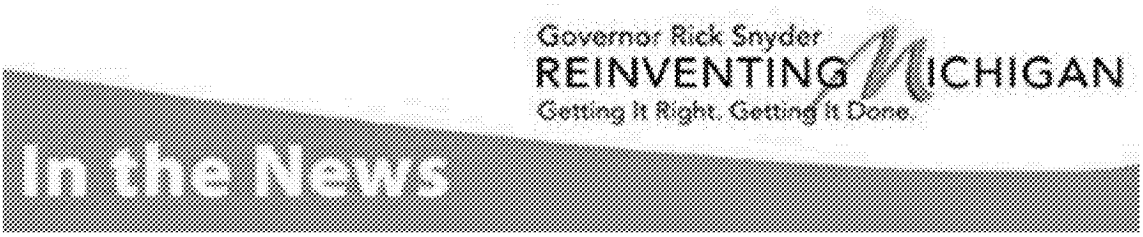
From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 10:05 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/26 Newsroom
Attachments: 151026 NEWSROOM.docx



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In politics, he or she who hesitates might get lost in the shuffle (MLive)
If you are a nonplayer on the Lansing political scene, you have to be scratching your head when you read about this person or that exploring a possible bid for office in 2018

Editorial: Snyder's DPS fix faces several tests (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder's latest iteration of a plan to fix Detroit schools calls for sweeping legislative changes, and he's going to have to get buy-in from state leaders and the public to finance the $715 million projected cost over 10 years. That's a tall order.

Let's find a clean water solution for Michigan (Detroit News)
It was great to see the Michigan Legislature come together and put politics aside as they voted unanimously in finding a resolution to the Flint drinking water crisis. However, this single incident also exposed a major flaw in a system that should ensure that all residents of Michigan have access to clean drinking water, not water that is treated from polluted rivers and is brought to them through aging, deteriorating pipes.

Don't make Ohio's energy fumble (Detroit News)
The Michigan-Ohio State football rivalry is fierce and longstanding. Though the Buckeyes were crowned national champions last year in football, Ohio fumbled big time on energy. This year, Michigan has the chance to avoid that blunder.

Editorial: Scrap 'pay or stay' with court rule (Detroit News)
Jailing individuals simply because they can't afford to pay a fine — commonly called pay or stay sentencing — is unconstitutional. Yet judges throughout Michigan have handed out disturbing numbers of these sentences for many years, with several recent cases becoming high profile

Many reasons to dislike latest road-funding bills (Detroit Free Press)
The state House, led by the GOP, on Wednesday passed bills that would, by 2021, devote an extra $1.2 billion to roads, with $600 million coming from the state's general fund, $400 million from a 40% hike in registration fees, and $200 million from higher fuel taxes, while also providing $200 million in tax relief through a sweetened Homestead Property Tax Credit.

Third-grade reading bill leaves out teachers, parents (Detroit Free Press)
The third-grade reading retention bill (HB 4822) and its mandate to retain nonproficient readers strips local control and allows Lansing to decide whether a child moves on to the fourth grade. Teachers and parents (the people who actually know the child) are denied input.

Will Snyder's DPS plan work? (Detroit Free Press)
Last week, Gov. Rick Snyder revealed more details about his plan for Detroit Public Schools. The plan includes splitting the district into two, one to handle DPS's debt and one to educate students.

Follow the money trail in campaign donations (Detroit Free Press)

Money talks in politics. And when it comes to the 2016 presidential contest, Michigan is speaking a slightly different language than the rest of the nation.

Why presumptive parole is a bad idea for Michigan (Detroit Free Press)
As the leading elected law enforcement officials in southeast Michigan, we represent a strong and growing bipartisan coalition vested with a duty to protect the public. We serve on the front lines each day and have lifetimes of experience dealing with violent and repeat offenders. This is why we are working to oppose a threat to public safety known as presumptive parole.

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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In politics, he or she who hesitates might get lost in the shuffle (MLive)
If you are a nonplayer on the Lansing political scene, you have to be scratching your head when you read about this person or that exploring a possible bid for office in 2018

Editorial: Snyder's DPS fix faces several tests (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder's latest iteration of a plan to fix Detroit schools calls for sweeping legislative changes, and he's going to have to get buy-in from state leaders and the public to finance the $715 million projected cost over 10 years. That's a tall order.

Let's find a clean water solution for Michigan (Detroit News)
It was great to see the Michigan Legislature come together and put politics aside as they voted unanimously in finding a resolution to the Flint drinking water crisis. However, this single incident also exposed a major flaw in a system that should ensure that all residents of Michigan have access to clean drinking water, not water that is treated from polluted rivers and is brought to them through aging, deteriorating pipes.

Don't make Ohio's energy fumble (Detroit News)
The Michigan-Ohio State football rivalry is fierce and longstanding. Though the Buckeyes were crowned national champions last year in football, Ohio fumbled big time on energy. This year, Michigan has the chance to avoid that blunder.

Editorial: Scrap 'pay or stay' with court rule (Detroit News)
Jailing individuals simply because they can't afford to pay a fine — commonly called pay or stay sentencing — is unconstitutional. Yet judges throughout Michigan have handed out disturbing numbers of these sentences for many years, with several recent cases becoming high profile

Many reasons to dislike latest road-funding bills (Detroit Free Press)
The state House, led by the GOP, on Wednesday passed bills that would, by 2021, devote an extra $1.2 billion to roads, with $600 million coming from the state's general fund, $400 million from a 40% hike in registration fees, and $200 million from higher fuel taxes, while also providing $200 million in tax relief through a sweetened Homestead Property Tax Credit.

Third-grade reading bill leaves out teachers, parents (Detroit Free Press)
The third-grade reading retention bill (HB 4822) and its mandate to retain nonproficient readers strips local control and allows Lansing to decide whether a child moves on to the fourth grade. Teachers and parents (the people who actually know the child) are denied input.

Will Snyder's DPS plan work? (Detroit Free Press)
Last week, Gov. Rick Snyder revealed more details about his plan for Detroit Public Schools. The plan includes splitting the district into two, one to handle DPS's debt and one to educate students.

Follow the money trail in campaign donations (Detroit Free Press)
Money talks in politics. And when it comes to the 2016 presidential contest, Michigan is speaking a slightly different language than the rest of the nation.

Why presumptive parole is a bad idea for Michigan (Detroit Free Press)
As the leading elected law enforcement officials in southeast Michigan, we represent a strong and growing bipartisan coalition vested with a duty to protect the public. We serve on the front lines each day and have lifetimes of experience dealing with violent and repeat offenders. This is why we are working to oppose a threat to public safety known as presumptive parole.

From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2015 9:11 AM
Subject: 10/27 Newsroom
Attachments: 151027 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Prescription Drug and Opioid Task Force

Gov. Rick Snyder: It's time to address Michigan's pain pill problem (Mlive)
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Snyder, task force outline plan to tackle state's drug abuse 'crisis' (Fox 17)
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Increase in drug abuse, death prompts state action plan (Freep)
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Calley outlines strategy on prescription drug, narcotic abuse (Michigan Radio)
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DEPARTMENT NEWS

Michigan DEQ secures federal dollars to expand Petoskey State Park (EP News)
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) announced last week that it will be increasing the area of Emmet County's Petoskey State Park by 6.3 acres The expansion was made possible by a $205,000 federal grant. The funding will go through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which will preserve the new land, including 1,400 feet of shoreline. The land also includes a critical dune area, a trout stream called Tannery Creek and a diverse ecosystem.

DNR
Forest Products Summit taking place in East Lansing (AP)
The Governor's 2015 Forest Products Summit is planned this week in East Lansing as part of an effort to encourage growth in the industry. The invitation-only event Wednesday at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center brings together industry leaders as well as representatives from government, the financial sector and education. The event follows the Governor's 2013 Forest Products Summit.

State Campgrounds Eclipse Million Mark in Reservations for 2015 (WTVB)
For the first time in three years, the plateau of a million overnight campers at state parks across Michigan was reached. A New Hudson man was honored this past Thursday night at Proud Lake in Oakland County as making the millionth reservation in 2015. DNR officials say that there has been a nearly nine percent increase in those pitching tents or setting up campers from 2014, citing a number of factors for the surge, including the success of the Pure Michigan ad campaign in neighboring states, along with the popularity of the Recreation Passport program for in-state license tab renewals.

MDCR
Officials select next Michigan civil rights chief (AP)
The Michigan Department of Civil Rights has a former member of its commission in place to lead the agency. The state Civil Rights Commission chose Agustin Arbulu as executive director of the department. He was one of two finalists interviewed Friday in Detroit.

MDARD
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development promotes forest management on private lands (EP Newswire)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is helping the state's landowners through services like personalized forest management plans, the Qualified Forest Program and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, according to a recent column from the department's director, Jamie Clover Adams.

MDE
Marshall superintendent OK'd for Albion merger talks (Battle Creek Enquirer)
The Marshall Public Schools Board of Education voted Monday to empower Superintendent Randy Davis to enter discussions with Albion Public Schools on the possible consolidation or annexation of Albion's district into Marshall. What that vote means, Davis said, is if the Albion school district decides to ask its voters for approval to annex into a contiguous district and wants to have further discussions on this topic with the Marshall Public Schools, he is now "authorized to sit down officially and represent the district in those conversations."

Language immersion programs in Holland, Zeeland Christian schools draw interest (Holland Sentinel)
A contingent of state-level education policy makers toured Holland West and Zeeland Christian elementary schools Monday to see their language immersion classrooms in action. The language-immersion program at Holland West is improving outcomes for native Spanish-speaking students as they take standardized tests in English, Holland Superintendent Brian Davis said.

MDOC

Technician accused of taking bribes for fake urine tests faces trial (Mlive)

A Saginaw technician accused of accepting bribes from parolees to give negative urine test results is headed to Circuit Court. Ronald L. McKethern, 58, is charged with obstruction of justice, a felony that carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison. Michigan State Police 1st Lt. David Kaiser has said McKethern worked for Auburn-based Bay Technical Staffing, which the Michigan Department of Corrections contracts with to perform drug testing on parolees.

MDOT

MDOT celebrates interchange work completion (Times Herald)

Officials gathered Monday morning to celebrate the completion of the two-year, $85 million reconstruction of the Interstate 94/I-69 interchange.

The Michigan Department of Transportation project that started in 2013 included the re-engineering of the interchange, reconstruction of six freeway ramps and seven bridges, the use of seven million pounds of steel beams and moving a million yards of dirt.

MDHHS

Four U.P. medical agencies receive grant money (UP Matters TV 3)

In Michigan, 41 projects will receive a boost of up to $35,000 in one-time funds to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of health services thanks to the Health Innovation Grants administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. MDHHS will grant funding for 41 projects across the state for a total of $1,163,000. A priority for Governor Snyder and the department, the Health Innovation Grants are intended to bridge the gap between creative, collaborative ideas and their implementation.

MDHHS awards more than $1 million to health projects (Upper Michigan Source)

Forty-one Michigan projects will be receiving up to $35,000 in funds to help improve efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of health services.

This funding comes from the Health Innovation Grants administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The total grant money given out across the state is $1,163,000.

Michigan Health Officials Scramble to Help Lead-Poisoned Flint (Food World News)

"Help is on the way." Panicked parents in Flint received this message from doctors, university researchers, and public health officials who were on the move to lend a hand to the city that is still beyond shocked and angry about the toxic water. Their main concern at the moment is the safety of the children in the city from the worst effects of lead that flows through the city's water line.

Treasury

GRBJ: State OKs Muskegon Promise (WZZM 13)

Muskegon Area Promise officials received official approval from the Michigan Department of Treasury in late September for its Muskegon Area Intermediate School District's Promise Zone Development Plan. After meeting required state law standards, the Muskegon Area Promise Zone Authority can move forward with providing scholarships for high school graduates to obtain an associate's degree or its equivalent at Muskegon Community College or Baker College of Muskegon.

Slight increase in property taxes coming for Coldwater homeowners (WTVB)

Property taxes for Coldwater city residents are expected to increase three tenths of a percent in 2016. That's the word from Coldwater City manager Jeff Budd in his report to the City Council, which meets tonight in regular session. The .3% hike is based on the recently announced Inflation Rate Multiplier from the Michigan Department of Treasury. According to Budd, this is the second lowest increase since the start of Proposal A in 1995. Budd calls it good news for Coldwater property owners but adds that it does limit resources to provide services to residents.

SOS

Group: Prevailing wage effort has duplicate signatures (The Detroit News)

Petitions from a group seeking the repeal of Michigan's prevailing wage law are "woefully short" of the 352,253 signatures necessary to put the proposal before lawmakers or on the ballot, a coalition of contractors and unions said Monday. The finding is from an analysis by a team headed by election law specialist John Pirich, members of Protect Michigan Jobs said. Pirich said when more than 49,000 invalid duplicate signatures are added to 117,391 disallowed by the state elections bureau, the petitions turned in by the repeal group should fall at least 25,000 short of the required number.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Gamrat goes on offensive in bid to win back House seat (The Detroit News)
Former state Rep. Cindy Gamrat is trying to win back the Michigan House seat from which she was removed last month by campaigning against a familiar political foe: the GOP establishment. The Plainwell Republican, who was expelled for misconduct related to her extramarital affair with former Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, suggests there's a correlation between the scandal-plagued departures of herself and Courser and a recent House vote to raise $600 million in new taxes for road funding.

Todd Courser pulls no punches in bid to regain seat he just resigned (MLive)
Sitting off an orange-barrel-riddled Main Street in downtown Lapeer is a nondescript law office that local people may have passed by dozens of time without a second thought. But the cozy office with wood floors has become a focal point in recent months, serving as the home away from home of Todd Courser, the former 82nd House District representative who is now in the political battle of his life after resigning from the position following a sex scandal that was in headlines around the globe.

$1.2B House road funding plan set up for swift action in Michigan Senate (MLive)
The Michigan Senate is set to consider a controversial road funding plan approved last week by House Republicans, and supporters are hoping for swift action. "We've said for quite some time we think a $1.2 billion problem needs a $1.2 billion solution, and the House plan gets there," said Rich Studley, president and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

School starting before Labor Day? Bill to allow it raises alarms with Michigan tourism industry (MLive)
Local school districts could decide to start before Labor Day under Senate legislation which has already met heavy opposition from the state's tourism industry. Sen. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy, introduced Senate Bill 567 earlier this month after talking with local superintendents. The private schools in his district start before Labor Day, he said, and public school kids involved in things like music or sports are participating in activities before the official start date.

Lots of cash in elections, but not for Courser, Gamrat (Detroit Free Press)
In the race to fill the seats of state Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser, two Republican lawmakers caught up in a sex and cover-up scandal before leaving office, four candidates have a clear financial advantage. And as for the two lawmakers who are trying to win their seats back, there's not a whole lot of financial support out there for them.

2 Grand Rapids-area restaurateurs seeking Michigan House seats (MLive)
A year after withdrawing from a Michigan Senate ballot, Tommy Brann now is running for state House. Another local restaurateur, Tony Noto, also will campaign for a House seat in one of several area districts with term-limited incumbents. Brann, of Wyoming, wants the Republican nomination to the 77th District House seat now occupied by Tom Hooker, R-Byron Township. Noto, of Kentwood, has filed campaign finance papers indicating he'll put his name on the ballot for the 72nd District seat now held by Ken Yonker, R-Caledonia.

DETROIT

$15M urban-agriculture plan to transform Detroit space (The Detroit News)
A $15 million urban-agriculture project announced Monday is expected to transform 22 blocks of blighted land on Detroit's lower east side into a massive swath of greenhouses and hoop houses. The project's 60-acre footprint — south

of Interstate 94, along Chene Street to Forest Avenue — includes 35 acres of vacant land the city wants to lease to RecoveryPark, a nonprofit whose mission is to help ex-offenders and recovering addicts find employment.

East side Chandler Park tennis courts ready for action (The Detroit News)
New tennis courts at Chandler Park were named Monday in honor of the late Ralph C. Wilson Jr. and his wife, Mary, who made an appearance at the park on Detroit's east side. The courts are the first component of the Chandler Park Conservancy's $20 million vision to convert the 200-acre park into a campus for education, conservation and recreation.

OPINION

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Legislature, feds should take on Flint water investigation (Mlive)
Switching to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department isn't the final solution for Flint — it's the first step on a long road to recovery. Expert assistance is essential. Unfortunately, the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) cannot perform an investigation we can all trust. As such, I've sent a letter to the EPA and to the Auditor General requesting an accurate and thorough investigation to determine whether the misapplication of federal water testing rules was intentional or due to negligence. Their results must be transparent and easy to understand.

Dems learn what's not working for people (Midland Daily News)
What we voted for isn't working. The people of our district went to the polls last year and voted for representatives and senators who would govern our state and country with wisdom, energy and a willingness to work across the aisle. We wondered: "Our state is still coming out of an economic slump. People are still looking for jobs. The roads are a mess. Will these newly elected folks do their job?"

Michigan prevailing wage supporters challenge 'woeful' petition drive signatures (Mlive)
A group seeking to repeal Michigan's prevailing wage law collected more than 100,000 invalid signatures and came up "woefully" short of the standards for certification, according to a challenge filed Monday. "This is an absurdity to see that on every other page in the 50,000-plus sheets turned in there is a duplicate signature," said John Pirich, a high-powered Lansing attorney representing prevailing wage supporters in the Protecting Michigan Jobs (PMJ) coalition.

Column: Don't blame EM for Flint water disaster (The Detroit News)
It is critically important that the record be set straight about the decision-making and approval processes that led to Flint joining the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) with the use of Flint River water as the interim water supply. The fact is, the river has served and been used as the back-up supply for decades, and this was the rationale given to me by staff and Mayor Walling, who also serves as chairperson of the KWA board. Contrary to reports in the media and rhetoric being espoused by individuals, the decision was made at the local level, by local civic leaders.

Our Editorial: Weigh value of tax hikes (The Detroit News)
Before Metro Detroit voters consider the school bond issues and municipal tax proposals on next week's ballot, Nov. 3, they should weigh whether the schools and cities have exhausted all other means of cutting expenses, raising revenue and making their operations more efficient. Tax hikes are sometimes the last, best resort to keep services at levels residents need and expect. At other times, they are the easy option for officials who don't want to make hard choices.

Governor's Plans For Detroit Schools Allows Leader to Limit School Choice (Capitol Confidential)
Charter school proponents are criticizing Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to overhaul Detroit Public Schools, which they fear could put too much power in the hands of a chief education officer for all public schools within the geographical

boundaries of the district. This person would have the power to shut down any public school inside the district, including charter schools, many of which are currently not subject to district control.

Vote yes on Schoolcraft millage (The Detroit Free Press)
For voters in November's sparse election, whether to approve a millage request from Schoolcraft College should be an easy-to-answer question.
The Livonia college is asking voters for a 10-year increase of its existing tax levy by 0.6 mill, which would cost the owner of a home worth $200,000 about $60 a year -- that's $5 a month.

School funding strains create a brain drain - and ideas to stop it (Mlive)
Talk about your churn. Lots of misguided folks believe it's the state Legislature that runs the education system in the state, and to be sure it sets a lot of the policy, but it's at the grassroots level that the policy gets translated into reality. That means local school boards and local school superintendents are on the front lines fighting the good fight and sometimes losing it. And so, increasingly, those front lines are being depleted and replaced with less experienced recruits.

In politics, he or she who hesitates might get lost in the shuffle (Mlive)
If you are a nonplayer on the Lansing political scene, you have to be scratching your head when you read about this person or that exploring a possible bid for office in 2018. Yes, 2018. Good grief, that seems light years down the road, and in normal terms it is, except in the political world, normal doesn't apply. Ask state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-Oakland County. With 10 years under his legislative belt, he will be out of job in 2018, thanks to term limits, so he is exploring his next move.

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Snyder, task force outline plan to tackle state's drug abuse 'crisis' (Fox 17)
Among the list of more than two dozen recommendations announced Monday by Gov. Rick Snyder and the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force, officials say prescriptions need to be better tracked and the overdose antidote drug known as Narcan should become more widely available.

State Prescription Drug & Opioid Task Force Submits Report (WHTC)
The Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force has presented Governor Snyder a "comprehensive" report that includes 25 recommendations for changes in regulations and practices that could address this growing problem statewide.

Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force releases findings and recommendations (UP Matters/TV 3)
Gov. Rick Snyder today announced that the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force has presented him with a comprehensive report of their findings and more than two dozen recommendations for changes in regulations and practices that could address a growing problem in Michigan. The governor formed the task force in mid-June and appointed Lt. Gov. Brian Calley as the chair with the direction to examine the recent trends, evaluate strategic options, and develop a statewide action plan by fall 2015.

Increase in drug abuse, death prompts state action plan (Freep)
Led by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, the task force released recommendations Monday that include: closer scrutiny of people who are prescribing powerful pain killing drugs, like OxyContin, Vicodin and Fentanyl; an update or replacement of Michigan's Automated Prescription System; easier access to drugs like Narcan, which reverse the effects of a heroin overdose; and limited immunity for people who are seeking medical assistance for themselves or others who are overdosing on drugs.

Calley outlines strategy on prescription drug, narcotic abuse (Michigan Radio)
A state task force says it should be more important to get medical care for people who overdose on illegal drugs than it is to prosecute them. "This is a biology issue, not a willpower issue, so the more we can move the discussion into the world of healthcare, I think the better we'll do in identifying, heading off, and the treating addiction," says Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, who led the panel. Its job was to recommend ways to combat the spiraling rates of prescription painkiller and heroin addiction and a surge in overdose deaths.

Michigan Drug Abuse Task Force sends report (ABC 57)
Michigan Governor Rick Snyder created a task force in June responsible for the growing problem of

prescription drug and opioid abuse in Michigan. On Monday, members from the task force presented Governor Snyder with a full report addressing the statewide issue.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Michigan DEQ secures federal dollars to expand Petoskey State Park (EP News)
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) announced last week that it will be increasing the area of Emmet County's Petoskey State Park by 6.3 acres The expansion was made possible by a $205,000 federal grant. The funding will go through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which will preserve the new land, including 1,400 feet of shoreline. The land also includes a critical dune area, a trout stream called Tannery Creek and a diverse ecosystem.

DNR
Forest Products Summit taking place in East Lansing (AP)
The Governor's 2015 Forest Products Summit is planned this week in East Lansing as part of an effort to encourage growth in the industry. The invitation-only event Wednesday at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center brings together industry leaders as well as representatives from government, the financial sector and education. The event follows the Governor's 2013 Forest Products Summit.

State Campgrounds Eclipse Million Mark in Reservations for 2015 (WTVB)
For the first time in three years, the plateau of a million overnight campers at state parks across Michigan was reached. A New Hudson man was honored this past Thursday night at Proud Lake in Oakland County as making the millionth reservation in 2015. DNR officials say that there has been a nearly nine percent increase in those pitching tents or setting up campers from 2014, citing a number of factors for the surge, including the success of the Pure Michigan ad campaign in neighboring states, along with the popularity of the Recreation Passport program for in-state license tab renewals.

MDCR
Officials select next Michigan civil rights chief (AP)
The Michigan Department of Civil Rights has a former member of its commission in place to lead the agency. The state Civil Rights Commission chose Agustin Arbulu as executive director of the department. He was one of two finalists interviewed Friday in Detroit.

MDARD
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development promotes forest management on private lands (EP Newswire)
The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is helping the state's landowners through services like personalized forest management plans, the Qualified Forest Program and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program, according to a recent column from the department's director, Jamie Clover Adams.

MDE
Marshall superintendent OK'd for Albion merger talks (Battle Creek Enquirer)
The Marshall Public Schools Board of Education voted Monday to empower Superintendent Randy Davis to enter discussions with Albion Public Schools on the possible consolidation or annexation of Albion's district into Marshall. What that vote means, Davis said, is if the Albion school district decides to ask its voters for approval to annex into a contiguous district and wants to have further discussions on this topic with the Marshall Public Schools, he is now "authorized to sit down officially and represent the district in those conversations."

Language immersion programs in Holland, Zeeland Christian schools draw interest (Holland Sentinel)
A contingent of state-level education policy makers toured Holland West and Zeeland Christian elementary schools Monday to see their language immersion classrooms in action. The language-immersion program at Holland West is improving outcomes for native Spanish-speaking students as they take standardized tests in English, Holland Superintendent Brian Davis said.

MDOC
Technician accused of taking bribes for fake urine tests faces trial (Mlive)
A Saginaw technician accused of accepting bribes from parolees to give negative urine test results is headed to Circuit Court. Ronald L. McKethern, 58, is charged with obstruction of justice, a felony that carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison. Michigan State Police 1st Lt. David Kaiser has said McKethern worked for Auburn-based Bay Technical Staffing, which the Michigan Department of Corrections contracts with to perform drug testing on parolees.

MDOT
MDOT celebrates interchange work completion (Times Herald)
Officials gathered Monday morning to celebrate the completion of the two-year, $85 million reconstruction of the Interstate 94/I-69 interchange.
The Michigan Department of Transportation project that started in 2013 included the re-engineering of the interchange, reconstruction of six freeway ramps and seven bridges, the use of seven million pounds of steel beams and moving a million yards of dirt.

MDHHS
Four U.P. medical agencies receive grant money (UP Matters TV 3)
In Michigan, 41 projects will receive a boost of up to $35,000 in one-time funds to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of health services thanks to the Health Innovation Grants administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. MDHHS will grant funding for 41 projects across the state for a total of $1,163,000. A priority for Governor Snyder and the department, the Health Innovation Grants are intended to bridge the gap between creative, collaborative ideas and their implementation.

MDHHS awards more than $1 million to health projects (Upper Michigan Source)
Forty-one Michigan projects will be receiving up to $35,000 in funds to help improve efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of health services.
This funding comes from the Health Innovation Grants administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The total grant money given out across the state is $1,163,000.

Michigan Health Officials Scramble to Help Lead-Poisoned Flint (Food World News)
"Help is on the way." Panicked parents in Flint received this message from doctors, university researchers, and public health officials who were on the move to lend a hand to the city that is still beyond shocked and angry about the toxic water. Their main concern at the moment is the safety of the children in the city from the worst effects of lead that flows through the city's water line.

Treasury
GRBJ: State OKs Muskegon Promise (WZZM 13)
Muskegon Area Promise officials received official approval from the Michigan Department of Treasury in late September for its Muskegon Area Intermediate School District's Promise Zone Development Plan. After meeting required state law standards, the Muskegon Area Promise Zone Authority can move forward with providing scholarships for high school graduates to obtain an associate's degree or its equivalent at Muskegon Community College or Baker College of Muskegon.

Slight increase in property taxes coming for Coldwater homeowners (WTVB)
Property taxes for Coldwater city residents are expected to increase three tenths of a percent in 2016. That's the word from Coldwater City manager Jeff Budd in his report to the City Council, which meets tonight in regular session. The .3% hike is based on the recently announced Inflation Rate Multiplier from the Michigan Department of Treasury. According to Budd, this is the second lowest increase since the start of Proposal A in 1995. Budd calls it good news for Coldwater property owners but adds that it does limit resources to provide services to residents.

SOS
Group: Prevailing wage effort has duplicate signatures (The Detroit News)
Petitions from a group seeking the repeal of Michigan's prevailing wage law are "woefully short" of the 352,253 signatures necessary to put the proposal before lawmakers or on the ballot, a coalition of contractors and unions said Monday. The finding is from an analysis by a team headed by election law specialist John Pirich, members of Protect Michigan Jobs said. Pirich said when more than 49,000 invalid duplicate signatures are added to 117,391 disallowed by the state elections bureau, the petitions turned in by the repeal group should fall at least 25,000 short of the required number.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS
Gamrat goes on offensive in bid to win back House seat (The Detroit News)
Former state Rep. Cindy Gamrat is trying to win back the Michigan House seat from which she was removed last month by campaigning against a familiar political foe: the GOP establishment. The Plainwell Republican, who was expelled for misconduct related to her extramarital affair with former Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, suggests there's a correlation between the scandal-plagued departures of herself and Courser and a recent House vote to raise $600 million in new taxes for road funding.

Todd Courser pulls no punches in bid to regain seat he just resigned (MLive)
Sitting off an orange-barrel-riddled Main Street in downtown Lapeer is a nondescript law office that local people may have passed by dozens of time without a second thought. But the cozy office with wood floors has become a focal point in recent months, serving as the home away from home of Todd Courser, the former 82nd House District representative who is now in the political battle of his life after resigning from the position following a sex scandal that was in headlines around the globe.

$1.2B House road funding plan set up for swift action in Michigan Senate (MLive)
The Michigan Senate is set to consider a controversial road funding plan approved last week by House Republicans, and supporters are hoping for swift action. "We've said for quite some time we think a $1.2 billion problem needs a $1.2 billion solution, and the House plan gets there," said Rich Studley, president and CEO of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

School starting before Labor Day? Bill to allow it raises alarms with Michigan tourism industry (MLive)
Local school districts could decide to start before Labor Day under Senate legislation which has already met heavy opposition from the state's tourism industry. Sen. Marty Knollenberg, R-Troy, introduced Senate Bill 567 earlier this month after talking with local superintendents. The private schools in his district start before Labor Day, he said, and public school kids involved in things like music or sports are participating in activities before the official start date.

Lots of cash in elections, but not for Courser, Gamrat (Detroit Free Press)
In the race to fill the seats of state Reps. Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser, two Republican lawmakers caught up in a sex and cover-up scandal before leaving office, four candidates have a clear financial advantage. And as for the two lawmakers who are trying to win their seats back, there's not a whole lot of financial support out there for them.

2 Grand Rapids-area restaurateurs seeking Michigan House seats (MLive)
A year after withdrawing from a Michigan Senate ballot, Tommy Brann now is running for state House. Another local restaurateur, Tony Noto, also will campaign for a House seat in one of several area districts with term-limited incumbents. Brann, of Wyoming, wants the Republican nomination to the 77th District House seat now occupied by Tom Hooker, R-Byron Township. Noto, of Kentwood, has filed campaign finance papers indicating he'll put his name on the ballot for the 72nd District seat now held by Ken Yonker, R-Caledonia.

DETROIT

$15M urban-agriculture plan to transform Detroit space (The Detroit News)
A $15 million urban-agriculture project announced Monday is expected to transform 22 blocks of blighted land on Detroit's lower east side into a massive swath of greenhouses and hoop houses. The project's 60-acre footprint — south of Interstate 94, along Chene Street to Forest Avenue — includes 35 acres of vacant land the city wants to lease to RecoveryPark, a nonprofit whose mission is to help ex-offenders and recovering addicts find employment.

East side Chandler Park tennis courts ready for action (The Detroit News)
New tennis courts at Chandler Park were named Monday in honor of the late Ralph C. Wilson Jr. and his wife, Mary, who made an appearance at the park on Detroit's east side. The courts are the first component of the Chandler Park Conservancy's $20 million vision to convert the 200-acre park into a campus for education, conservation and recreation.

OPINION

Many reasons to dislike latest road-funding bills (The Detroit Free Press)
The state House, led by the GOP, on Wednesday passed bills that would, by 2021, devote an extra $1.2 billion to roads, with $600 million coming from the state's general fund, $400 million from a 40% hike in registration fees, and $200 million from higher fuel taxes, while also providing $200 million in tax relief through a sweetened Homestead Property Tax Credit.

Legislature, feds should take on Flint water investigation (Mlive)
Switching to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department isn't the final solution for Flint — it's the first step on a long road to recovery. Expert assistance is essential. Unfortunately, the Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) cannot perform an investigation we can all trust. As such, I've sent a letter to the EPA and to the Auditor General requesting an accurate and thorough investigation to determine whether the misapplication of federal water testing rules was intentional or due to negligence. Their results must be transparent and easy to understand.

Dems learn what's not working for people (Midland Daily News)
What we voted for isn't working. The people of our district went to the polls last year and voted for representatives and senators who would govern our state and country with wisdom, energy and a willingness to work across the aisle. We wondered: "Our state is still coming out of an economic slump. People are still looking for jobs. The roads are a mess. Will these newly elected folks do their job?"

Michigan prevailing wage supporters challenge 'woeful' petition drive signatures (Mlive)
A group seeking to repeal Michigan's prevailing wage law collected more than 100,000 invalid signatures and came up "woefully" short of the standards for certification, according to a challenge filed Monday. "This is an absurdity to see that on every other page in the 50,000-plus sheets turned in there is a

duplicate signature," said John Pirich, a high-powered Lansing attorney representing prevailing wage supporters in the Protecting Michigan Jobs (PMJ) coalition.

Column: Don't blame EM for Flint water disaster (The Detroit News)
It is critically important that the record be set straight about the decision-making and approval processes that led to Flint joining the Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA) with the use of Flint River water as the interim water supply. The fact is, the river has served and been used as the back-up supply for decades, and this was the rationale given to me by staff and Mayor Walling, who also serves as chairperson of the KWA board. Contrary to reports in the media and rhetoric being espoused by individuals, the decision was made at the local level, by local civic leaders.

Our Editorial: Weigh value of tax hikes (The Detroit News)
Before Metro Detroit voters consider the school bond issues and municipal tax proposals on next week's ballot, Nov. 3, they should weigh whether the schools and cities have exhausted all other means of cutting expenses, raising revenue and making their operations more efficient. Tax hikes are sometimes the last, best resort to keep services at levels residents need and expect. At other times, they are the easy option for officials who don't want to make hard choices.

Governor's Plans For Detroit Schools Allows Leader to Limit School Choice (Capitol Confidential)
Charter school proponents are criticizing Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to overhaul Detroit Public Schools, which they fear could put too much power in the hands of a chief education officer for all public schools within the geographical boundaries of the district. This person would have the power to shut down any public school inside the district, including charter schools, many of which are currently not subject to district control.

Vote yes on Schoolcraft millage (The Detroit Free Press)
For voters in November's sparse election, whether to approve a millage request from Schoolcraft College should be an easy-to-answer question.
The Livonia college is asking voters for a 10-year increase of its existing tax levy by 0.6 mill, which would cost the owner of a home worth $200,000 about $60 a year -- that's $5 a month.

School funding strains create a brain drain - and ideas to stop it (Mlive)
Talk about your churn. Lots of misguided folks believe it's the state Legislature that runs the education system in the state, and to be sure it sets a lot of the policy, but it's at the grassroots level that the policy gets translated into reality. That means local school boards and local school superintendents are on the front lines fighting the good fight and sometimes losing it. And so, increasingly, those front lines are being depleted and replaced with less experienced recruits.

In politics, he or she who hesitates might get lost in the shuffle (Mlive)
If you are a nonplayer on the Lansing political scene, you have to be scratching your head when you read about this person or that exploring a possible bid for office in 2018. Yes, 2018. Good grief, that seems light years down the road, and in normal terms it is, except in the political world, normal doesn't apply. Ask state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-Oakland County. With 10 years under his legislative belt, he will be out of job in 2018, thanks to term limits, so he is exploring his next move.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 10:32 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 10/28 Newsroom
Attachments: 151028 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Roads
Snyder sees 'strong momentum' for road funding deal despite Senate delay (Mlive)
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Retirement panel
Governor Establishes New State Employees Retirement Panel (WHTC)
Governor Snyder has issued an executive order creating the State of Michigan Retirement Board. The new nine-member panel, when it is operational on January 1st, will assume the duties done by the State Employees Retirement System Board, the Judges Retirement System Board and the Military Retirement Provisions Board.

Snyder merges retirement system boards (LSJ)
Gov. Rick Snyder has created a new State of Michigan Retirement Board to consolidate administration of retirement systems for state employees, judges and members of the military. Snyder announced the executive order, which takes effect Jan. 1, in a news release Tuesday.

LT. GOV's ACTIVITIES

LG Calley talks with Guy Gordon about the Prescription Drug and Opioid Task Force recommendations (WJR)
Lt. Governor Brian Calley talks to Guy Gordon about the work of a new state task force on prescription and illegal drugs and he says they are hoping that new recommendations will help combat the deadly problem.

3-year-old Michigan autism fund running out of money, state official tells lawmakers (AP)
A fund created by Michigan lawmakers in 2012 to pay for autism health coverage is running dry and should be depleted in weeks, a state official told lawmakers Tuesday. The fund was initially staked with $15 million but reimbursements were slow as insurers took time to get familiar with the program. Lawmakers subsequently cut funding and spent some money on training medical professionals in autism treatment, MLive.com reported

Michigan's autism fund will run out of money in November, officials say (Mlive)

A fund designed to help insurers pay for autism coverage the legislature mandated in 2012 will run dry by November, according to the Department of Insurance and Financial Services. The 2012 legislation, signed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, mandated that insurance companies operating in Michigan provide coverage for autism diagnosis and treatment.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

State DEQ pulls request for help with image amid Flint water crisis (MLive)
The state Department of Environmental Quality has shelved a proposal to spend up to $100,000 to develop its brand -- a marketing plan that was issued just a few days after the agency admitted it made mistakes in Flint's water crisis.

Michigan oil pipeline safety board to hold first meeting (AP)
The newly established Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board is having its first meeting Wednesday in Lansing. Gov. Rick Snyder issued an executive order last month creating the board. It was among the recommendations in a report produced by a task force that investigated the state's network of pipelines carrying crude oil and other petroleum products, including lines that run beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

Tribe moving forward with West Grand Traverse Bay marina (AP)
A tribe's plan to build a marina on West Grand Traverse Bay will continue without the ferry dock portion of the project. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians received approval in 2013 to build a 106-slip marina across from its tribal administration building on M-22. However, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality denied a request last July for a 40-foot-wide pier for vessels that would carry people and vehicles from Peshawbestown to Beaver Island, Petoskey, Charlevoix, Traverse City and East Bay.

Contract on wastewater plant capacity report amended (Daily Telegram)
A contract with Jones and Henry Engineers was amended Monday by the Blissfield Village Council. On a 7-0 vote, the council approved the action covering the Toledo firm's revisions to the wastewater treatment plant's capacity evaluation report required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

DMVA

The Veterans Community Action Team is looking to assist UP veterans (UpperMichigansSource.com)
The Veterans Community Action Team is working to make sure veterans get the care they deserve. The team is a group under the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency looking to reach out to veterans.

Program helps U.P. veterans get assistance (ABC 10 News NOW)
It's an ongoing struggle connecting veterans with the benefits they've earned. The Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) was introduced in Lower Michigan as part of Governor Rick Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative. It's goal, to help veterans close the gaps that separate them from getting assistance.

MDARD

"Uncle John's Cider Mill" tests positive for Shiga-toxin producing E. coli bacteria (WLNS)
A random sample collected from cider produced by Uncle John's Cider Mill in St. Johns has tested positive for the Shiga-toxin producing E. coli bacteria. According to information from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, no illnesses have been reported and Uncle John's has stopped selling cider until more testing is completed.

Pesticide manual review sessions in 2016 for Mid-Michigan farmers (Michigan State University Extension)
Michigan State University Extension will be offering two pesticide manual review sessions in 2016 for mid-Michigan farmers. The first will take place in Ionia County on Feb. 25, 2016, at the Clarkesville Research Station in Clarkesville, Michigan, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and the second will take place in Eaton County on March 9, 2016, at the Eaton County MSU Extension office in Charlotte, Michigan, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Michigan agriculture director impressed by Kalamazoo food highlights (MLive)
The director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was impressed by the holistic nature of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Bronson Healthy Living Campus and with the People's Food Co-op's efforts to bring locally grown food to shoppers.

Construction of Grayling Particleboard Mill Expected to Begin in Spring 2016 (9&10 News)
Construction for a new facility in Crawford County that manufactures particleboard is expected to begin in the spring of 2016. The facility will be constructed on a Grayling Township site and create about 250 jobs. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development about 12 to 15 additional logging crews will be needed to supply the plant's raw material needs.

MDE

Tough new state exam stumps Michigan students
The state released results Tuesday from the MEAP replacement exam — known as the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress — that was taken for the first time in the spring. Fifty percent of third-graders passed the English language arts exam — the best result among the grades. Elsewhere, the results ranged from 45% proficient for sixth-graders to 49% proficient for fifth- and 11th-graders. In math, results ranged from 28% of 11th-graders passing to 49% of third-graders passing.

Michigan students flunk new standardized test (WKZO-AM)
Most Michigan grade school students underachieved on the new state standardized tests that were taken over the spring, but school officials were only surprised they weren't worse. The Michigan Department of Education said that's because the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, the replacement for the 40-year-old Michigan Educational Assessment Program, was written with common core standards in mind and had less reliance on multiple-choice questioning.

MDOC

Questions raised about parolees in Delta County (UP Matters)
108th District State Representative Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) is demanding answers from the Michigan Department of Corrections about the large number of parolees that were settled in Escanaba this month. He told the Radio Results Network that officials with the department have some explaining to do about where they decide to place people once they are released from prison.

MDOC eyes high-tech weapons to head off drone threat (WOOD TV)
"Anti-drone" drones that shoot nets, highly sensitive listening devices and sharpshooters: These are the tools that the state of Michigan is considering as it looks to head off the possibility of drones being used to sneak contraband into prisons.

MDOT

Michigan pushes back start date for M-66/M-55 widening project (TI News Daily)
Officials from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) said Tuesday that various design and schedule changes have been made in the 2016 plans for the M-66/M-55 widening project near Lake City. The changes are based on suggestions and an internal review following a public meeting held earlier this year. The plan is to widen and reconstruct M-66/M-55 to three lanes in Lake City, from Jennings Road to 1st Street.

Meeting set to discuss I-275 construction project (Hometown Life)
The Michigan Department of Transportation announced Friday it will host a public meeting to inform motorists of more details of the project, scheduled to begin sometime in the spring. The meeting will take place 4-7 p.m. Nov. 10 at Davenport University, 19499 Victor Parkway, in Livonia.

MEDC

World's largest craft distributor announces $33M expansion in Michigan (MLive)
Notions Marketing Corp. is planning to spend up to $33 million to expand its Grand Rapids operations. It will also add 250 new permanent positions to its current 800-person year-around workforce. Michigan Economic Development Corporation is contributing $800,000 through a performance-based grant, and the company is also receiving a $150,633 grant through Michigan Works for workforce training.

MSP

State police share safety tips for cybersecurity awareness month (C&G News)
Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the Michigan State Police, said people's lives today are more connected than ever before. To encourage Michiganders to take an active role in their own cybersecurity, Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Michigan State Police hold open house at Manistique Post (Upper Michigans Source)

Tuesday afternoon, community members filled the Michigan State Police Manistique Post. They were there for the annual MSP Open House. According to the police, these events allow community members to meet the new troopers. This year, the police want to remind the community that there is still a strong local presence.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Senate will not vote on road funding Tuesday (WNEM)
Last week, the Michigan House of Representatives pushed through a piece of legislation to fund the necessary $1.2 billion to fix Michigan's crumbling roads. On Tuesday, the Michigan Senate was expected to vote on the measure, but no vote will be held today.

Michigan Senate, at standstill, considers changes to House road funding plan (MLive)
The Michigan Senate has been at a standstill so far Tuesday as lawmakers consider a $1.2 billion road funding plan approved last week by the House.

State treasurer tells lawmakers: Detroit schools need help (AP)
The Michigan state treasurer is warning lawmakers that Detroit's public schools could be insolvent by spring if the Legislature doesn't cover millions in debt.

Dire Forecast: Detroit Schools Could Be Broke by Spring (Deadline Detroit)
The financial picture Gov. Rick Snyder's treasurer and Detroit Public Schools' emergency manager painted for state lawmakers on Tuesday isn't a surprise.

Michigan lawmakers spar on export subsidy bank (Detroit News)
A bipartisan coalition of House lawmakers on Tuesday pushed through a bill to reopen the government agency that subsidizes U.S. exports, despite opposition from conservatives.

Official: Michigan autism fund will run dry in a month (AP)
A fund created by Michigan lawmakers in 2012 to pay for autism health coverage is running dry and should be depleted in weeks, a state official told lawmakers Tuesday.

DETROIT

Farming planned for 60 acres of blighted Detroit land (AP)
A big chunk of vacant and blighted land in Detroit is destined for a future in agriculture, and some city residents will receive training in farming.

Ilitch family to give $40M for new WSU business school (Detroit Free Press)
A $40 million donation by the Ilitch family to construct and help fund a new Wayne State University business school near downtown Detroit could be finalized as soon as Friday in a special university board meeting, according to a person familiar with the family's plans.

Detroit Public Schools could run out of cash in six months to a year without bailout (WXYZ)
Detroit schools are running out of cash and a state bailout is needed, according to the Michigan Treasurer and DPS Emergency Manager.

Detroit tennis courts named after Ralph C. Wilson Jr. (Detroit News)
New tennis courts at Chandler Park were named Monday in honor of the late Ralph C. Wilson Jr. and his wife, Mary, who made an appearance at the park on Detroit's east side.

Detroit worst in math, reading scores among big cities (Detroit News)
For a fourth straight time, Detroit students have scored the lowest among big-city districts in math and reading proficiency, according to national test results released Wednesday.

OPINION

House plan for Michigan roads funding is not a solution (MLive)
Unbelievable. That is my view of the new package of bills announced by the state House to deal with the shoddy condition of our roads.

State, emergency managers can't escape blame for Flint water switch (MLive)
Protests by ex-Flint emergency manager Darnell Earley that local leaders are to blame for the Flint River water switch should fall on deaf ears.

Now who needs an emergency manager (Detroit Free Press)
The ongoing fiasco regarding fixing Michigan's roads suggests the need for an "emergency manager" for the Governor's office as well as the Michigan House and Senate. The members of the Senate and House have not only wasted time, they have also wasted the millions spent on their salaries during the past several years.

Ken Braun: 2018 GOP hopefuls for governor gathering ammo, taking shots (MLive)
We're still less than a year removed from the final shots fired in the 2014 Michigan gubernatorial campaign, and some Republicans lining up to replace term-limited GOP Gov. Rick Snyder are already loading (and sometimes firing) ammunition for the 2018 race.

Should Michigan keep the same old judges past 70? Maybe (MLive)
Judges around the state face mandatory retirement once they plop 70 candles on their birthday cake. Given the fact that folks are living longer and more productive lives, some have made the case that they can serve beyond that age.

Editor's note: Miller champions good conduct (Detroit News)
Credit Michigan's Candice Miller with helping to assure her fellow Congress members don't spend taxpayer money as if it were their own.

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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LT. GOV's ACTIVITIES

LG Calley talks with Guy Gordon about the Prescription Drug and Opioid Task Force recommendations (WJR)
Lt. Governor Brian Calley talks to Guy Gordon about the work of a new state task force on prescription and illegal drugs and he says they are hoping that new recommendations will help combat the deadly problem.

3-year-old Michigan autism fund running out of money, state official tells lawmakers (AP)
A fund created by Michigan lawmakers in 2012 to pay for autism health coverage is running dry and should be depleted in weeks, a state official told lawmakers Tuesday. The fund was initially staked with $15 million but reimbursements were slow as insurers took time to get familiar with the program. Lawmakers subsequently cut funding and spent some money on training medical professionals in autism treatment, MLive.com reported

Michigan's autism fund will run out of money in November, officials say (Mlive)
A fund designed to help insurers pay for autism coverage the legislature mandated in 2012 will run dry by November, according to the Department of Insurance and Financial Services. The 2012 legislation,

signed by Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, mandated that insurance companies operating in Michigan provide coverage for autism diagnosis and treatment.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

State DEQ pulls request for help with image amid Flint water crisis (MLive)
The state Department of Environmental Quality has shelved a proposal to spend up to $100,000 to develop its brand -- a marketing plan that was issued just a few days after the agency admitted it made mistakes in Flint's water crisis.

Michigan oil pipeline safety board to hold first meeting (AP)
The newly established Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board is having its first meeting Wednesday in Lansing. Gov. Rick Snyder issued an executive order last month creating the board. It was among the recommendations in a report produced by a task force that investigated the state's network of pipelines carrying crude oil and other petroleum products, including lines that run beneath the Straits of Mackinac.

Tribe moving forward with West Grand Traverse Bay marina (AP)
A tribe's plan to build a marina on West Grand Traverse Bay will continue without the ferry dock portion of the project. The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians received approval in 2013 to build a 106-slip marina across from its tribal administration building on M-22. However, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality denied a request last July for a 40-foot-wide pier for vessels that would carry people and vehicles from Peshawbestown to Beaver Island, Petoskey, Charlevoix, Traverse City and East Bay.

Contract on wastewater plant capacity report amended (Daily Telegram)
A contract with Jones and Henry Engineers was amended Monday by the Blissfield Village Council. On a 7-0 vote, the council approved the action covering the Toledo firm's revisions to the wastewater treatment plant's capacity evaluation report required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

DMVA

The Veterans Community Action Team is looking to assist UP veterans (UpperMichigansSource.com)
The Veterans Community Action Team is working to make sure veterans get the care they deserve. The team is a group under the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency looking to reach out to veterans.

Program helps U.P. veterans get assistance (ABC 10 News NOW)
It's an ongoing struggle connecting veterans with the benefits they've earned. The Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) was introduced in Lower Michigan as part of Governor Rick Snyder's Regional Prosperity Initiative. It's goal, to help veterans close the gaps that separate them from getting assistance.

MDARD

"Uncle John's Cider Mill" tests positive for Shiga-toxin producing E. coli bacteria (WLNS)
A random sample collected from cider produced by Uncle John's Cider Mill in St. Johns has tested positive for the Shiga-toxin producing E. coli bacteria. According to information from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, no illnesses have been reported and Uncle John's has stopped selling cider until more testing is completed.

Pesticide manual review sessions in 2016 for Mid-Michigan farmers (Michigan State University Extension)
Michigan State University Extension will be offering two pesticide manual review sessions in 2016 for mid-Michigan farmers. The first will take place in Ionia County on Feb. 25, 2016, at the Clarkesville Research Station in Clarkesville, Michigan, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., and the second will take place in Eaton County on March 9, 2016, at the Eaton County MSU Extension office in Charlotte, Michigan, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Michigan agriculture director impressed by Kalamazoo food highlights (MLive)
The director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was impressed by the holistic nature of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Bronson Healthy Living Campus and with the People's Food Co-op's efforts to bring locally grown food to shoppers.

Construction of Grayling Particleboard Mill Expected to Begin in Spring 2016 (9&10 News)
Construction for a new facility in Crawford County that manufactures particleboard is expected to begin in the spring of 2016. The facility will be constructed on a Grayling Township site and create about 250 jobs. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development about 12 to 15 additional logging crews will be needed to supply the plant's raw material needs.

MDE
Tough new state exam stumps Michigan students
The state released results Tuesday from the MEAP replacement exam — known as the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress — that was taken for the first time in the spring. Fifty percent of third-graders passed the English language arts exam — the best result among the grades. Elsewhere, the results ranged from 45% proficient for sixth-graders to 49% proficient for fifth- and 11th-graders. In math, results ranged from 28% of 11th-graders passing to 49% of third-graders passing.

Michigan students flunk new standardized test (WKZO-AM)
Most Michigan grade school students underachieved on the new state standardized tests that were taken over the spring, but school officials were only surprised they weren't worse. The Michigan Department of Education said that's because the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, the replacement for the 40-year-old Michigan Educational Assessment Program, was written with common core standards in mind and had less reliance on multiple-choice questioning.

MDOC
Questions raised about parolees in Delta County (UP Matters)
108th District State Representative Ed McBroom (R-Vulcan) is demanding answers from the Michigan Department of Corrections about the large number of parolees that were settled in Escanaba this month. He told the Radio Results Network that officials with the department have some explaining to do about where they decide to place people once they are released from prison.

MDOC eyes high-tech weapons to head off drone threat (WOOD TV)
"Anti-drone" drones that shoot nets, highly sensitive listening devices and sharpshooters: These are the tools that the state of Michigan is considering as it looks to head off the possibility of drones being used to sneak contraband into prisons.

MDOT
Michigan pushes back start date for M-66/M-55 widening project (TI News Daily)
Officials from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) said Tuesday that various design and schedule changes have been made in the 2016 plans for the M-66/M-55 widening project near Lake City. The changes are based on suggestions and an internal review following a public meeting held earlier this

year. The plan is to widen and reconstruct M-66/M-55 to three lanes in Lake City, from Jennings Road to 1st Street.

Meeting set to discuss I-275 construction project (Hometown Life)
The Michigan Department of Transportation announced Friday it will host a public meeting to inform motorists of more details of the project, scheduled to begin sometime in the spring. The meeting will take place 4-7 p.m. Nov. 10 at Davenport University, 19499 Victor Parkway, in Livonia.

MEDC
World's largest craft distributor announces $33M expansion in Michigan (MLive)
Notions Marketing Corp. is planning to spend up to $33 million to expand its Grand Rapids operations. It will also add 250 new permanent positions to its current 800-person year-around workforce. Michigan Economic Development Corporation is contributing $800,000 through a performance-based grant, and the company is also receiving a $150,633 grant through Michigan Works for workforce training.

MSP
State police share safety tips for cybersecurity awareness month (C&G News)
Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the Michigan State Police, said people's lives today are more connected than ever before. To encourage Michiganders to take an active role in their own cybersecurity, Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Michigan State Police hold open house at Manistique Post (Upper Michigans Source)
Tuesday afternoon, community members filled the Michigan State Police Manistique Post. They were there for the annual MSP Open House. According to the police, these events allow community members to meet the new troopers. This year, the police want to remind the community that there is still a strong local presence.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Senate will not vote on road funding Tuesday (WNEM)
Last week, the Michigan House of Representatives pushed through a piece of legislation to fund the necessary $1.2 billion to fix Michigan's crumbling roads. On Tuesday, the Michigan Senate was expected to vote on the measure, but no vote will be held today.

Michigan Senate, at standstill, considers changes to House road funding plan (MLive)
The Michigan Senate has been at a standstill so far Tuesday as lawmakers consider a $1.2 billion road funding plan approved last week by the House.

State treasurer tells lawmakers: Detroit schools need help (AP)
The Michigan state treasurer is warning lawmakers that Detroit's public schools could be insolvent by spring if the Legislature doesn't cover millions in debt.

Dire Forecast: Detroit Schools Could Be Broke by Spring (Deadline Detroit)
The financial picture Gov. Rick Snyder's treasurer and Detroit Public Schools' emergency manager painted for state lawmakers on Tuesday isn't a surprise.

Michigan lawmakers spar on export subsidy bank (Detroit News)
A bipartisan coalition of House lawmakers on Tuesday pushed through a bill to reopen the government agency that subsidizes U.S. exports, despite opposition from conservatives.

Official: Michigan autism fund will run dry in a month (AP)

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DETROIT

Farming planned for 60 acres of blighted Detroit land (AP)
A big chunk of vacant and blighted land in Detroit is destined for a future in agriculture, and some city residents will receive training in farming.

Ilitch family to give $40M for new WSU business school (Detroit Free Press)
A $40 million donation by the Ilitch family to construct and help fund a new Wayne State University business school near downtown Detroit could be finalized as soon as Friday in a special university board meeting, according to a person familiar with the family's plans.

Detroit Public Schools could run out of cash in six months to a year without bailout (WXYZ)
Detroit schools are running out of cash and a state bailout is needed, according to the Michigan Treasurer and DPS Emergency Manager.

Detroit tennis courts named after Ralph C. Wilson Jr. (Detroit News)
New tennis courts at Chandler Park were named Monday in honor of the late Ralph C. Wilson Jr. and his wife, Mary, who made an appearance at the park on Detroit's east side.

Detroit worst in math, reading scores among big cities (Detroit News)
For a fourth straight time, Detroit students have scored the lowest among big-city districts in math and reading proficiency, according to national test results released Wednesday.

OPINION

House plan for Michigan roads funding is not a solution (MLive)
Unbelievable. That is my view of the new package of bills announced by the state House to deal with the shoddy condition of our roads.

State, emergency managers can't escape blame for Flint water switch (MLive)
Protests by ex-Flint emergency manager Darnell Earley that local leaders are to blame for the Flint River water switch should fall on deaf ears.

Now who needs an emergency manager (Detroit Free Press)
The ongoing fiasco regarding fixing Michigan's roads suggests the need for an "emergency manager" for the Governor's office as well as the Michigan House and Senate. The members of the Senate and House have not only wasted time, they have also wasted the millions spent on their salaries during the past several years.

Ken Braun: 2018 GOP hopefuls for governor gathering ammo, taking shots (MLive)
We're still less than a year removed from the final shots fired in the 2014 Michigan gubernatorial campaign, and some Republicans lining up to replace term-limited GOP Gov. Rick Snyder are already loading (and sometimes firing) ammunition for the 2018 race.

Should Michigan keep the same old judges past 70? Maybe (MLive)
Judges around the state face mandatory retirement once they plop 70 candles on their birthday cake. Given the fact that folks are living longer and more productive lives, some have made the case that they can serve beyond that age.

Editor's note: Miller champions good conduct (Detroit News)
Credit Michigan's Candice Miller with helping to assure her fellow Congress members don't spend taxpayer money as if it were their own.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, October 30, 2015 9:40 AM
Subject: 10/30 Newsroom
Attachments: 151030 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Unions cry foul on Snyder retirement board (LSJ)
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To help address the transportation needs of veterans in our state, AmeriCorps and the Michigan Region 10 Veterans Community Action Team has started a program called Wheels for Warriors.

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Nearly 168 jobs and $20 million in investments are coming to Michigan due to the Michigan Strategic Fund announced the Michigan Economic Development Corporation recently.

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Travel Michigan, a division of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. that coordinates the Pure Michigan branding effort, is working with the Romulus airport and federal customs agents to decorate a corridor inside McNamara Terminal used by inbound international passengers with signs, posters and digital boards.

MSHDA
Mt. Morris Twp. happy to see hotel eyesore go (WJRT)
It's been a thorn in the side of one Mid-Michigan community for almost a decade. On Thursday, ABC12 News learned tens of thousands of dollars was found to demolish the former Ramada Inn in Mt. Morris Township.

$11 million coming to Flint for demolition work (WJRT)
$11 million is coming to Flint from the federal government's Hardest Hit Fund. The Land Bank told ABC12 it will help tear down 900 homes. The effort builds upon an aggressive plan that started years ago.

Old Ramada hotel in Mt. Morris Township will be gone by April, officials say (MLive)
The fate of the old Ramada hotel in Mt. Morris Township off I-75 is very clear. Officials say by April 2016, the blighted and abandoned building will no longer be an eyesore in the township.

Plans set for Ramada Inn demolition (NBC 25 News)
Genesee County Treasurer Deb Cherry has seen the Ramada Inn on Pierson Road from the good days...to the bad. But after years of work, several groups have come together to begin a $900,000 demolition project on the hotel.

Detroit's demo disaster: Blame it on the dirt (Fox 2 News)
The city of Detroit has been awarded another $21 million from the federal government to fight blight. Now, the city's got $21 million more reasons to tear down homes.

MSP
Michigan State Police forward Todd Courser text message investigation to prosecutor for review (MLive)
Michigan State Police have concluded an investigation into extortion claims by former state Rep. Todd Courser and forwarded findings to the Lapeer County Prosecutor for review and possible charges.

Activists Cry Foul Over State Police Policy Change Leading to Harsher Pot Charges (MPRN)

A new State Police crime lab policy allows prosecutors to charge cannabis users with felonies they didn't commit. That's according to medical marijuana activists, who uncovered the policy through a public information request and provided the documents to the Michigan Public Radio Network.

Supreme Court

Michigan judicial races most expensive in nation (Detroit Free Press)
Campaign and judicial watchdog groups released a report Thursday saying Michigan ranked highest in the nation in 2014 for election spending on its Supreme Court races.

Public censure sought for Michigan judge in misconduct case (AP)
The Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission is recommending the Michigan Supreme Court publicly censure a Jackson County judge for misconduct.

New sentence hearings follow Mich. Supreme Court ruling (WZZM)
More than 200 state inmates have petitioned the Michigan Supreme Court for new sentence hearings based on its July ruling that guidelines mandating prison terms are unconstitutional.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Are we there yet? The Senate says no (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Legislature may be inching toward a roads funding package. The roughly $1 billion plan would take $600 million from the state's general fund and could include a rollback in the state income tax rate. It would also increase vehicle registration fees by 40%.

Meet the 80th District House candidates (WOOD)
On Tuesday in the 80th District voters will decide whether to return Gamrat to office or select one of six other Republican actively campaigning for that office.

No road-funding vote planned until next week at earliest (AP)
The Michigan Senate's resistance to a proposed 40 percent increase in vehicle registration fees has delayed voting for at least another week on a road-funding plan.

Legislation approved allowing communities to create "promise zones," similar to Kalamazoo (WKZO)
The Michigan State Senate has approved bipartisan legislation designed to give other communities an opportunity to follow in Kalamazoo's footprints with the creation of their own promise zones. The program allows school districts to collect resources and use tax financing to generate funding for college scholarship programs.

Michigan Promise Zone Expansion Bills Clear State Senate (WHTC)
The state Senate has passed a bipartisan, two-bill package that expands and improves Michigan's Promise Zone program.

Lawmakers grill education officials about why test results took so long (Michigan Radio)
Lawmakers are not happy about the time it took for state education officials to release the latest round of standardized test results. Students struggled in all grades and subjects on the new M-STEP test which replaced the MEAP.

DETROIT

Restrictions On Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Addressed Before Detroit Planning Commission (WWJ)
A packed house at the City of Detroit Planning Commission's public hearing on proposed regulations for the growing number of medical marijuana facilities. Several pressing issues facing the commission as they heard from dozens of residents and workers in Detroit regarding medical marijuana dispensary zoning … and owners who are worried they will have to close up shop.

Bing questions rising blight costs under Duggan (Detroit Free Press)
Former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing on Thursday questioned the reasons behind huge increases in the cost of blight removal under his successor, Mike Duggan, and defended his administration's record of demolishing nearly 9,000 houses.

Residents sound off on medical marijuana dispensaries at Detroit Planning Commission hearing (Crain's Detroit Business)
More than 300 showed up at a Detroit Planning Commission public hearing at the Thursday night at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to hear about and voice their opinion on a city zoning ordinance that would put tight restrictions on where medical marijuana dispensaries could locate in the city.

Detroit natives wary as recovery threatens to push them out (Crain's Detroit Business)
Residents and business owners who stuck with Detroit through the economic bad times fear they could be priced out during the city's recovery as property values and rents creep up. Detroit is among several large urban communities experiencing a mini-boom as developers see potential where there once was neglect and abandonment

Detroit schools lag behind national average in reading and math, report says (Detroit Metro Times)
The National Assessment of Educational Progress released the Nation's Report Card Wednesday, and it looks like both Detroit and Michigan certainly have "room for improvement." The results come from an NAEP test issued earlier to 279,000 fourth-graders and 273,000 eighth-graders earlier this year, MLive.com reports.

Demolition of Pontiac Silverdome to begin in spring '16 (The Detroit News)
The Pontiac Silverdome, once the home of the Detroit Lions with its innovative inflatable roof, was for decades a destination for pop culture and special events. Now, the hulking stadium, dormant for years and once "sapping the lifeblood of the city," will be demolished after the property failed to sell for its $30 million asking price, the property broker said Thursday.

OPINION

Rothwell: Assessing Michigan's talent future (Detroit News)
The jobs that pay the most and are growing the fastest require more education and training. If we want to add these jobs and boost incomes in Michigan, we need to make sure our students are graduating with the right skills.

Our editorial: Anybody but Courser, Gamrat (Detroit News)
Voters have a chance to put an exclamation point on the end of the political careers of Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat. They should send a very loud message Tuesday to these tone-deaf former lawmakers that there is no room for them in a state Legislature they so thoroughly embarrassed.

Susan J. Demas: HOP roads plan could kill Snyder's signature 2011 tax reform (MLive)
If there's one thing we know about our CPA governor, he's a fiscal nerd.

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The Michigan Legislature may be inching toward a roads funding package. The roughly $1 billion plan would take $600 million from the state's general fund and could include a rollback in the state income tax rate. It would also increase vehicle registration fees by 40%. While the House has passed the plan, the Michigan Senate scheduled and then delayed a vote on the plan.

Government messed up in Flint water crisis, what next? (Detroit Free Press)
We know what happened in Flint:

A small victory for regional transit in metro Detroit (Detroit Free Press)

If you're riding a bus up Woodward from Detroit to the suburbs, you shouldn't have to switch or transfer -- but for years in southeast Michigan, during most times of the day, that has been a staple of our dysfunctional transit system. But that may be about to end -- and that change may portend other important improvements in the region's transit system.

#####

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$11 million coming to Flint for demolition work (WJRT)
$11 million is coming to Flint from the federal government's Hardest Hit Fund. The Land Bank told ABC12 it will help tear down 900 homes. The effort builds upon an aggressive plan that started years ago.

Old Ramada hotel in Mt. Morris Township will be gone by April, officials say (MLive)
The fate of the old Ramada hotel in Mt. Morris Township off I-75 is very clear. Officials say by April 2016, the blighted and abandoned building will no longer be an eyesore in the township.

Plans set for Ramada Inn demolition (NBC 25 News)
Genesee County Treasurer Deb Cherry has seen the Ramada Inn on Pierson Road from the good days...to the bad. But after years of work, several groups have come together to begin a $900,000 demolition project on the hotel.
Detroit's demo disaster: Blame it on the dirt (Fox 2 News)

The city of Detroit has been awarded another $21 million from the federal government to fight blight. Now, the city's got $21 million more reasons to tear down homes.

MSP

Michigan State Police forward Todd Courser text message investigation to prosecutor for review (MLive)
Michigan State Police have concluded an investigation into extortion claims by former state Rep. Todd Courser and forwarded findings to the Lapeer County Prosecutor for review and possible charges.

Activists Cry Foul Over State Police Policy Change Leading to Harsher Pot Charges (MPRN)
A new State Police crime lab policy allows prosecutors to charge cannabis users with felonies they didn't commit. That's according to medical marijuana activists, who uncovered the policy through a public information request and provided the documents to the Michigan Public Radio Network.

Supreme Court

Michigan judicial races most expensive in nation (Detroit Free Press)
Campaign and judicial watchdog groups released a report Thursday saying Michigan ranked highest in the nation in 2014 for election spending on its Supreme Court races.

Public censure sought for Michigan judge in misconduct case (AP)
The Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission is recommending the Michigan Supreme Court publicly censure a Jackson County judge for misconduct.

New sentence hearings follow Mich. Supreme Court ruling (WZZM)
More than 200 state inmates have petitioned the Michigan Supreme Court for new sentence hearings based on its July ruling that guidelines mandating prison terms are unconstitutional.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Are we there yet? The Senate says no (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Legislature may be inching toward a roads funding package. The roughly $1 billion plan would take $600 million from the state's general fund and could include a rollback in the state income tax rate. It would also increase vehicle registration fees by 40%.

Meet the 80th District House candidates (WOOD)
On Tuesday in the 80th District voters will decide whether to return Gamrat to office or select one of six other Republican actively campaigning for that office.

No road-funding vote planned until next week at earliest (AP)
The Michigan Senate's resistance to a proposed 40 percent increase in vehicle registration fees has delayed voting for at least another week on a road-funding plan.

Legislation approved allowing communities to create "promise zones," similar to Kalamazoo (WKZO)
The Michigan State Senate has approved bipartisan legislation designed to give other communities an opportunity to follow in Kalamazoo's footprints with the creation of their own promise zones. The program allows school districts to collect resources and use tax financing to generate funding for college scholarship programs.

Michigan Promise Zone Expansion Bills Clear State Senate (WHTC)
The state Senate has passed a bipartisan, two-bill package that expands and improves Michigan's Promise Zone program.

Lawmakers grill education officials about why test results took so long (Michigan Radio)
Lawmakers are not happy about the time it took for state education officials to release the latest round of standardized test results. Students struggled in all grades and subjects on the new M-STEP test which replaced the MEAP.

DETROIT

Restrictions On Medical Marijuana Dispensaries Addressed Before Detroit Planning Commission (WWJ)
A packed house at the City of Detroit Planning Commission's public hearing on proposed regulations for the growing number of medical marijuana facilities. Several pressing issues facing the commission as they heard from dozens of residents and workers in Detroit regarding medical marijuana dispensary zoning … and owners who are worried they will have to close up shop.

Bing questions rising blight costs under Duggan (Detroit Free Press)
Former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing on Thursday questioned the reasons behind huge increases in the cost of blight removal under his successor, Mike Duggan, and defended his administration's record of demolishing nearly 9,000 houses.

Residents sound off on medical marijuana dispensaries at Detroit Planning Commission hearing (Crain's Detroit Business)
More than 300 showed up at a Detroit Planning Commission public hearing at the Thursday night at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to hear about and voice their opinion on a city zoning ordinance that would put tight restrictions on where medical marijuana dispensaries could locate in the city.

Detroit natives wary as recovery threatens to push them out (Crain's Detroit Business)
Residents and business owners who stuck with Detroit through the economic bad times fear they could be priced out during the city's recovery as property values and rents creep up. Detroit is among several large urban communities experiencing a mini-boom as developers see potential where there once was neglect and abandonment

Detroit schools lag behind national average in reading and math, report says (Detroit Metro Times)
The National Assessment of Educational Progress released the Nation's Report Card Wednesday, and it looks like both Detroit and Michigan certainly have "room for improvement." The results come from an NAEP test issued earlier to 279,000 fourth-graders and 273,000 eighth-graders earlier this year, MLive.com reports.

Demolition of Pontiac Silverdome to begin in spring '16 (The Detroit News)
The Pontiac Silverdome, once the home of the Detroit Lions with its innovative inflatable roof, was for decades a destination for pop culture and special events. Now, the hulking stadium, dormant for years and once "sapping the lifeblood of the city," will be demolished after the property failed to sell for its $30 million asking price, the property broker said Thursday.

OPINION

Rothwell: Assessing Michigan's talent future (Detroit News)
The jobs that pay the most and are growing the fastest require more education and training. If we want to add these jobs and boost incomes in Michigan, we need to make sure our students are graduating with the right skills.

Our editorial: Anybody but Courser, Gamrat (Detroit News)

Voters have a chance to put an exclamation point on the end of the political careers of Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat. They should send a very loud message Tuesday to these tone-deaf former lawmakers that there is no room for them in a state Legislature they so thoroughly embarrassed.

Susan J. Demas: HOP roads plan could kill Snyder's signature 2011 tax reform (MLive)
If there's one thing we know about our CPA governor, he's a fiscal nerd.

Are we there yet? The senate says no (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Legislature may be inching toward a roads funding package. The roughly $1 billion plan would take $600 million from the state's general fund and could include a rollback in the state income tax rate. It would also increase vehicle registration fees by 40%. While the House has passed the plan, the Michigan Senate scheduled and then delayed a vote on the plan.

Government messed up in Flint water crisis, what next? (Detroit Free Press)
We know what happened in Flint:

A small victory for regional transit in metro Detroit (Detroit Free Press)
If you're riding a bus up Woodward from Detroit to the suburbs, you shouldn't have to switch or transfer -- but for years in southeast Michigan, during most times of the day, that has been a staple of our dysfunctional transit system. But that may be about to end -- and that change may portend other important improvements in the region's transit system.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 9:15 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/3 Newsroom
Attachments: 151103 Newsroom.docx

Tuesday, November 3, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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MSP

Michigan State Police receiving high volume of calls regarding IRS scams (Up Matters/TV 3)
The Michigan State Police say U.P. residents have been reporting receiving a high volume of 'scam' calls. Residents report that callers claiming to be from the IRS are leaving messages or instructing people to contact them regarding unpaid tax bills. Many of these calls are urgent sounding, automated and leave call back numbers. Troopers want you to be clear: the IRS does not call citizens and use fear and intimidation tactics or threats of arrest to obtain credit card or bank account information, or request immediate payments.

Michigan State Police To Take Part In Crash-Reduction Operation (WHMI 93.5)
Michigan State Police will participate in a two-day operation that will focus on crash reduction as part of a statewide initiative. On November 3rd and 4th, a multi-state effort including state police from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, will look at improving traffic safety.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Democrats to fight hike in Mich. car registration fees (The Detroit News)
Top Democrats said Monday they oppose and will campaign against a proposed increase in vehicle registration fees, further complicating lawmakers' efforts to fix Michigan's road repair shortfall. House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel charged that a proposed 40 percent registration fee increase included in a roads plan passed in late October by the House Republican majority "puts the burden squarely on everyday families, but lets corporations off the hook."

Ex-Reps. Courser, Gamrat face voter judgment day (The Detroit News)
It's judgment day for former state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat as voters in Lapeer and Allegan county will decide Tuesday whether the scandal-plagued former lawmakers get a second chance to represent them in the Legislature. Voters in both counties will decide who should advance to the March 8 special general election to fill two seats in the Michigan House of Representatives left vacant by Courser's Sept. 11 resignation and Gamrat's expulsion.

Lawmakers want to ditch Daylight Saving Time (Michigan Radio)
Two state lawmakers have forged a bipartisan effort to take Michigan off Daylight Saving Time. If they get their way, Sunday would be the final time Michiganders have to re-set their clocks to accommodate the time change. State Representatives Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township, say the twice-a-year time change is inconvenient, confusing, and can even be dangerous to people's health and safety.

Movement on Michigan roads deal this week? (WOOD)
The Michigan legislature may take another look at a plan to fix the state's shoddy roads on Tuesday.
The options to fund road repair are growing fewer for the state Senate and House of Representatives. Some ideas have passed one chamber and then stalled in the other, and nothing seems to have changed enough to suggest another run at any of them is viable.

Banning drones from flying near Michigan prisons (Michigan Radio)
Drones have many uses. But Michigan lawmakers want to discourage one in particular: delivering contraband to state prison inmates. Across the country in recent months, people trying to smuggle all kinds of things into prisons have turned to drones. Last week, a drone carrying hacksaw blades, cigars and drugs got tangled up in a razor wire fence at an Oklahoma prison.

DETROIT

Idea to Hike Detroit Teacher Pay Could Cost $462 Million (Capitol Confidential)
A Detroit businessman's idea to attract talent to the city's public schools by paying teachers between $125,000 to $150,000 could cost close to half a billion dollars every year. If superimposed on the school district's current salaries and

the state's pension system, it would add up to $462 million to the Detroit school district's $642 million annual operating budget, a 72 percent increase.

Detroit's other blight crisis: Commercial decay (Detroit Free Press)
They're easy to find and hard to ignore. In Detroit, many residents live and shop near hulking vacant buildings that have been abandoned for years, places that attract crime, vagrants, graffiti and scrappers. Many of these blighted buildings line well-traveled corridors throughout Detroit's neighborhoods. But exactly who owns them and why they remain in terrible condition for so long remains a mystery to many.

Pugh to skip sordid sex trial in Detroit (The Detroit News)
Former City Council President Charles Pugh is skipping a civil trial starting Tuesday that will consider whether he offered a Detroit Public Schools student cash for sex. The former politician and TV personality said his attendance at trial is irrelevant and that jurors can watch a videotaped deposition while considering a case filed by a former student, who is suing Pugh and DPS in federal court.

Emergency Mgr Darnell Earley defends Flint role, Detroit schools plan (WKAR)
Twice, Delta Township resident Darnell Earley has been appointed as an Emergency Manager in Michigan: once in Flint and currently in the Detroit Public Schools. Current State talks with Earley about the Flint water switch and why he thinks the legislature should pass the Governor's Detroit schools funding plan. As the former Emergency Manager of the city of Flint, our first guest has come under fire recently. Many are blaming Darnell Earley for not stopping the city's decision to switch its water source to the Flint river. The move led to dangerously high lead levels in drinking water.

Group calls for Mayor Mike Duggan investigation in response to demolition cost spike (MLive)
While Mayor Mike Duggan's administration says there're logical reasons for the increase in demolitions costs, others are calling it a "scandal" that needs a deeper look. Amid reporting from WJBK's Charlie LeDuff on the rise in demolition spending from around $10,000 to, in some cases, $20,000 per house under Duggan, the mayor said it's the high volume, fast pace and added demolition requirements, such as curb repairs and asbestos removal, that caused the cost to skyrocket.

OPINION

Tom Watkins: The UAW built the middle class (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Built in Detroit — now, headed to Hollywood. Great talent comes in all sizes, shapes, genders, sexual orientations, colors, and political persuasions. One man of strength, competence, and wisdom is Bob Morris. Perhaps not a household name, Bob was never elected to public office nor did he head a major department of state government. But Bob Morris and his family have contributed to this city, region and state in multiple ways.

The fight for teacher evaluation reform (Bridge)
The complicated process by which policy makes its way into law is often referred to as "insider baseball". It might be confusing and often boring, and it certainly won't get big headlines, but it shouldn't ever be overlooked. Effective insider baseball wins lots of ball games.

Dobbelstein: Clean Water Rule a big step forward (Lansing State Journal)
The Clean Water Act turned 43 last month, so now would be an excellent time for Michigan's own attorney general, Bill Schuette, to give the Great Lakes an anniversary present.

Pro-gay rights groups at odds over how to add LGBT protections to Michigan's constitution (Michigan Radio)
It's the upstarts versus the Establishment. Again. And, this time, we don't mean the Tea Party versus the Republicans. Rather, we're talking about the gay rights movement in Michigan. Last Friday, a new ballot committee, "Fair Michigan," filed with the state. The group wants to add the words "gender," "gender identity," and "sexual orientation" to the equal protection clause of the state constitution.

Election 2015: Vote today for huge school bonds, state House primary and city leaders (Mlive)
Voters in four Kent County school districts will decide whether to spend a combined $300 million on capital improvements today, and voters in three cities will consider contested mayoral races. Plus, there's a special Michigan House vote, a library tax and several positions of municipal leadership on area ballots this Election Day.

Susan J. Demas: We need LGBT rights now, not when GOP lawmakers get around to it (Mlive)
Gay marriage is the law of the land. But in Michigan — as in most states — you can still be fired for being gay. It was clear to me last year that this was going to be a problem. It's a huge legal inequity for the LGBT community. Equality activists have been playing "Waiting for Godot" with the Legislature for years on adding LGBTs to the state's Elliott-Larsen nondiscrimination law.

DeVore: Literacy program targets Detroit youth (The Detroit News)
Parents across the socio-economic spectrum want their children to receive a quality education because they understand that a good education can lead to a better life and a successful career. All children deserve a strong start. But in far too many communities, children in poverty miss out. Without access to high-quality early learning programs, they fall behind. Many never catch up.

Editorial: Lawmakers should stay all night to fix roads (The Detroit News)
Michigan lawmakers are scheduled to take up a long stalled road funding proposal when they convene today for the start of their three-day work week. They should not leave until they've passed a bill. This impasse has dragged on long enough. Michigan motorists are as fed up with the inability of lawmakers to work together to reach a practical solution as they are with the disastrous condition of the roads.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Tuesday, November 3, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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MSP

Michigan State Police receiving high volume of calls regarding IRS scams (Up Matters/TV 3)
The Michigan State Police say U.P. residents have been reporting receiving a high volume of 'scam' calls. Residents report that callers claiming to be from the IRS are leaving messages or instructing people to contact them regarding unpaid tax bills. Many of these calls are urgent sounding, automated and leave call back numbers. Troopers want you to be clear: the IRS does not call citizens and use fear and intimidation tactics or threats of arrest to obtain credit card or bank account information, or request immediate payments.

Michigan State Police To Take Part In Crash-Reduction Operation (WHMI 93.5)
Michigan State Police will participate in a two-day operation that will focus on crash reduction as part of a statewide initiative. On November 3rd and 4th, a multi-state effort including state police from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, will look at improving traffic safety.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Democrats to fight hike in Mich. car registration fees (The Detroit News)
Top Democrats said Monday they oppose and will campaign against a proposed increase in vehicle registration fees, further complicating lawmakers' efforts to fix Michigan's road repair shortfall. House Democratic Leader Tim Greimel charged that a proposed 40 percent registration fee increase included in a roads plan passed in late October by the House Republican majority "puts the burden squarely on everyday families, but lets corporations off the hook."

Ex-Reps. Courser, Gamrat face voter judgment day (The Detroit News)
It's judgment day for former state Reps. Todd Courser and Cindy Gamrat as voters in Lapeer and Allegan county will decide Tuesday whether the scandal-plagued former lawmakers get a second chance to represent them in the Legislature. Voters in both counties will decide who should advance to the March 8 special general election to fill two seats in the Michigan House of Representatives left vacant by Courser's Sept. 11 resignation and Gamrat's expulsion.

Lawmakers want to ditch Daylight Saving Time (Michigan Radio)
Two state lawmakers have forged a bipartisan effort to take Michigan off Daylight Saving Time. If they get their way, Sunday would be the final time Michiganders have to re-set their clocks to accommodate the time change. State Representatives Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and Peter Lucido, R-Shelby Township, say the twice-a-year time change is inconvenient, confusing, and can even be dangerous to people's health and safety.

Movement on Michigan roads deal this week? (WOOD)
The Michigan legislature may take another look at a plan to fix the state's shoddy roads on Tuesday. The options to fund road repair are growing fewer for the state Senate and House of Representatives. Some ideas have passed one chamber and then stalled in the other, and nothing seems to have changed enough to suggest another run at any of them is viable.

Banning drones from flying near Michigan prisons (Michigan Radio)
Drones have many uses. But Michigan lawmakers want to discourage one in particular: delivering contraband to state prison inmates. Across the country in recent months, people trying to smuggle all kinds of things into prisons have turned to drones. Last week, a drone carrying hacksaw blades, cigars and drugs got tangled up in a razor wire fence at an Oklahoma prison.

DETROIT

Idea to Hike Detroit Teacher Pay Could Cost $462 Million (Capitol Confidential)

A Detroit businessman's idea to attract talent to the city's public schools by paying teachers between $125,000 to $150,000 could cost close to half a billion dollars every year. If superimposed on the school district's current salaries and the state's pension system, it would add up to $462 million to the Detroit school district's $642 million annual operating budget, a 72 percent increase.

Detroit's other blight crisis: Commercial decay (Detroit Free Press)
They're easy to find and hard to ignore. In Detroit, many residents live and shop near hulking vacant buildings that have been abandoned for years, places that attract crime, vagrants, graffiti and scrappers. Many of these blighted buildings line well-traveled corridors throughout Detroit's neighborhoods. But exactly who owns them and why they remain in terrible condition for so long remains a mystery to many.

Pugh to skip sordid sex trial in Detroit (The Detroit News)
Former City Council President Charles Pugh is skipping a civil trial starting Tuesday that will consider whether he offered a Detroit Public Schools student cash for sex. The former politician and TV personality said his attendance at trial is irrelevant and that jurors can watch a videotaped deposition while considering a case filed by a former student, who is suing Pugh and DPS in federal court.

Emergency Mgr Darnell Earley defends Flint role, Detroit schools plan (WKAR)
Twice, Delta Township resident Darnell Earley has been appointed as an Emergency Manager in Michigan: once in Flint and currently in the Detroit Public Schools. Current State talks with Earley about the Flint water switch and why he thinks the legislature should pass the Governor's Detroit schools funding plan. As the former Emergency Manager of the city of Flint, our first guest has come under fire recently. Many are blaming Darnell Earley for not stopping the city's decision to switch its water source to the Flint river. The move led to dangerously high lead levels in drinking water.

Group calls for Mayor Mike Duggan investigation in response to demolition cost spike (MLive)
While Mayor Mike Duggan's administration says there're logical reasons for the increase in demolitions costs, others are calling it a "scandal" that needs a deeper look. Amid reporting from WJBK's Charlie LeDuff on the rise in demolition spending from around $10,000 to, in some cases, $20,000 per house under Duggan, the mayor said it's the high volume, fast pace and added demolition requirements, such as curb repairs and asbestos removal, that caused the cost to skyrocket.

OPINION

Tom Watkins: The UAW built the middle class (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Built in Detroit — now, headed to Hollywood. Great talent comes in all sizes, shapes, genders, sexual orientations, colors, and political persuasions. One man of strength, competence, and wisdom is Bob Morris. Perhaps not a household name, Bob was never elected to public office nor did he head a major department of state government. But Bob Morris and his family have contributed to this city, region and state in multiple ways.

The fight for teacher evaluation reform (Bridge)
The complicated process by which policy makes its way into law is often referred to as "insider baseball". It might be confusing and often boring, and it certainly won't get big headlines, but it shouldn't ever be overlooked. Effective insider baseball wins lots of ball games.

Dobbelstein: Clean Water Rule a big step forward (Lansing State Journal)
The Clean Water Act turned 43 last month, so now would be an excellent time for Michigan's own attorney general, Bill Schuette, to give the Great Lakes an anniversary present.

Pro-gay rights groups at odds over how to add LGBT protections to Michigan's constitution (Michigan Radio)
It's the upstarts versus the Establishment. Again. And, this time, we don't mean the Tea Party versus the Republicans. Rather, we're talking about the gay rights movement in Michigan. Last Friday, a new ballot committee, "Fair Michigan," filed with the state. The group wants to add the words "gender," "gender identity," and "sexual orientation" to the equal protection clause of the state constitution.

Election 2015: Vote today for huge school bonds, state House primary and city leaders (Mlive)
Voters in four Kent County school districts will decide whether to spend a combined $300 million on capital improvements today, and voters in three cities will consider contested mayoral races. Plus, there's a special Michigan House vote, a library tax and several positions of municipal leadership on area ballots this Election Day.

Susan J. Demas: We need LGBT rights now, not when GOP lawmakers get around to it (Mlive)
Gay marriage is the law of the land. But in Michigan — as in most states — you can still be fired for being gay. It was clear to me last year that this was going to be a problem. It's a huge legal inequity for the LGBT community. Equality activists have been playing "Waiting for Godot" with the Legislature for years on adding LGBTs to the state's Elliott-Larsen nondiscrimination law.

DeVore: Literacy program targets Detroit youth (The Detroit News)
Parents across the socio-economic spectrum want their children to receive a quality education because they understand that a good education can lead to a better life and a successful career. All children deserve a strong start. But in far too many communities, children in poverty miss out. Without access to high-quality early learning programs, they fall behind. Many never catch up.

Editorial: Lawmakers should stay all night to fix roads (The Detroit News)
Michigan lawmakers are scheduled to take up a long stalled road funding proposal when they convene today for the start of their three-day work week. They should not leave until they've passed a bill. This impasse has dragged on long enough. Michigan motorists are as fed up with the inability of lawmakers to work together to reach a practical solution as they are with the disastrous condition of the roads.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 10:36 AM
Subject: 11/4 Newsroom
Attachments: 151104 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Wednesday, November 4, 2015
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Irresponsible, reckless, shortsighted, ill-advised, wrongheaded ... we're running out of adjectives to describe Lansing's latest plan to fix our terrible roads.

Lawmakers fail LGBT in Mich., who deserve civil rights (Detroit Free Press)
It's a conundrum: Same-sex couples can now get married in Michigan, but only at the risk that prospective employers or landlords will punish them for exercising that hard-won right — or even for acknowledging an attraction to others of the same sex.

Michigan road funding bill: How we got to a bad deal (Detroit Free Press)
"When we elect politicians who hate the government we end up with a government that we hate."

Michigan continues its dark money streak (Detroit Free Press)
Well, Michigan, we did it again. A new report from the Brennan Center, Justice at Stake and the National Institute for Money in State Politics reveals that the 2014 Michigan Supreme Court election campaign was the most expensive and least transparent in the nation. This is the third election cycle in a row that we've had that distinction and that's a hat-trick that shouldn't be a point of pride.

Ken Braun: Michigan needs a taxpayer bill of rights (MLive)
Michigan should have Colorado's problems.

Old Michigan Senate rivals do a little R&D on campaign 2018 (MLive)
Here's a new twist on the old "he said, she said" story. It will leave you scratching your collective heads.

Our Editorial: Cybersecurity bill threatens privacy (Detroit News)
The U.S. Senate voted last week to further enable the government's efforts to collect the personal data of its citizens.

Editor's note: New business openings surge in Detroit (Detroit News)
For most of my years in Detroit, every day the city became something less. Another restaurant closed, another business shuttered.

Berman: UAW is neglecting workers (Detroit News)

The United Auto Workers (UAW) has been negotiating new labor contracts with the Detroit Big Three since July. In that time, much has been made of what's on the table: a $17 starting hourly wage for entry-level workers, $3,000 signing bonuses, and a revamped benefits structure.

Michigan brings transparency to civil forfeiture (Detroit News)
Here's a $270 million question: When will Michigan stop seizing private property from individuals who have done nothing wrong? With Gov. Rick Snyder's signature on a package of bills, the answer may be "soon."

How to begin to stop the decline of Detroit's schools (Detroit Free Press)
The bleak news announced last week about student performance in Detroit Public Schools has become an all-too-familiar and numbing element of the season, and something that Detroiters dread.

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Irresponsible, reckless, shortsighted, ill-advised, wrongheaded ... we're running out of adjectives to describe Lansing's latest plan to fix our terrible roads.

Lawmakers fail LGBT in Mich., who deserve civil rights (Detroit Free Press)
It's a conundrum: Same-sex couples can now get married in Michigan, but only at the risk that prospective employers or landlords will punish them for exercising that hard-won right — or even for acknowledging an attraction to others of the same sex.

Michigan road funding bill: How we got to a bad deal (Detroit Free Press)
"When we elect politicians who hate the government we end up with a government that we hate."

Michigan continues its dark money streak (Detroit Free Press)
Well, Michigan, we did it again. A new report from the Brennan Center, Justice at Stake and the National Institute for Money in State Politics reveals that the 2014 Michigan Supreme Court election campaign was the most expensive and least transparent in the nation. This is the third election cycle in a row that we've had that distinction and that's a hat-trick that shouldn't be a point of pride.

Ken Braun: Michigan needs a taxpayer bill of rights (MLive)
Michigan should have Colorado's problems.

Old Michigan Senate rivals do a little R&D on campaign 2018 (MLive)
Here's a new twist on the old "he said, she said" story. It will leave you scratching your collective heads.

Our Editorial: Cybersecurity bill threatens privacy (Detroit News)
The U.S. Senate voted last week to further enable the government's efforts to collect the personal data of its citizens.

Editor's note: New business openings surge in Detroit (Detroit News)
For most of my years in Detroit, every day the city became something less. Another restaurant closed, another business shuttered.

Berman: UAW is neglecting workers (Detroit News)
The United Auto Workers (UAW) has been negotiating new labor contracts with the Detroit Big Three since July. In that time, much has been made of what's on the table: a $17 starting hourly wage for entry-level workers, $3,000 signing bonuses, and a revamped benefits structure.

Michigan brings transparency to civil forfeiture (Detroit News)
Here's a $270 million question: When will Michigan stop seizing private property from individuals who have done nothing wrong? With Gov. Rick Snyder's signature on a package of bills, the answer may be "soon."

How to begin to stop the decline of Detroit's schools (Detroit Free Press)
The bleak news announced last week about student performance in Detroit Public Schools has become an all-too-familiar and numbing element of the season, and something that Detroiters dread.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 9:21 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/5 Newsroom
Attachments: 151105 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, November 5, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Friday, November 6, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)
GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2015 9:28 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/9 Newsroom
Attachments: 151109 Newsroom.docx

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Pancake breakfast
At a pancake breakfast, Metro Detroit rings in holidays (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan helped kick off the holiday season Friday at a pancake breakfast at the Detroit Parade Co. Snyder, in brief remarks to kick off the event, hailed the spirit of Detroiters. Their positivity, he said, is part of what makes Detroit "America's comeback city."

Gov. Snyder on rising Detroit demo costs: I'm not running the city (Mlive)
While Duggan says the state oversees all of the demolition bids awarded to contractors, Snyder's administration says the control is with Duggan.

Bangladesh event
Gov. Snyder joins Bangladeshis in opening BanglaTown (Freep)
Greektown and Mexicantown have been well known to metro Detroiters for decades. Now, the Bangladeshi-American community is working to promote BanglaTown — an area in Hamtramck and Detroit where their population is growing.

Energy plan
Gov. Rick Snyder backs committee-approved House energy plan for Michigan (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday issued a statement in support of the House energy plan approved by the House Energy Policy Committee this week, saying the bills would be a victory for Michiganders.

Gov. Rick Snyder: House energy legislation would help Michigan meet its needs long into future (UP Matters/TV 3)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued the following statement regarding the state House Energy Policy Committee's approval of a package of legislation that will help Michigan meet its energy needs long into the future:

Event preview
Governor Snyder advocates for skill-based jobs (WLNS)
There are more than 8,300 skilled trade jobs currently available in Michigan and Monday Governor Rick Snyder will be

busy in Grand Rapids raising awareness for those professions. Governor Snyder will be speaking at the Kent Career Technical Center. The governor says skill trade workers represent exactly the types of skills employers are looking for and pay between 12 and 34 dollars per hour.

LT. GOV'S ACTIVITIES

Spartans vs. Chippewas in Special Olympics unified game (WZZM)
Michigan's Lt. Governor Brian Calley and House Speaker Kevin Cotter traded their suits for basketball jerseys on Friday. They played in a Unified Basketball Game with Special Olympics athletes at Central Michigan University. The athletes were from Lansing and Mount Pleasant. They played alongside members of CMU and Michigan State's basketball teams.

Central Michigan University Hosts Special Olympics Basketball Game (9&10 News)
Amateur athletes from around the state gathered for a special basketball game Friday afternoon. They took the court at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. It was the Chips versus the Spartans. Lieutenant governor Brian Calley, an MSU grad played, with students and Special Olympics athletes from the Lansing area. Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, a CMU grad, played with students and Special Olympics athletes from the Mount Pleasant area.

House speaker, lieutenant governor take part in Special Olympics game (Morning Sun)
In the end, it just wasn't meant to be. Even though Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley outscored his on-court nemesis, Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, his Michigan State University team failed, losing to Cotter's Central Michigan University team in a hard-fought battle at the CMU Student Activity Center Friday.

Calley and Bernstein to speak in Howell (Livingston Daily)
Less than two weeks after crossing the New York Marathon finish line together, Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and state Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein will team up again, this time in Howell, for a cause near and dear to their hearts.

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Sue Snyder visiting Western Michigan University on Monday (WKZO-AM)
Michigan First Lady Sue Snyder will be on the Western Michigan University campus tonight with an expert on the issue of preventing sexual assaults on campus.

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PAC ad knocks Schuette for opposing clean energy plan (The Detroit News)
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Michigan AG Bill Schuette targeted by national PAC for Clean Power Plan lawsuit (Mlive)
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OPINION

Arellan: Strong evaluations can boost teaching (Detroit News)
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REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, November 9, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Pancake breakfast
At a pancake breakfast, Metro Detroit rings in holidays (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan helped kick off the holiday season Friday at a pancake breakfast at the Detroit Parade Co. Snyder, in brief remarks to kick off the event, hailed the spirit of Detroiters. Their positivity, he said, is part of what makes Detroit "America's comeback city."

Gov. Snyder on rising Detroit demo costs: I'm not running the city (Mlive)
While Duggan says the state oversees all of the demolition bids awarded to contractors, Snyder's administration says the control is with Duggan.

Bangladesh event
Gov. Snyder joins Bangladeshis in opening BanglaTown (Freep)
Greektown and Mexicantown have been well known to metro Detroiters for decades. Now, the Bangladeshi-American community is working to promote BanglaTown — an area in Hamtramck and Detroit where their population is growing.

Energy plan
Gov. Rick Snyder backs committee-approved House energy plan for Michigan (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder on Friday issued a statement in support of the House energy plan approved by the House Energy Policy Committee this week, saying the bills would be a victory for Michiganders.

Gov. Rick Snyder: House energy legislation would help Michigan meet its needs long into future (UP Matters/TV 3)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued the following statement regarding the state House Energy Policy Committee's approval of a package of legislation that will help Michigan meet its energy needs long into the future:

Event preview
Governor Snyder advocates for skill-based jobs (WLNS)
There are more than 8,300 skilled trade jobs currently available in Michigan and Monday Governor Rick Snyder will be busy in Grand Rapids raising awareness for those professions. Governor Snyder will be speaking at the Kent Career Technical Center. The governor says skill trade workers represent exactly the types of skills employers are looking for and pay between 12 and 34 dollars per hour.

LT. GOV'S ACTIVITIES

Spartans vs. Chippewas in Special Olympics unified game (WZZM)
Michigan's Lt. Governor Brian Calley and House Speaker Kevin Cotter traded their suits for basketball

jerseys on Friday. They played in a Unified Basketball Game with Special Olympics athletes at Central Michigan University. The athletes were from Lansing and Mount Pleasant. They played alongside members of CMU and Michigan State's basketball teams.

Central Michigan University Hosts Special Olympics Basketball Game (9&10 News)
Amateur athletes from around the state gathered for a special basketball game Friday afternoon. They took the court at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. It was the Chips versus the Spartans. Lieutenant governor Brian Calley, an MSU grad played, with students and Special Olympics athletes from the Lansing area. Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, a CMU grad, played with students and Special Olympics athletes from the Mount Pleasant area.

House speaker, lieutenant governor take part in Special Olympics game (Morning Sun)
In the end, it just wasn't meant to be. Even though Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley outscored his on-court nemesis, Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter, his Michigan State University team failed, losing to Cotter's Central Michigan University team in a hard-fought battle at the CMU Student Activity Center Friday.

Calley and Bernstein to speak in Howell (Livingston Daily)
Less than two weeks after crossing the New York Marathon finish line together, Michigan Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and state Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein will team up again, this time in Howell, for a cause near and dear to their hearts.

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Sue Snyder visiting Western Michigan University on Monday (WKZO-AM)
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From: Brown, Jessica (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 9:56 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/10 Newsroom

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Roads Signing Preview

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder to sign road funding plan into law today (MLive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will sign a long-term road funding package into law on Tuesday afternoon, ending a years-long legislative battle over how best to address the state's crumbling infrastructure.

Snyder to sign road funding package Tuesday (Detroit Free Press)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is to sign into law a controversial $1.2-billion road funding package on Tuesday.

Snyder to sign road-spending bills with tax hikes (Detroit News)
Gov. Rick Snyder planned Tuesday to sign legislation calling for a long-term increase in Michigan road repair financing through budget earmarks and increased motorist fees and taxes.

Gov. Rick Snyder to sign road funding bill today (WXYZ)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will sign the road funding bill this afternoon at the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association in Okemos.

Governor Snyder will sign new road funding package on Tuesday (9&10)
Governor Rick Snyder plans to sign the road funding package.

Snyder to sign Michigan roads funding bills package Tuesday (WDIV)
Gov. Rick Snyder will sign off Tuesday on a new plan to boost road spending that includes a 20 percent hike in vehicle registration fees and a 7.3-cent gasoline tax increase.

Governor Snyder signing roads bills Tuesday (WILX)
Gov. Rick Snyder will sign a road-funding package into law on Tuesday afternoon near Lansing.

Gov. Rick Snyder to sign roads bill Tuesday afternoon (FOX 2)
The office of Governor Rick Snyder announced Monday that the governor will sign the road funding package approved by the house and senate last week.

Snyder to sign road bills Tuesday; plan has tax, fee hikes (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder will sign a road-funding package into law on Tuesday afternoon near Lansing.

Snyder: Road funding bill 'a good balance' (WOOD)
Gov. Rick Snyder will sign the long-awaited $1.2 billion road funding bill into law this week.

Governor to sign road funding legislation (WWMT)
Tuesday morning, Governor Snyder will sign a deal to fix Michigan's roads.

Skilled Trades Road Show
Gov. Rick Snyder launches statewide tour to promote skilled trades (MLive)
Gov. Rick Snyder gazed out into an audience of around 250 Kent Career Tech Center students Monday, Nov. 9, and said he was looking at Michigan's economic future and it is bright.

DPS
Gov. Snyder's new plan would split Detroit Public Schools in two (Michigan Radio)
Now that state lawmakers have cobbled together a roads package, the spotlight can turn to fresh priorities.

Lansing plan for DPS could involve EM firing (FOX 2)
The battle over Governor Snyder's plan to save Detroit Public Schools has been heating up in Lansin

Governor has lonely struggle pushing state aid to Detroit schools (WLNS)
Governor Rick Snyder wants state lawmakers to send state aid to the Detroit Schools to eliminate the $700 million deficit.

FIRST LADY'S ACTIVITIES
Raise Your Voice at WMU
First Lady Snyder to visit WMU, highlight campus assault prevention initiative (WKZO)
Podcast: Jim welcomes First Lady Sue Snyder

First Lady Sue Snyder tackles on campus sexual assault in Kalamazoo (WWMT)
Michigan's First Lady Sue Snyder says it's time to speak-up when it comes to on-campus sexual assault.

Michigan's First Lady visits WMU to talk about sexual assault prevention (MLive)
Michigan first lady Sue Snyder will visit Western Michigan University at 7 p.m. tonight, Monday, Nov. 9, to highlight the "Inform. Empower. Prevent. Let's End Campus Sexual Assault" initiative and grant program.

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Source of high lead levels in drinking water at one Flint school identified (Michigan Radio)
New tests suggest high lead levels in the drinking water at one Flint school may have a simple and inexpensive solution.

Flint students can be tested for lead after toxic levels found in schools (MLive)
Parents in Flint can get their children tested for lead during an education program hosted by the Flint School District after toxic levels of lead were found at three elementary schools in the district.

A top EPA official is meeting with a top critic of its handling of Flint's water woes (Michigan Radio)

A meeting this week may help produce an update into a possible federal probe of Flint's water problems.

DNR

Michigan DNR seeks public input on future improvements to Belle Isle's athletic complex (Click on Detroit)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is seeking input from the public on future improvements at Belle Isle's athletic complex. An open house is planned from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Belle Isle casino. The DNR is in the beginning stages of planning improvements to the complex, scheduled to be phased in over the next few years. The event will include roundtable discussions about ideas for the athletic fields and courts on the island park in the Detroit River.

Logging planned for Mio Pond campground, fishing site (AP)
Portions of the Mio Pond State Forest Campground and fishing site in Oscoda County will be cut down over the next several months. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources says the logging operations are expected to begin early next week. The DNR says all aspen trees within the areas will be removed because they've reached an age where they are a hazard to visitors, often snapping off during storms.

Wayne County OKs deal to build pier at wildlife refuge (The Detroit News)
Wayne County commissioners have approved a $1 million deal with a coalition of Downriver communities to build a boat dock and fishing pier at a wildlife refuge.The 15-member county commission voted unanimously to OK the agreement with the Downriver Community Conference for the project at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway in Trenton and Gibraltar. Based in Southgate, the Downriver Community Conference is an alliance of 20 Wayne County cities and townships.

Lake Huron commercial trial ends 1st year (The Times Herald)
The first year of a three-year experiment allowing commercial fishing for whitefish in southern Lake Huron is wrapping up. Tom Goniea, the administrator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' commercial fishing program, said commercial fisherman Dana Serafin of Pinconning had collapsed his trap nets before pulling them. "He's done for the season now," Goniea said. "I was out on his boat (Oct. 26) when he did his last set of the year."

Deer hunters, don't forget to apply for Pure Michigan Hunt (Petoskey News)
The Department of Natural Resources reminds deer hunters, while buying their deer licenses this year, to take a moment to purchase Pure Michigan Hunt applications, because there is still plenty of time to make 2016 the hunt of a lifetime. Applications are on sale until Dec. 31, and three winners will be randomly drawn in January 2016. Applications are $5 each, in unlimited quantities, and can be purchased at any license agent or online at E-License. Pure Michigan Hunt winners receive licenses including elk, bear, spring and fall turkey, and antlerless deer and first pick at a managed waterfowl hunt area, all to be used in the 2016 hunting season. Along with the hunting licenses, each winner will receive a hunting prize package valued at more than $4,000.

MDARD

Scam Week: Looking at skimmers (WWMT)
The Newschannel 3 I-Team is digging into what's behind the high tech scam of "skimming," which is exploding in West Michigan.

Credit card information stolen with 'skimmer' at gas station (Up North Live)
Thieves are stealing credit card information at the pump and they've made their way to northern Michigan.

Roseville woman accused of food law violations (Macomb Daily)
A 35-year-old Roseville woman accused of selling canned food products with improper labels and without a license at farm markets was formally charged last month and faces a pretrial later this month.

MDE

From the Daily: Testing Action Plan a good (M-)STEP (Michigan Daily)

A solution to fix standardized testing practices has recently bubbled up. On Oct. 24, the Obama administration admitted it had pushed too far in holding state schools accountable based on their students' standardized test scores. In light of this acknowledgment, the administration called on Congress to include specific measures that address the overemphasis on standardized testing in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act — a bill previously termed No Child Left Behind. Two different versions of the ESEA were reauthorized in July by both the House and the Senate, and the fate of the bill lies in the two chambers' ability to compromise.

MDOC

Michigan revising rates for inmate calls after FCC decision (AP)

The Michigan Department of Corrections is revising rates for inmate phone calls after the Federal Communications Commission decided to reduce the cost of jail and prison phone calls. Corrections Department spokesman Chris Gautz tells The Detroit News (http://detne.ws/1QdBreL) officials are working to determine how the change will impact revenue. The department last year generated $11.5 million from inmate calls. The money flows into a "special equipment fund" used in recent years for security upgrades and counseling programs such as violence prevention and sex-offender treatment.

MDOT

FPS superintendent makes grade recommendation Tuesday (Farmington Voice)

Farmington Public Schools Superintendent George Heitsch will present a recommendation for grade reconfiguration during a special school board meeting held Tuesday at 7 p.m., in the North Farmington High School Auditorium. Officials will discuss the recommendation, which is expected to drive the conversation around a Building and Site Utilization Committee report on the impact of closing and/or repurposing school buildings. The board will host another special meeting at 7 p.m. on November 30, at Harrison High School, to hear public comment on tonight's recommendations.

MSP

State police reminding everyone to move over or slow down for emergency vehicles (MI News 26)

The Michigan State Police would like to remind everyone that state law requires motorists to move over for stationary emergency vehicles that have their lights activated. If it's possible you should safely change lanes to give a wide berth for the officers or to at least slow down and pass with caution. MSP released this photo of a patrol vehicle of what can happen when you don't exercise caution.

SOS

Where does Michigan rank in a "State Integrity Investigation"? Dead last (Michigan Radio)

Fiftieth out of fifty states. That's where Michigan ranks in a report released today by the Center for Public Integrity. The last time we wrote about this, Michigan ranked 43rd out of 50. In his piece on Michigan for the Center for Public Integrity, Chad Selweski details just why Michigan is at the bottom of the barrel: A significant factor in Michigan's 2015 ranking is its lack of effective disclosure rules for officials in nearly all facets of state government. Conflicts of interest and potential public corruption remain buried in an honor system with no honor.

Thanks to loopholes created by the legislature, big spenders representing special interests can dramatically influence an election without leaving a trace.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Integrity Report ranks Michigan worst in nation for government transparency, accountability (MLive)

Michigan has the worst government transparency and accountability laws and practices in the country, according a new corruptibility report card from the Center for Public Integrity. Michigan received a failing grade — and the lowest overall score — from CPI, which measured each state on 250 specific "indicators" related to ethics enforcement, lobbying disclosure, political financing, legislative accountability and more.

Bill would give some state workers police powers (Detroit Free Press)

Critics say a bill giving new police powers to certain state workers would create "welfare police" to punish the poor, but supporters say it's a stride toward efficiency and protecting taxpayer dollars. State Sen. Peter MacGregor's Senate Bill 384 would give arrest powers to employees of the Department of Health & Human Service's Office of Inspector General. That agency investigates welfare fraud, such as when food stamps are sold for cash or used for ineligible items such as cigarettes.

Hoadley: Legislators reviewing proposed Michigan energy bill package (WTVB)
Rep. Jon Hoadley says Michigan legislators have begun reviewing the details of a proposed state energy bill package. Hoadley, a Democrat from Kalamazoo, said it left committee last Thursday night, and votes on elements of the package could come as early as Tuesday in the House. "There's, like, four big pieces of it," Hoadley said. "How much is renewable? How much is energy-efficiency? How much our rate-payers going to pay? Then there's some other issues around monopoly and choice."

A bill aims to more fairly split purses at state's last two racetracks (Bridge Magazine)
An update to Michigan's 20-year-old horse racing statute pending in the state Senate could reconfigure the way purse money is paid out to the state's two remaining racing tracks. Senate Bill 504, introduced by Sen. David Robertson, R-Grand Blanc Township, would update a 1995 state law that deals with everything from revenue distribution to the number of days of live racing (Robertson did not return messages seeking comment).

New virtual tour of Michigan Capitol building unveiled (Crain's Detroit Business)
The state over the weekend rolled out an interactive virtual tour of Michigan's Capitol building, meaning it now takes just a computer and an Internet connection to visit the historic building. The Michigan Capitol Commission, the Capitol's governing board, formally unveiled the feature today. The group calls it the only such tour of a statehouse anywhere in the country.

DETROIT

What Mayor Mike Duggan called 'No. 1 risk to Detroit's recovery' (MLive)
Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan thanked Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell for a good working relationship and congratulated mayor-elect Rosalynn Bliss during an Economic Club luncheon this afternoon. Then, after the second-year mayor of Michigan's largest city illustrated several positive developments, Duggan highlighted something Detroit and Grand Rapids share when he was asked to identify his city's biggest challenge.

Jurors award $250,000 to Pugh accuser (The Detroit News)
Jurors on Monday awarded $250,000 to a former Detroit Public Schools student who claimed former City Council President Charles Pugh offered him money in exchange for a sex video. In a split verdict, the jury dismissed a sexual harassment claim brought by the former student against Pugh, but found Pugh liable for battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress in the civil case.

After bankruptcy, Detroit's second shot (Lansing State Journal)
The city of Detroit has more than enough cash to pay its daily bills. Thousands of busted streetlights have been replaced. City retirees still receive pension checks and valuable paintings remain ensconced in the gilded halls of the Detroit Institute of Arts. That's the good news. But a year after a federal judge approved a cost-cutting and reinvestment plan in the nation's largest-ever municipal bankruptcy case, Detroit's financial future still hangs in the balance.
Detroit's firefighting downgrade fuels insurance hikes (The Detroit News)
Chronic problems at the Detroit Fire Department are catching up to homeowners in the form of higher insurance rates. Detroit already has the highest rates in the state. Now, they're rising again for many, after a group that analyzes communities' fire protection for insurance companies downgraded the city. It's the first time the firm, New Jersey-based Insurance Services Office, has changed Detroit's rating in at least 25 years.

Nonprofit opens Ideas Box for Detroit recreation center (The Detroit News)

A nonprofit group committed to boosting educational efforts around the world unwrapped a gift of sorts Monday in Detroit. Libraries Without Borders "opened" the Ideas Box, a portable media center that provides the Internet, books, tablets, cameras and tools to access information for use in the city's Farwell Recreation Center, officials announced.

OPINION

Michigan roads need talent as much as a funding deal (Detroit Free Press)
The long slog to get a road-funding bill through the Michigan Legislature could lull us into thinking that fixing Michigan's roads is just a matter of finding enough money. If only it were that easy.

Michigan Legislature, heal thyself (Detroit Free Press)
Since convening 10 months ago, the current Michigan Legislature has cracked down on local minimum wage requirements, authorized commercial quadricycles to serve alcohol, and even addressed (however inadequately) the chronic underfunding of state roads.

Bensten: Why the Common Core tests are collapsing (Detroit News)
Common Core is the latest in a series of failed federal education reforms. The goal was for individual states to adopt these national academic standards and tests.

Our editorial: Keep momentum on rape kit testing (Detroit News)
Wayne County will give $1 million to the ongoing testing and investigation of backlogged rape kits discovered six years ago in a Detroit police facility. It's the right move for the county, past mismanagement of which no doubt contributed to the kits' neglect.

M-STEP scores may shock, but don't shoot the messenger (MLive)
Five long years ago, Michigan and more than 40 other states adopted tough new standards in reading and math, setting dramatically higher expectations for students in elementary and secondary schools. Now we've reached a critical milestone in this effort, as the public just got to see for the first time the scores on the new tests aligned to the standards. The news was sobering.

Our view: A long time coming (Midland Daily News)
After years of debating a solution to Michigan's road funding shortfall, the state legislature last week finally found the willpower to narrowly pass legislation that, over time, will provided needed funding for infrastructure projects.

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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2015 2:03 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

state of Michigan

Daily update - November 11, 2015

NEWS

Michigan State No. 13, Michigan No. 14 in College Football Playoff rankings

MLive.com

Michigan State stands at No. 13 and **Michigan** is No. 14 in the most recent College Football Playoff rankings released on ESPN on Tuesday night.

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State prepares to sign No. 2-ranked recruiting class in country, best of Tom Izzo era

MLive.com

Miles Bridges, five star basketball recruit and Flint native, talks with members of the media after signing with **Michigan State** University on Saturday, ...

MSU's entire hoops recruiting class signs on first day - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Izzo wants more defense out of MSU entering season

Detroit Free Press

EAST LANSING -- The **state** of the **Michigan State** basketball team entering its first game can be summed up in these words from senior center Matt ...

Jamie: MSU game proves replay review must go further - Detroit Free Press (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Secondary's struggles finally catch up to Michigan State

USA TODAY

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Before the controversial touchdown that ended **Michigan State's** hopes of an undefeated season, the Spartans' biggest ...

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio 'not worried about the style points' - MLive.com

MSU players, coaches express need to persevere after letdown - Detroit Free Press

UM aware it needs Ohio State's help to win Big Ten - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

5 things to watch. **Michigan State** looks for authoritative win over Maryland

MLive.com

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio, who has led the Spartans to wins in 34 of their last 38 games, looks to have MSU walking tall again.

Michigan State Spartans 2015–16 team preview - Sports Illustrated

Michigan State Spartans vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers: Betting odds, point spread - Financial Company Voices

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State vs. Maryland Prediction, Game Preview

Campus Insiders

Can **Michigan State** (8-1) bounceback and become a player in the Big Ten title chase again? It still has almost everything on the table, but it can't blow ...

Terps Set to Face #14 **Michigan State** - UMTerps.com

Maryland WR sees 'great opportunity' for upset vs. MSU - Detroit Free Press

Maryland expecting to face resilient **Michigan State** team this weekend - Carroll County Times

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's Jack Conklin puts his foot down on 'lucky play' finishes

MLive.com

Michigan State Outland Trophy candidate Jack Conklin, a former walk-on from Plainwell who has grown into one of the finest offensive tackles in the ...

Flag as irrelevant

Four-star DL Naquan Jones decommits from **Michigan State**

MLive.com

Jones becomes a rare player to decommit from **Michigan State** under Mark Dantonio, and the first player in the class of 2016. He announced his ...

Naquan Jones Decommits from **Michigan State**: Latest Details, Comments, Reaction - Bleacher Report

Top247 DT decommits from **Michigan State** - 247Sports

Four-star DT Naquan Jones decommits from MSU - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

EPA to audit **Michigan** drinking water program following Flint lead crisis

MLive.com

Dan Kildee, D-Flint, and **state** Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich, D-Flint. Brad Wurfel, a spokesman for the DEQ, issued a statement today, pledging ...

State urges water tests at Flint homes, businesses - The Detroit News

EPA to audit Michigan's oversight of water safety - Detroit Free Press
Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State ties school record with 5 already invited to Senior Bowl

MLive.com

Michigan State product Jeremy Langford shined at the Senior Bowl last season before being drafted by the Chicago Bears in the 2015 NFL draft.

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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, November 12, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Road Bills Signing
Gov. Snyder to sign road-spending bills with tax hikes (AP)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will sign a road-spending package into law that includes the state's first fuel tax and vehicle registration fee increases in decades.The long-elusive legislation to be enacted on Tuesday raises the gasoline tax hike by 7.3 cents and vehicle registration fees by 20 percent in 2017. It also permanently shifts existing state funds toward road work starting in three years.

Gov. Snyder signs $1.2B road funding package (Detroit Free Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder capped a four-year effort Tuesday when he signed into law a $1.2-billion road funding package that will hike fuel taxes and registration fees and also take $600 million a year from the state's general fund to fix and maintain Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges. The package, narrowly passed by the Legislature on Nov. 3, has drawn praise from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, which says better roads will help the state's business climate, and the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, which represents the road building industry and hosted Snyder's bill-signing ceremony.

Gov. Snyder to sign road plan into law on Tuesday (WWMT)
The road funding plan passed by state lawmakers just last week will soon become law. Governor Rick Snyder is expected to sign the $1.2 billion plan on Tuesday. That plan includes increases to vehicle registration fees and taxes on gasoline. Governor Snyder will be joined by the managing director of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, among others, as he signs that plan into law.

Skilled Trades Road Show
Gov. Praises Tech Center Programs, Encourages Students (School News Network)
To make a device to help a girl with cerebral palsy open her locker was cool enough. To be able to demonstrate it to Gov. Rick Snyder? "Amazing," said Trevor Corrigan. "It was just an unthinkable opportunity," said Trevor, an engineering student at the Kent Career Tech Center, after taking part in Snyder's tour on Monday. The Northview High School senior

showed the governor how his eight-member team designed and 3-D-printed a plastic mechanism that will make it easier for sixth-grader Brin DeVries to open her locker at Excel Charter Academy.

DPS

Will Governor Fire Detroit Public Schools' Emergency Manager? (Deadline Detroit)
State Senate Democratic leader Jim Ananich wants to help Gov. Rick Snyder push a plan that would pump $700 million in state support into the Detroit school district to eradicate the deficit. But he wants one thing: He wants Snyder to fire the district's emergency manager, Darnell Earley, reports Fox 2's Tim Skubick.

MISCELLANEOUS

Gov. Rick Snyder honors Michigan's veterans (UPMatters)
Gov. Rick Snyder issued the following statement in honor of Veterans Day.

Gov. Snyder champions the Kalamazoo Promise, challenges other locales to take the city's lead (WKZO)
Gov. Rick Snyder was in Kalamazoo on Wednesday to applaud the 10-year anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Gov. Rick Snyder talks shipping, energy, casino in Muskegon visit (MLive)
Hours after the Port of Muskegon received its last shipment of coal to the closing B.C. Cobb plant, Gov. Rick Snyder was in town talking about the future of shipping and energy.

LT. GOV'S ACTIVITIES

Political Opposites Run 26.2—Together (Runner's World)
Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein and Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley don't agree on much. After all, Bernstein is a progressive Democrat, Calley a conservative Republican.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ

EPA to audit Michigan drinking water program following Flint lead crisis (Mlive)
In the wake of a public health crisis over high lead levels in water in some Flint homes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced it will audit the state's drinking water program. A Nov. 10 news release from the EPA says it will examine the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's "implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and related rules on lead and copper, total coliform, nitrates and ground water."

EPA to audit Michigan's oversight of water safety (Detroit Free Press)
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will audit the state of Michigan's drinking water safety program in the wake of Flint's water crisis, which found lead in the city's water system. The audit comes after the Michigan Department of Environment Quality admitted last month that it used the wrong protocols after it approved Flint's switch to the Flint River as its primary source of drinking water last year.

DNR

National Guard helps DNR construct UP multi-use trails (Your Daily Globe)
On Veterans Day, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources points out the trail-making efforts of the 1432nd Engineer Company of the Michigan Army National Guard. The unit, based in Kingsford with a detachment in Iron River, has conducted heavy equipment training exercises that have improved state and local multi-use trails in Iron County.

MDE

Watch Ann Arbor schools earn awards at 2015 National Blue Ribbon ceremony (Mlive)
Two Ann Arbor Public Schools elementaries earned 2015 National Blue Ribbon School awards, and all of Ann Arbor can have a front-row seat to the recognition ceremony. The U.S. Department of Education named Angell and Wines

elementary schools to its list of 335 schools that earned the prestigious award for academic excellence and work on closing the achievement gap. Of those 335 schools in the nation, 13 are from Michigan.

Tougher science standards OK'd, social studies delayed (Detroit Free Press)
The State Board of Education approved new science standards today that will alter the way students are taught the subject, while the Michigan Department of Education put changes to social studies standards on hold. The change in the science standards means there will be greater emphasis on thinking and acting like a scientist and less emphasis on memorizing basic facts. The idea is for students to have a deeper knowledge of the subject.

Group says Clarkston teacher forced to pay union fees in right-to-work violation (Mlive)
A national group that advocates against mandatory union membership claims a Michigan teacher's union and school district have violated the state's right-to-work law. Ron Conwell, a computer science teacher at Clarkston Community Schools, filed a complaint Monday with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission against the district and the Clarkston Education Association, according to the National Right to Work Foundation.

Michigan Has New Science Standards for K-12 Students (WMUK)
Michigan school districts will implement new science standards over the next seven years. The State Board of Education overwhelmingly adopted the new standards on Tuesday. Supporters say the standards will increase interest in science by applying lessons to real-life scenarios.

MDOC
Appeals court: State worker not disabled (Lansing State Journal)
A Michigan Department of Corrections nurse was not totally disabled by post-traumatic stress disorder after she was attacked by an inmate, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled. The nurse, Valerie Hammond, was attacked in February 2007 by a prisoner at the Marquette Branch Prison while performing an examination.

MDOT
MDOT revokes Dearborn Heights-based limo rental's operating authority (Crain's Business Detroit)
Dearborn Heights-based Entertainment Express Limousine and Party Bus has lost its operating license after incurring 36 violations over the past year, the Michigan Department of Transportation announced Tuesday. This is the first time MDOT has revoked a company's operating license following legal action, according to Jean Rustman, administrator of MDOT's Program Administration Section.

Michigan DOT holds public webinar on long-range transportation plan revisions (Equipment World)
The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is holding a public webinar Nov. 12 to discuss "forecasts and strategies" in the state's "MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward." The current plan covers the years 2005 to 2035 and MDOT is looking to add plans continuing to 2040.

MDHHS
November is Michigan Diabetes Awareness Month (UP Matter/TV 3)
An estimated 10.4 percent of Michigan adults 18 years and older have been diagnosed with diabetes. That's why the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is highlighting Michigan Diabetes Awareness Month with an event at the Michigan Capitol Building on Thursday, November 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Capitol Rotunda. The event is jointly sponsored by the American Diabetes Association and the Diabetes Partners in Action Coalition.

'Dismemberment abortion' ban advances from House committee (Mlive)
A bill to ban what pro-life advocates refer to as "dismemberment abortion" advanced from the House Criminal Justice Committee on Tuesday without the support of Democratic members. House Bill 4833 seeks to ban any abortion procedure that uses a device to "dismember a living fetus by disarticulating limbs or decapitating the head from the fetal torso and removing the dismembered fetal body parts from the uterus." These are sometimes referred to as D&E abortions, short for dilation and evacuation, and are usually performed during the second trimester.

MVAA

Veterans comprise more of DTE Energy employee ranks (PR Newswire)
When Sgt. Glen Williams returned home from Iraq during the Gulf War, he felt honored to have served his country for eight years. "On the plane with my fellow soldiers, there was such a sense of pride in America, and a feeling of being blessed to have served," he said. But Williams had doubts, too. Doubts such as what he would do next.

General Motors Awarded 'Gold-Level Employer' Certification By Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (GM Authority)
The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) has recognized General Motors' ongoing efforts to hire and train U.S. military veterans with Gold-Level Veteran Employer Certification, the first time an automaker has received the award. The Veteran Employer Certification recognizes companies committed to military veteran recruitment, training, and retention practices, with the Gold level standing above silver and bronze to represent the highest echelon of MVAA's awards.

'Buddy To Buddy' program offers peer support for veterans (Click on Detroit)
Stephanie Zarb, an Air Force veteran originally from Redford, recalls how she felt when she first returned home. "I really struggled for a long time," Zarb said. "It was about six months after I came home, I couldn't find a job, I really didn't know what to do and like most veterans, I called my buddies and said, 'Hey what do I do?'"

MSU war veterans honored at Veterans Day breakfast (The State News)
Today is Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to appreciating the labors and sacrifices of those who have served in America's military, as well as honoring the memory of those lost in the nation's conflicts. In honor of veterans who are either current students or Alumni at MSU, the MSU Student Veterans of America chapter held a Veterans Day Breakfast in the Huntington Club at Spartan Stadium this morning. The event — the first of its kind held by the chapter — featured a catered meal and guest appearances by MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and Ret. Brigadier General Michael C.H. McDaniel, former Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security for the Michigan National Guard.

MPSC

Michigan Agency for Energy/Michigan Public Service Commission and Saginaw Plaza Receive the 2015 Energy Services Coalition, MI Chapter Award for Economic Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Businesswire)
a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, announced today that the Michigan Agency for Energy/Michigan Public Service Commission (MAE/MPSC) were awarded the 2015 Energy Services Coalition (ESC) Award for Economic Leadership in Energy Efficiency. "Ameresco congratulates MAE/MPSC for being recognized with this award"

MSP

Michigan police propose changes to medical pot dispensary bill, end of caregiver model (Mlive)
Michigan law enforcement officials are not fully backing plans to overhaul the state's medical marijuana system, but unlike last year, they aren't standing in the way of proposed legislation. "While law enforcement cannot support any legislation that by definition is illegal under federal law due to the classification of marijuana, what we can do is find a position not to oppose having a tough and tight regulatory framework," said Howell Police Chief George Basar, legislative chairman for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Senate votes to move Oakland executive election (AP)
The election of Oakland County's executive would be switched to midterm instead of presidential years under legislation approved by the Michigan Senate. Supporters of the bill passed Tuesday say it makes sense for the suburban Detroit county to elect its top leader when neighboring Wayne and Macomb counties do. Democrats say the bill is a politically motivated bid to help Republicans retain power in Oakland whenever longtime Executive L. Brooks Patterson retires.

Senates nixes paid union release time for public workers (AP)

A divided Michigan Senate has narrowly voted to prohibit public employers from authorizing paid release time for unionized employees to conduct union business. Republicans approved the bill Tuesday 20-17 and sent it to the House, with Democrats and some Republicans in opposition.

Michigan Senate committee votes to eliminate straight-ticket voting in elections (Click on Detroit)
Michigan voters could no longer cast a straight ticket for a slate of candidates representing the party of their choice under legislation sent to the floor of the state Senate. Republicans on the Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee passed the bill along party lines Tuesday.

Straight-ticket voting ban speeds through Michigan Senate with shield against repeal (Mlive)
Michigan voters would lose the ability to cast a straight-ticket ballot for candidates of a single political party under fast-tracked legislation approved Tuesday evening in the state Senate. The Republican-backed bill advanced through committee earlier the same day before reaching the floor, where it was amended to include a $1 million appropriation that would make it immune to referendum.

What Michigan's new road funding rules mean for you, your taxes and your roads (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed into law a series of new road funding laws that will raise taxes by $600 million a year and eventually re-prioritize another $600 million in state spending. The Republican-crafted plan represents Michigan's largest transportation funding increase in more than 50 years, according to Snyder, but it's faced criticism for various tax changes, a delayed phase in and the potential effect on other government services.

Lansing set to ignore '02 voting referendum (The Times Herald)
Michigan lawmakers, after getting an 'F' for transparency and accountability from the Center for Public Integrity, mean to protect that accomplishment by ignoring one of your past votes and making your future votes more time-consuming. The state Senate on Wednesday passed a bill that would eliminate straight-ticket voting in Michigan. The bill now goes to the House.

Senate votes to end straight-ticket voting, union employee leave time (Crain's Business Detroit)
The Republican-controlled Michigan Senate flexed its political muscle Tuesday, voting to end straight-ticket voting and paid union leave for public workers and to switch the date for electing a suburban Detroit county's executive. The bills, which Democrats decried as blatantly partisan, were sent to the GOP-led House mostly along party lines, with some Republicans in opposition.

Why Michigan's proposed 30 percent clean energy goal may not be as impressive as it sounds (Mlive)
Democrats won a clean energy amendment to a package to overhaul Michigan energy policy as it advanced from committee last week, but advocates say 30 percent by 2025 isn't as impressive as it sounds. If you drill down into the numbers, advocates say 30 percent may be more like 5 percent in actual new renewable energy.

Michigan Democrats run 'birthday tax' ads blasting Republican road funding plan (Mlive)
While Gov. Rick Snyder was signing a long-term road funding plan into law Tuesday, the Michigan Democratic Party was launching a series of ads targeting Republican lawmakers who voted for it. Four of them, anyway, who just happen to represent highly competitive districts.

DETROIT

County school leaders cautious on DPS rescue plan (The Detroit News)
The leaders of intermediate school districts in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties said Tuesday they don't want a rescue of Detroit Public Schools to come at the expense of other districts. During a meeting with The Detroit News Editorial Board, the superintendents of the Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools and Wayne RESA said they understand the need to pay off DPS' debt and create a new, debt-free Detroit district, as did officials from the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education, which represents superintendents in the three Metro Detroit counties.

Detroit Schools: Financial audit shows budget deficit for 2014-15 smaller than projected (Click on Detroit)
A report shows the Detroit Public Schools deficit is smaller than originally projected. The district said Tuesday that officials expected a deficit of about $70 million during the 2014-15 fiscal year, but an audit filed Nov. 2 with the state puts it at $46.5 million.

Detroit Public Schools shows $1.66 billion net deficit under new accounting requirement (Crain's Business Detroit)
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#####

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, November 12, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Road Bills Signing

Gov. Snyder to sign road-spending bills with tax hikes (AP)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will sign a road-spending package into law that includes the state's first fuel tax and vehicle registration fee increases in decades.The long-elusive legislation to be enacted on Tuesday raises the gasoline tax hike by 7.3 cents and vehicle registration fees by 20 percent in 2017. It also permanently shifts existing state funds toward road work starting in three years.

Gov. Snyder signs $1.2B road funding package (Detroit Free Press)
Gov. Rick Snyder capped a four-year effort Tuesday when he signed into law a $1.2-billion road funding package that will hike fuel taxes and registration fees and also take $600 million a year from the state's general fund to fix and maintain Michigan's crumbling roads and bridges. The package, narrowly passed by the Legislature on Nov. 3, has drawn praise from the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, which says better roads will help the state's business climate, and the Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association, which represents the road building industry and hosted Snyder's bill-signing ceremony.

Gov. Snyder to sign road plan into law on Tuesday (WWMT)
The road funding plan passed by state lawmakers just last week will soon become law. Governor Rick Snyder is expected to sign the $1.2 billion plan on Tuesday. That plan includes increases to vehicle registration fees and taxes on gasoline. Governor Snyder will be joined by the managing director of the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County, among others, as he signs that plan into law.

Skilled Trades Road Show

Gov. Praises Tech Center Programs, Encourages Students (School News Network)
To make a device to help a girl with cerebral palsy open her locker was cool enough. To be able to demonstrate it to Gov. Rick Snyder? "Amazing," said Trevor Corrigan. "It was just an unthinkable opportunity," said Trevor, an engineering student at the Kent Career Tech Center, after taking part in Snyder's tour on Monday. The Northview High School senior showed the governor how his eight-member team designed and 3-D-printed a plastic mechanism that will make it easier for sixth-grader Brin DeVries to open her locker at Excel Charter Academy.

DPS

Will Governor Fire Detroit Public Schools' Emergency Manager? (Deadline Detroit)
State Senate Democratic leader Jim Ananich wants to help Gov. Rick Snyder push a plan that would pump $700 million in state support into the Detroit school district to eradicate the deficit. But he wants one thing: He wants Snyder to fire the district's emergency manager, Darnell Earley, reports Fox 2's Tim Skubick.

MISCELLANEOUS

Gov. Rick Snyder honors Michigan's veterans (UPMatters)

Gov. Rick Snyder issued the following statement in honor of Veterans Day.

Gov. Snyder champions the Kalamazoo Promise, challenges other locales to take the city's lead (WKZO)
Gov. Rick Snyder was in Kalamazoo on Wednesday to applaud the 10-year anniversary of the Kalamazoo Promise.

Gov. Rick Snyder talks shipping, energy, casino in Muskegon visit (MLive)
Hours after the Port of Muskegon received its last shipment of coal to the closing B.C. Cobb plant, Gov. Rick Snyder was in town talking about the future of shipping and energy.

LT. GOV'S ACTIVITIES

Political Opposites Run 26.2—Together (Runner's World)
Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein and Michigan Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley don't agree on much. After all, Bernstein is a progressive Democrat, Calley a conservative Republican.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
EPA to audit Michigan drinking water program following Flint lead crisis (Mlive)
In the wake of a public health crisis over high lead levels in water in some Flint homes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced it will audit the state's drinking water program. A Nov. 10 news release from the EPA says it will examine the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's "implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and related rules on lead and copper, total coliform, nitrates and ground water."

EPA to audit Michigan's oversight of water safety (Detroit Free Press)
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will audit the state of Michigan's drinking water safety program in the wake of Flint's water crisis, which found lead in the city's water system. The audit comes after the Michigan Department of Environment Quality admitted last month that it used the wrong protocols after it approved Flint's switch to the Flint River as its primary source of drinking water last year.

DNR
National Guard helps DNR construct UP multi-use trails (Your Daily Globe)
On Veterans Day, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources points out the trail-making efforts of the 1432nd Engineer Company of the Michigan Army National Guard. The unit, based in Kingsford with a detachment in Iron River, has conducted heavy equipment training exercises that have improved state and local multi-use trails in Iron County.

MDE
Watch Ann Arbor schools earn awards at 2015 National Blue Ribbon ceremony (Mlive)
Two Ann Arbor Public Schools elementaries earned 2015 National Blue Ribbon School awards, and all of Ann Arbor can have a front-row seat to the recognition ceremony. The U.S. Department of Education named Angell and Wines elementary schools to its list of 335 schools that earned the prestigious award for academic excellence and work on closing the achievement gap. Of those 335 schools in the nation, 13 are from Michigan.

Tougher science standards OK'd, social studies delayed (Detroit Free Press)
The State Board of Education approved new science standards today that will alter the way students are taught the subject, while the Michigan Department of Education put changes to social studies standards

on hold. The change in the science standards means there will be greater emphasis on thinking and acting like a scientist and less emphasis on memorizing basic facts. The idea is for students to have a deeper knowledge of the subject.

Group says Clarkston teacher forced to pay union fees in right-to-work violation (Mlive)
A national group that advocates against mandatory union membership claims a Michigan teacher's union and school district have violated the state's right-to-work law. Ron Conwell, a computer science teacher at Clarkston Community Schools, filed a complaint Monday with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission against the district and the Clarkston Education Association, according to the National Right to Work Foundation.

Michigan Has New Science Standards for K-12 Students (WMUK)
Michigan school districts will implement new science standards over the next seven years. The State Board of Education overwhelmingly adopted the new standards on Tuesday. Supporters say the standards will increase interest in science by applying lessons to real-life scenarios.

MDOC
Appeals court: State worker not disabled (Lansing State Journal)
A Michigan Department of Corrections nurse was not totally disabled by post-traumatic stress disorder after she was attacked by an inmate, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled. The nurse, Valerie Hammond, was attacked in February 2007 by a prisoner at the Marquette Branch Prison while performing an examination.

MDOT
MDOT revokes Dearborn Heights-based limo rental's operating authority (Crain's Business Detroit)
Dearborn Heights-based Entertainment Express Limousine and Party Bus has lost its operating license after incurring 36 violations over the past year, the Michigan Department of Transportation announced Tuesday. This is the first time MDOT has revoked a company's operating license following legal action, according to Jean Rustman, administrator of MDOT's Program Administration Section.

Michigan DOT holds public webinar on long-range transportation plan revisions (Equipment World)
The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is holding a public webinar Nov. 12 to discuss "forecasts and strategies" in the state's "MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward." The current plan covers the years 2005 to 2035 and MDOT is looking to add plans continuing to 2040.

MDHHS
November is Michigan Diabetes Awareness Month (UP Matter/TV 3)
An estimated 10.4 percent of Michigan adults 18 years and older have been diagnosed with diabetes. That's why the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is highlighting Michigan Diabetes Awareness Month with an event at the Michigan Capitol Building on Thursday, November 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Capitol Rotunda. The event is jointly sponsored by the American Diabetes Association and the Diabetes Partners in Action Coalition.

'Dismemberment abortion' ban advances from House committee (Mlive)
A bill to ban what pro-life advocates refer to as "dismemberment abortion" advanced from the House Criminal Justice Committee on Tuesday without the support of Democratic members. House Bill 4833 seeks to ban any abortion procedure that uses a device to "dismember a living fetus by disarticulating limbs or decapitating the head from the fetal torso and removing the dismembered fetal body parts from the uterus." These are sometimes referred to as D&E abortions, short for dilation and evacuation, and are usually performed during the second trimester.

MVAA

Veterans comprise more of DTE Energy employee ranks (PR Newswire)
When Sgt. Glen Williams returned home from Iraq during the Gulf War, he felt honored to have served his country for eight years. "On the plane with my fellow soldiers, there was such a sense of pride in America, and a feeling of being blessed to have served," he said. But Williams had doubts, too. Doubts such as what he would do next.

General Motors Awarded 'Gold-Level Employer' Certification By Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (GM Authority)
The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) has recognized General Motors' ongoing efforts to hire and train U.S. military veterans with Gold-Level Veteran Employer Certification, the first time an automaker has received the award. The Veteran Employer Certification recognizes companies committed to military veteran recruitment, training, and retention practices, with the Gold level standing above silver and bronze to represent the highest echelon of MVAA's awards.

'Buddy To Buddy' program offers peer support for veterans (Click on Detroit)
Stephanie Zarb, an Air Force veteran originally from Redford, recalls how she felt when she first returned home. "I really struggled for a long time," Zarb said. "It was about six months after I came home, I couldn't find a job, I really didn't know what to do and like most veterans, I called my buddies and said, 'Hey what do I do?'"

MSU war veterans honored at Veterans Day breakfast (The State News)
Today is Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to appreciating the labors and sacrifices of those who have served in America's military, as well as honoring the memory of those lost in the nation's conflicts. In honor of veterans who are either current students or Alumni at MSU, the MSU Student Veterans of America chapter held a Veterans Day Breakfast in the Huntington Club at Spartan Stadium this morning. The event — the first of its kind held by the chapter — featured a catered meal and guest appearances by MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon and Ret. Brigadier General Michael C.H. McDaniel, former Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security for the Michigan National Guard.

MPSC

Michigan Agency for Energy/Michigan Public Service Commission and Saginaw Plaza Receive the 2015 Energy Services Coalition, MI Chapter Award for Economic Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (Businesswire)
a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, announced today that the Michigan Agency for Energy/Michigan Public Service Commission (MAE/MPSC) were awarded the 2015 Energy Services Coalition (ESC) Award for Economic Leadership in Energy Efficiency. "Ameresco congratulates MAE/MPSC for being recognized with this award"

MSP

Michigan police propose changes to medical pot dispensary bill, end of caregiver model (Mlive)
Michigan law enforcement officials are not fully backing plans to overhaul the state's medical marijuana system, but unlike last year, they aren't standing in the way of proposed legislation. "While law enforcement cannot support any legislation that by definition is illegal under federal law due to the classification of marijuana, what we can do is find a position not to oppose having a tough and tight regulatory framework," said Howell Police Chief George Basar, legislative chairman for the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Michigan Senate votes to move Oakland executive election (AP)

The election of Oakland County's executive would be switched to midterm instead of presidential years under legislation approved by the Michigan Senate. Supporters of the bill passed Tuesday say it makes sense for the suburban Detroit county to elect its top leader when neighboring Wayne and Macomb counties do. Democrats say the bill is a politically motivated bid to help Republicans retain power in Oakland whenever longtime Executive L. Brooks Patterson retires.

Senates nixes paid union release time for public workers (AP)
A divided Michigan Senate has narrowly voted to prohibit public employers from authorizing paid release time for unionized employees to conduct union business. Republicans approved the bill Tuesday 20-17 and sent it to the House, with Democrats and some Republicans in opposition.

Michigan Senate committee votes to eliminate straight-ticket voting in elections (Click on Detroit)
Michigan voters could no longer cast a straight ticket for a slate of candidates representing the party of their choice under legislation sent to the floor of the state Senate. Republicans on the Senate Elections and Government Reform Committee passed the bill along party lines Tuesday.

Straight-ticket voting ban speeds through Michigan Senate with shield against repeal (Mlive)
Michigan voters would lose the ability to cast a straight-ticket ballot for candidates of a single political party under fast-tracked legislation approved Tuesday evening in the state Senate. The Republican-backed bill advanced through committee earlier the same day before reaching the floor, where it was amended to include a $1 million appropriation that would make it immune to referendum.

What Michigan's new road funding rules mean for you, your taxes and your roads (Mlive)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday signed into law a series of new road funding laws that will raise taxes by $600 million a year and eventually re-prioritize another $600 million in state spending. The Republican-crafted plan represents Michigan's largest transportation funding increase in more than 50 years, according to Snyder, but it's faced criticism for various tax changes, a delayed phase in and the potential effect on other government services.

Lansing set to ignore '02 voting referendum (The Times Herald)
Michigan lawmakers, after getting an 'F' for transparency and accountability from the Center for Public Integrity, mean to protect that accomplishment by ignoring one of your past votes and making your future votes more time-consuming. The state Senate on Wednesday passed a bill that would eliminate straight-ticket voting in Michigan. The bill now goes to the House.

Senate votes to end straight-ticket voting, union employee leave time (Crain's Business Detroit)
The Republican-controlled Michigan Senate flexed its political muscle Tuesday, voting to end straight-ticket voting and paid union leave for public workers and to switch the date for electing a suburban Detroit county's executive. The bills, which Democrats decried as blatantly partisan, were sent to the GOP-led House mostly along party lines, with some Republicans in opposition.

Why Michigan's proposed 30 percent clean energy goal may not be as impressive as it sounds (Mlive)
Democrats won a clean energy amendment to a package to overhaul Michigan energy policy as it advanced from committee last week, but advocates say 30 percent by 2025 isn't as impressive as it sounds. If you drill down into the numbers, advocates say 30 percent may be more like 5 percent in actual new renewable energy.

Michigan Democrats run 'birthday tax' ads blasting Republican road funding plan (Mlive)
While Gov. Rick Snyder was signing a long-term road funding plan into law Tuesday, the Michigan Democratic Party was launching a series of ads targeting Republican lawmakers who voted for it. Four of them, anyway, who just happen to represent highly competitive districts.

DETROIT

County school leaders cautious on DPS rescue plan (The Detroit News)
The leaders of intermediate school districts in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties said Tuesday they don't want a rescue of Detroit Public Schools to come at the expense of other districts. During a meeting with The Detroit News Editorial Board, the superintendents of the Macomb ISD, Oakland Schools and Wayne RESA said they understand the need to pay off DPS' debt and create a new, debt-free Detroit district, as did officials from the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education, which represents superintendents in the three Metro Detroit counties.

Detroit Schools: Financial audit shows budget deficit for 2014-15 smaller than projected (Click on Detroit)
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Sent: Friday, November 13, 2015 9:57 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/13 Newsroom

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Friday, November 13, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Michigan announces net reduction of 2,100 rules since 2011 (AP)
An office created by Gov. Rick Snyder to make government more efficient reports hitting a milestone — the net reduction of more than 2,000 state rules and regulations over four years, including a requirement that child care workers smile.

MISC
State board to consider Gov. Snyder recall petition (Detroit Free Press)
The Board of State Canvassers is to consider proposed language for a recall of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, when it meets at the Capitol this morning.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Michigan, neighboring governments work to reduce Lake Erie pollution (Crain's Detroit Business)
Toxic algae bloomed in Lake Erie in huge numbers in August 2014, causing the city of Toledo to issue a "do not drink" advisory. Fears that this was only the beginning of similar occurrences were realized this summer, when the 2015 algal bloom was worse, closing beaches and threatening water supplies. Actions proposed by the state include: Monitoring and studying the causes of harmful algal blooms because (according to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) they are "not well understood."

'Water is a human right,' Democrats say with new bills addressing Flint crisis, Detroit shutoffs (Mlive)
"There's a moral goal here," said Rep. Sheldon Neeley, D-Flint, urging the Snyder administration to consider the package. Neeley plans to introduce legislation that would require the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to collect water samples using federally-approved procedures. His bill would prohibit a sampling procedure known as "pre-flushing," which can lower lead level readings.

Flint may have failed to follow US water testing rules (The Detroit News)
Drinking water testing protocols call for cities to target neighborhoods most likely to have homes with lead connections and plumbing — called Tier 1 areas — since they run a higher risk of having contaminated water. A letter sent to Flint on Nov. 9 by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality indicates state officials are unsure if the city did so in samples taken over the first half of 2015.

DHHS
DHHS improving technology for caseworkers (Lansing State Journal)

Nick Lyon, director of the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services formed this spring through the merger of the departments of Community Health and Human Services, told a legislative panel Thursday that a shared case management system was one of "five key infrastructure advancements" he was pushing as he continued work on fully integrating the two departments.

DNR

DNR launches campaign to keep chronic wasting disease from U.P. (Up North Live)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has launched a campaign to keep chronic wasting disease (CWD) from reaching the Upper Peninsula. CWD affects the central nervous system and is fatal to white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose.

State urges hunters to help keep deer disease out of UP (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has launched an education campaign to try to keep chronic wasting disease from spreading to the Upper Peninsula. The disease affects the central nervous system and is always fatal to white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and moose, according to the DNR. And there is no known treatment.

LARA

Michigan announces net reduction of 2,100 rules since 2011 (AP)
Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Director Mike Zimmer said he was "extremely thrilled" to have 2,000 fewer rules, saying that revisiting thousands of regulations — many of which had not been reviewed in decades — is part of a broader effort to alleviate barriers to business without risking citizens' health and safety. Of the state's 16 departments, LARA had the most net rule reductions, 642, because it has the most regulations due to its role

MDOC

Inmates may pay less to phone home (Ionia Sentinel-Standard)
A new mandate by the FCC may make it cheaper for prison and jail inmates to call their loved ones. According to Michigan Department of Corrections Communications Representative Holly Kramer, phones calls for inmates currently cost between 18 to 23 cents a minute, which can add up to $3.45 for a standard 15 minute call.

MDOT

MDOT Open House Seeks Community Input On US-23 Project (WHMI)
An open house showcased aesthetic options for the upcoming US-23 corridor improvement project and took public feedback. The Michigan Department of Transportation held the open house at the Northfield Township Hall on Thursday and drew in a crowd of interested residents, commuters and community members.

M-DOT holding webinar on changes to existing 25-year-plan (WWMT)
Just days after Governor Rick Snyder signed a $1.2 billion road funding bill into law, the Michigan Department of Transportation is changing its existing 25 year plan. The plan--called MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward, was created 10 years ago to forecast transportation challenges from 2005 to 2035.

Meeting slated for U.S. 31 bridge project in Michigan (TI News Daily)
The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has scheduled an informational public meeting on Nov. 24 to discuss a upgrade project for the U.S. 31 bascule bridge in Charlevoix in northern Michigan. The project, scheduled to start in late 2016, will involve painting the bridge's steel superstructure, repairing mechanical and electrical systems and performing other improvements to the bridge. The work is estimated be finished by June 2017.

Public invited to meeting to discuss work on Charlevoix bridge (Mi News 26)
Michigan Department of Transportation is holding an informational meeting to discuss the bridge work with members from the Gaylord Transportation Service Center on hand to present schedules and to listen to comments and suggestions from the public.

MDOT finishes project to solve crash problems at Tulip City Truck Stop on M-40 (WXMI)
A project meant strictly to solve a safety problem has been completed on M-40 south of I-196. Several solutions for the problem were floated over the years, including roundabouts, which nobody liked, said Michigan Department of Transportation spokesperson Nick Shirripa. Aside the high cost, the idea required some backtracking for drivers leaving the truck stop.

MSHDA

MSHDA awards $83,448 to help eliminate blight (Up Matters)

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority awarded a $83,448 Community Development Block Grant to Marquette County and Houghton County that will help demolish four to five blighted residential structures.

MSP

Trooper Chad Wolf honored with memorial at Genesys hospital (Mlive)
Thursday, Nov. 12, more than a dozen police officers gathered with Bikes on the Bricks officials and family members of fallen Michigan State Trooper Chad Wolf to unveil a granite, laser-etched bench that honors Wolf's life.

MVAA

MVAA Spreads Information to Vets Regarding Benefits (WBKB)
The community was joined in celebrating and honoring our vets Wednesday by a representative from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. The MVAA decided to send advisors around the state today after Governor Snyder instructed the Department of Veteran Affairs to use this day to coordinate and streamline military benefits for veterans.

SOS

Initial List Puts 14 Republicans, 3 Democrats on Michigan Primary Ballot (Michigan Radio)
The Michigan Secretary of State has released the initial list of Republican and Democratic candidates who will appear on the March 8 presidential primary ballot.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

'Water is a human right,' Democrats say with new bills addressing Flint crisis, Detroit shutoffs (MLive)
Flint mom Melissa Mays believes her three sons are starting to struggle in school because they drank contaminated city water, and she's worried the full effect of lead poisoning, which can cause irreversible brain damage, will not be known for years.

Bills seek to assure clean, affordable water for all (Detroit Free Press)
Lead contamination of drinking water in Flint and large-scale shutoffs of tap water in Detroit have prompted a package of bills that lawmakers say will ensure clean and affordable drinking water for all Michigan residents.

Lawmakers mull role in halting college sexual assaults (Detroit Free Press)
Even as they heard reports about how universities across Michigan intend to use $500,000 in grant funds to help combat sexual assault, Michigan lawmakers wondered if they should be doing more.

State board to consider Gov. Snyder recall petition (Detroit Free Press)
The Board of State Canvassers is to consider proposed language for a recall of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, when it meets at the Capitol this morning.

DETROIT

Detroit school overhaul unlikely by end of year (Detroit News)
House School Aid Subcommittee Chairman Tim Kelly said Thursday it's unlikely state lawmakers can approve by the end of this year the overhaul Gov. Rick Snyder wants for the troubled Detroit Public Schools.

Parents ask DPS: Why don't our kids have teachers or textbooks? (WXYZ)
Some classes have no teachers, others have no textbooks. How are kids supposed to learn?
That's the question parents say Detroit Public School leaders weren't answering, so they called on 7 Action News to help them fix their schools.

Detroit casinos, labor at impasse on health care (Detroit News)
Negotiations between Detroit's three casinos and the Detroit Casino Council, the umbrella organization for four employee unions, are stalled over health care. According to a Nov. 4 post on the website of Unite Here Local 24, casino workers have voted to authorize a strike.

OPINION

Williamson: Let's transform Detroit schools (Detroit News)
Sometimes it is just confounding to read the news about schools and education. Currently we are reading about the governor's efforts regarding the Detroit Public Schools. We are also reading about the FBI investigation of corruption in the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) and the plea bargain agreements of some of the education reform fraudsters involved.

Editorial: Michigan growing, but not fast enough (Detroit News)
Michigan has regained 400,000 jobs over the past five years, roughly half what was lost during the Lost Decade at the start of this century. Its economy is growing along with employment, and its business climate ranking has strengthened.

Dickens: Enforce Detroit pot laws with care (Detroit News)
Seven years after the passage of the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA), the Detroit City Council is currently considering regulation of medical marijuana facilities within its city limits.

Don't slow Detroit's blight fight (Detroit Free Press)
As a lifelong Detroiter and someone who for the last 27 years has been working to eradicate blight in Detroit, I have learned a few things. First and foremost, blight is a cancer in our city. Without swift and aggressive treatment, it will spread, destroying Detroit neighborhoods. Without a clear strategy and a sense of great urgency, blight will continue to spread faster than it is removed.

Susan J. Demas: What Snyder gets wrong about welders and higher education (MLive)
I've interviewed Gov. Rick Snyder a number of times, but one moment has always struck me.

Is the state to blame for local financial distress? (Michigan Radio)
There is a lot of controversy surrounding Michigan's use of emergency managers. The Flint water fiasco, the decline of the Detroit Public School system – that all happened under the watch of state-appointed emergency managers.

Anderson: Road funding fix needs to be fixed (Lansing State Journal)
After five years of total control, State Representative Tom Barrett and his Republican colleagues finally got around to dealing with our crumbling roads. Sadly, the plan passed by the Legislature crumbles under the weight of scrutiny. This poorly thought out plan will eventually commit $1.2 billion in new road funding by asking more from average Michiganders and slashing critical services to the tune of $600 million from Michigan's general fund.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2015 10:42 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/16 Newsroom
Attachments: 151116 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, November 16, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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Snyder urges 'full review' of refugees, says safety is key (AP)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is asking the Obama administration for a "full review" of security clearances for refugees who could be placed in Michigan. Snyder's office released a letter that was sent Monday to Secretary of State John Kerry and the head of Homeland Security after the attacks in Paris and Beirut. The governor says he's "unwavering" in welcoming refugees to Michigan but adds that his first priority is keeping people safe.

Governors Who Want To Ban Syrian Refugees Have Something In Common (FiveThirtyEight)
"Michigan is a welcoming state and we are proud of our rich history of immigration," Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said in a statement Sunday announcing his position on refugees. "But our first priority is protecting the safety of our residents."

Michigan among those states not welcoming refugees (WWMT)
In the wake of the deadly terror attacks in Paris on Friday, the state of Michigan is one of 11 across the country that has announced it will not take in Syrian refugees. U.S. governors--including Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder, are saying no to Syrian refugees. The news comes with concern that terrorists may enter the United States under the cover of a refugee to cause us harm.

Michigan Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs: "We support the governor" (WLNS)
We support the governor's step that is designed to ensure the safety and security of all Michiganders. We also ask our fellow citizens to stay away from stereotyping and racially-charged comments at this sensitive time. In unity, we will uphold the values that have served America well and made us the great society we are today.

Governor Snyder's decision to suspend Syrian refugee relocation to Michigan criticized by some (WXYZ)
Governor Rick Snyder is defending his decision to suspend the state's program to accept Syrian refugees following recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Lebanon.

Snyder's action on refugees receives tepid response from local leaders (Macomb Daily)
Snyder was one of several governors who expressed concern over the prospect of terrorists slipping into the United States as part of the refugee process.

Ohio, Michigan governors take stance on Syrian refugee resettlement (WTOL-TV Ohio)
Friday's terror attacks in Paris have prompted governors of several states to close their borders to Syrian refugees, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

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For Syrians in Michigan, call to block refugees is a gut punch (Washington Post)
Among the first and most surprising was Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder (R), who until this weekend had enthusiastically embraced the idea of resettling refugees in a depopulated Detroit.

Gov. Snyder suspends acceptance of refugees in Michigan (UP Matters/TV 3)
No Syrian refugees will be allowed into Michigan in the near future. Governor Rick Snyder has suspended the state's acceptance of those refugees until the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reviews its procedures for allowing them into our country.

Advocates urge Gov. Snyder to reconsider "hasty" decision on Syrian refugees (Michigan Radio)
Michigan's Syrian American community and its supporters are urging Governor Snyder to resume efforts to re-settle refugees in the state.

Snyder says hold on Syrian refugees is temporary (WOOD-TV)
Gov. Rick Snyder said that the hold he placed on allowing Syrian refugees into Michigan is a temporary precautionary decision. Two days after a group of Islamic extremists killed more than 100 people in Paris, Snyder made the move out of concern for the safety of Michigan residents, he said.

Snyder Says Suspending Acceptance of Syrian Refugees is "Prudent" and Temporary (Michigan Radio)
Governor Rick Snyder stresses that he's only pausing, not ending, plans to welcome refugees from Syria and other Middle East countries to Michigan. Governor Snyder has a very pro-immigration record, and says there are humanitarian and practical reasons for Michigan to welcome refugees.

Border Not Closed: Snyder Clarifies Refugee Situation (WSJM)
Governor Snyder is clarifying his stance on allowing Syrian refugees into the state. On Sunday, Snyder said he was temporarily halting efforts to relocate refugees into the state pending a review by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on the procedures for allowing them into the country. He also said yesterday that the borders aren't being closed.

Snyder Temporarily Blocks Refugees (WILX)
Governor Snyder says he's blocking more refugees from coming to Michigan for now in order to keep our state safe. "Most people are not terrorists," said Gov. Rick Snyder. "We need to be thoughtful about helping people around the world. This is just to be prudent to make sure that some terrorist element is not entering our country."

Snyder clarifies Syrian refugees already headed to Michigan OK (Fox 17)
In a bid to clarify a decision he announced Sunday, Gov. Rick Snyder says Syrian refugees already in the pipeline or who recently arrived or are expected to arrive in Michigan soon will not be stopped.

Bill signing

Snyder signs legislation to promote financial education (AP)
Gov. Rick Snyder says financial literacy courses will help Michigan high school students be better equipped to understand and manage their personal finances.

Snyder signs 11 bills, including increased penalties for poaching (UP Matters)
Michigan high school students will be better equipped to understand and manage their personal finances by earning credit for financial literacy courses, under bipartisan legislation signed today by Gov. Rick Snyder.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

DEQ
Boil water advisory in Shelby lifted after follow-up tests negative (MLive)
A boil water alert for the Village of Shelby has been lifted. The alert was issued late Thursday after coliform bacteria was discovered in the water distribution system. The alert, which was lifted around noon Sunday, advised people to boil water or use bottled water for cooking, drinking, washing dishes, making ice and brushing teeth.

Flint water crisis prompts more scrutiny of federal drinking water rules (Michigan Radio)
The Flint water crisis will be part of a public meeting this week in Virginia about federal rules on lead. The National Drinking Water Advisory Council is holding meetings tomorrow through Thursday to develop recommendations for the Environmental Protection Agency.

DNR
Firearm deer opener provides plenty to check at St. Charles DNR (MLive)
Officials at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources office in St. Charles saw nearly twice as many deer checked this firearms deer opener, as last year.

Fourth case of CWD confirmed in Michigan (UP Source)
A fourth case of chronic wasting disease has been confirmed in a deer downstate. Locally, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is taking steps to keep chronic wasting disease out of the Upper Peninsula. The disease is a neurological disorder that is fatal.

DOC
Midland County Board of Commissioners approves 2016 budget (Midland Daily News)
The Midland County Board of Commissioners recently approved the 2016 administrator/controller's recommended budget. But it didn't happen until commissioners had debated whether to include a request from Sheriff Scott Stephenson for an additional eight corrections officers.

Attorneys discuss a Flint water class action lawsuit (Michigan Radio)
Attorneys are hoping to sign up tens of thousands of Flint water customers for a class action lawsuit against the city and state. The suit was filed Friday on behalf of four families.

MDE
LCC to interview finalists for board vacancy (Lansing State Journal)
The Lansing Community College Board of Trustees will interview three candidates to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of one of its members last month. Alex Azima, Ronald Gillum and Todd Heywood were selected as finalists for the position from a pool of 18 applicants, according to a news release.

MDOT
MDOT Earns Honors for Rumble Strip Idea (WHTC)
The rumble strip concept that the Michigan Department of Transportation has implemented on rural highways has earned a national honor. The Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration recognized MDOT's initiative with a 2015 National Roadway Safety Award for its effectiveness, innovation and efficient use of resources.

MEDC
Switch confirms plans for $5B investment, 1,000 jobs at West Michigan data center (MLive)

Switch has confirmed it intends to build a new $5 billion data center on the site of the former Steelcase Inc. Corporate Development Center, commonly known as the Steelcase pyramid. The new 2 million-square-foot data center, dubbed Supernap Michigan, would be the largest data center in the eastern United States, the company said in a press release on Monday, Nov. 16.

MVAA

Gov. Snyder honors businesses for veteran hiring efforts (WWMT-TV)
Nearly 1,000 good paying jobs are ready to be filled by veterans in West Michigan. Governor Rick Snyder joined the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency on Monday at Michigan State University to recognize 37 employers for their veteran hiring efforts.

One thousand jobs targeted for veterans through MVAA's Veteran (UPMatters.com)
Nearly 1,000 good-paying jobs are ready to be filled by veterans at companies throughout Michigan that recognize and respect their military skills, training and experience. Gov. Rick Snyder joined Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director Jeff Barnes Monday during MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Employer Awards and Recognition Breakfast, held at Michigan State University.

SOS

Judge: HP must turn over computer code to Mich. SOS (The Detroit News)
A Kent County judge has ordered Hewlett-Packard to turn over the computer source code for vehicle registrations online to the state of Michigan, according to the Michigan Secretary of State's Office. The state terminated its contract with the global information technology company in August and sued HP in Kent County Circuit Court in September after the company failed to deliver on a $49 million contract over 10 years.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Should Michigan change tax law to lure $5B data center? (Free Press)
A vacant Grand Rapids site could become the largest data center in the eastern half of the United States but only if the Michigan legislature grants the company a tax break potentially worth millions of dollars.

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$5B data center for Steelcase pyramid is 'an incredibly game-changing project' (MLive)
About two months ago, Birgit Klohs, president and CEO of Right Place Inc., was invited to meet with a Nevada entrepreneur with the dashing name of Rob Roy and Roger Norman, the new owner of the former Steelcase pyramid.

Michigan State Senator wants to repeal Self-Defense Act (Ammoland)
On Tuesday, November 10, state Senator Rebekah Warren (D-18) implicitly made a bold statement that violent criminals deserve more legal protection than their law-abiding victims when she introduced Senate Bill 611.

OPINION

Why collective bargaining still works (Detroit Free Press)
The recently concluded negotiations between the Detroit 3 and the UAW shows the benefits of collective bargaining in a democratic society.

The long road to peace and the end of terror (Detroit Free Press)
It will be months before Paris, Beirut, Nairobi and the rest of the world recover from the loss of life and shaken sense of security wrought by the cowardly terrorist acts of the past week.

Gov. Snyder's decision on Syrian refugees plays into what ISIS wants (Michigan Radio)
Governor Rick Snyder bowed to pressure yesterday and made a decision that was politically easy.

Initiative petition process cries for reform (Detroit News)

We are about one year away from the 2016 general election and efforts are in full swing to qualify initiated statutes and constitutional amendments for that statewide ballot. Already we're seeing evidence with those efforts of the dysfunction that we've come to associate with the law/amendment drafting, petition circulation process, and voter information that comes with ballot questions.

Editorial: Roads funding plan is a start (Lansing State Journal)
When Gov. Snyder put pen to paper last week, he finally gave us a roads funding plan.

Candice Miller: Gov. Snyder's prior willingness to accept Syrian refugees was 'off the mark' (MLive)
U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Twp., joined WJR 760 AM host Paul W. Smith on Monday to make clear her concerns regarding the U.S. accepting Syrian refugees in the wake of Friday's terrorist bombings in Paris.

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Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2015 2:05 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
Subject: Google Alert - state of Michigan

state of Michigan

Daily update - November 17, 2015

NEWS

Ohio State is wary of Michigan State

The Detroit News

"The most prepared team," Meyer said Monday of **Michigan State**. ... In 2012, Ohio **State** came to **Michigan State** and escaped with a 17-16 victory.

It's "Do or Die" Time for Ohio State vs. Michigan State - Bleacher Report

Ohio State's Urban Meyer says Michigan State 'the top of our conference' - MLive.com

Can Spartans-Buckeyes maintain marquee status? - ESPN (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

8 state governors oppose Syrian refugee relocation

CNBC

In recent days, Republican governors of nine states — Texas, **Michigan**, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Indiana, Arkansas, Alabama and Massachusetts ...

Texas, Alabama, Michigan, Indiana Tell Obama: We Won't Accept Any Syrian Refugees - Breitbart News

More Than Half Of US Governors Say Syrian Refugees Not Welcome Now - BuzzFeed News

Alabama, Michigan Governors Vow to Bar Syrian Refugees From Their States - Slate Magazine (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

After plenty of March success, Michigan State players looking for some more in November

MLive.com

Michigan State guard Denzel Valentine (45) celebrates a 3-pointer in the first half of their NCAA basketball game against Florida Atlantic at the Breslin ...

Michigan State vs. Kansas: Game info, TV, radio, etc. - Detroit Free Press

Kansas vs. Michigan State: Champions Classic 2015 Time, TV Schedule, Prediction - Bleacher Report

Kansas' Self and Michigan State's Izzo prepare to meet again at Champions Classic - Kansas City Star

Full Coverage

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Flint, Michigan residents sue city, state over tap water

Yahoo News

(Reuters) - Residents of Flint, **Michigan** have filed a lawsuit accusing the city and **state** of endangering their health by exposing them to dangerous ...

Flint, Michigan residents sue city, state over tap water - Thomson Reuters Foundation

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State QB Connor Cook says his 'shoulder is great,' won't elaborate

MLive.com

Michigan State QB Connor Cook was examined by head athletic trainer Dr. Sally Nogle and spoke with his father, Chris Cook, after taking two hard ...

Ohio State football: Buckeyes expecting to face Michigan State QB Connor Cook on Saturday - cleveland.com

MSU's Cook upbeat, not specific, on shoulder injury - Detroit Free Press

Video: Buckeyes Prepare For Michigan State - Scout

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Spartans And Jayhawks Meet In Champions Classic

Michigan State Athletics

Michigan State and Kansas will meet in the fifth-annual Champions Classic. The Spartans defeated the Jayhawks, 67-64, in the 2012 Champions ...

Michigan State remains at No. 13, Michigan moves up to No. 24 in AP basketball poll - MLive.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Malik McDowell says 'on point' Michigan State O-line will assert itself

MLive.com

Michigan State sophomore Malik McDowell is as athletic as he is big and strong, shown here making a diving tackle on Purdue tailback Markell Jones ...

Flag as irrelevant

Should Michigan change tax law to lure $5B data center?

Detroit Free Press

The investment for the Switch's **Michigan** project is estimated by the ... **Michigan** is in competition with only one other **state** - New York - for the new ...

Switch confirms plans for $5B investment, 1000 jobs at West Michigan data center - MLive.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Clear bag policy will be enforced at Ohio State vs. Michigan State

Sports Illustrated

Only clear bags will be allowed inside of the stadium for Ohio **State**'s home game against the **Michigan State** Spartans on Saturday, the school ...

College football | Ohio State announces clear-bag policy for Michigan State game - Columbus Dispatch

Ohio State implements "clear bag" policy for Michigan State game - Dayton Daily News

Full Coverage

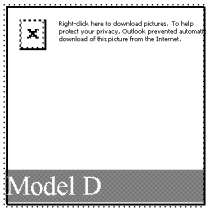
Flag as irrelevant

The state of the creative economy in Michigan

Model D

The presentations and panel discussions were wide-ranging, but all centered on the **state of Michigan's** creative economy and where it is going.

Flag as irrelevant



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Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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Wednesday, November 18, 2015
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OPINION

Bieber: Shine a light on state contracts (Detroit News)
When it comes to transparency and ethics in state government, Michigan is 50 out of 50. Dead last. That's according to a new report from the nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity.

Editorial: Reject short-sighted child abuse list bills (Detroit News)
Michigan made a big mistake in adopting a broad sex offender registry, one that can't distinguish between a bona fide predator and a teenager who had consensual relations with his girlfriend. It should not compound that error by adopting a similar permanent list of those convicted of child abuse.

Bill a step toward fair, secure energy for Michigan (Detroit News)
The recent vote by the House Energy and Technology Committee was an important step toward securing an affordable, reliable and clean energy future for Michigan. Bills — passed with strong bi-partisan support — also help assure that Michigan maintains control over its own energy future and does not give up control to the federal government or out-of-state interests.

Snyder talks tough on refugees, flunks social studies (Detroit Free Press)
For the record, I don't for a minute believe Rick Snyder is an Islamaphobic bigot.

Snyder pulls back the welcome mat for Syrian refugees (MLive)
The governor has hit the pause button but not the delete button as he ponders what to do about opening the doors to refugees from Syria.

Gov. Rick Snyder: We must welcome refugees—after screening them (TIME)
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When it comes to transparency and ethics in state government, Michigan is 50 out of 50. Dead last. That's according to a new report from the nonpartisan Center for Public Integrity.

Editorial: Reject short-sighted child abuse list bills (Detroit News)
Michigan made a big mistake in adopting a broad sex offender registry, one that can't distinguish between a bona fide predator and a teenager who had consensual relations with his girlfriend. It should not compound that error by adopting a similar permanent list of those convicted of child abuse.

Bill a step toward fair, secure energy for Michigan (Detroit News)
The recent vote by the House Energy and Technology Committee was an important step toward securing an affordable, reliable and clean energy future for Michigan. Bills — passed with strong bi-partisan support — also help assure that Michigan maintains control over its own energy future and does not give up control to the federal government or out-of-state interests.

Snyder talks tough on refugees, flunks social studies (Detroit Free Press)
For the record, I don't for a minute believe Rick Snyder is an Islamaphobic bigot.

Snyder pulls back the welcome mat for Syrian refugees (MLive)
The governor has hit the pause button but not the delete button as he ponders what to do about opening the doors to refugees from Syria.

Gov. Rick Snyder: We must welcome refugees—after screening them (TIME)
Throughout its history, Michigan has been a welcoming place for immigrants to come and build new lives. That spirit is reflected across our state, but especially in the vibrant Middle Eastern community that has congregated in and around Detroit.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 10:09 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 11/20 Newsroom
Attachments: 151120 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

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GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

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Administration assures govs refugee vetting is rigorous (Detroit News)
The Obama administration is assuring governors that refugees who come to the United States in its resettlement program undergo a "rigorous security vetting process," particularly if they are fleeing from Syria.

Syrian refugee family arrives in Detroit area (Freep)
Three days after Gov. Rick Snyder called for a halt on new Syrian refugees, a Syrian couple and their 9-year-old son arrived Wednesday at Metro Airport from Jordan, said refugee advocate Rasha Basha of Bloomfield Hills.

Michael Moore: I'll house Syrian refugees in Traverse City (Freep)
Michigan documentary filmmaker Michael Moore and Gov. Rick Snyder's administration continue to spar over the issue of Syrian refugees.

Daimler/Detroit Diesel event
Daimler Trucks to invest $475M, add 330 jobs in Detroit (Freep)
"Michigan has long been the world's automotive leader and we are proud that Daimler will continue to play a big role in our state's reinvention moving forward," said Gov. Rick Snyder who unveiled one of the medium-duty engines by towing it with a cart as he drove in front of the crowd. "This is an investment in Detroit and the hardworking people of Michigan."

Daimler Trucks to invest $375 million for engine production (AP)
Daimler Trucks plans to invest $375 million to bring production of medium-duty engines to its manufacturing facility in the Detroit area.

Daimler to bring medium engine production to Detroit (Detroit News)
Former Detroit Red Wing and color commentator Mickey Redmond kicked off the "Built in Detroit" event Friday, welcoming Bernhard, Gov. Rick Snyder, Daimler Trucks North America CEO Martin Daum, Roger Penske and others.

Reaching the next milestone of its platform strategy: Daimler Trucks expands production of powertrain components in the US (Automotive World)
Under the theme "Built in Detroit", Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder and Daimler Trucks honored the production launch in the North American industrial metropolis. Daimler Trucks has invested $100 million in the new production of the DT12 automated manual transmission in Detroit. For this, Daimler Trucks is creating around 170 new jobs in the local area, making a major contribution to the revitalization of Detroit. For the development and production of the new DD5 and DD8 engines, Daimler Trucks will additionally invest over $375 million, creating approximately 160 more jobs locally.

Daimler Trucks Invests $375 Million To Expand Redford, Michigan, Assembly Plant (Area Development News)
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Detroit schools reform
Skubick: Gov. Snyder changes proposal to revamp Detroit Public Schools (Fox 2 Detroit)
Governor Rick Snyder has made some major compromises on his plans to revamp the Detroit Public Schools. FOX 2's Political Correspondant Tim Skubick joins us with details.

Comms staff changes
Longtime journalist Meegan Holland to become Snyder's communications director (Crain's Detroit Business)
Longtime Michigan journalist Meegan Holland will become Gov. Rick Snyder's communications director next month. Current communications staff members Laura Biehl and Anna Heaton will become deputy press secretaries, Snyder said.

Flint water
Flint water mystery: How was decision made? (Freep)
On March 25, 2013, then-state Treasurer Andy Dillon and Gov. Rick Snyder's chief of staff, Dennis Muchmore, held a telephone conversation about "Flint water supply alternatives," according to records obtained by the Free Press under FOIA.

Bill signings
Fix for roads leads new bills signed into law by Snyder (Freep)
With the state Legislature on a two-week break for hunting season and Thanksgiving, there were no new bills introduced last week. But Gov. Rick Snyder signed 29 bills into law.

Energy plan
Energy efficiency in Michigan: what you need to know (AP)
A centerpiece of Gov. Rick Snyder's long-range energy plan derives from a simple premise — using less. How Michigan can best require or incentivize utilities and their customers to cut electricity and natural gas "waste" through efficiency programs is a big issue for lawmakers looking to rewrite energy laws, potentially yet this year.

LT. GOV'S ACTIVITIES

Michigan urged to overhaul Rx monitoring system (Detroit News)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, chairman of the governor's opioid task force, told The News that MAPS "needs to be updated or replaced in order to achieve its actual goals."

Lt. Gov. Calley Leads Mental-Health Conversation in Michigan (WDET)
Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley began his journey as an advocate for mental health issues in Michigan while he was a lawmaker in the state House. Now with the Snyder administration he has continued to lead the conversation about mental health in the state. Calley helped push for health coverage for autism treatment in Michigan, a subject he understands well as his young daughter has the condition.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Budget
State workers hold steady in '15 budget (LSJ)
Despite a year of downer headlines, the budgetary bottom line for state workers held steady throughout Michigan's 2014-15 fiscal year, new data shows.

DEQ
Holland receives $500,000 grant to scope out storm sewers (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Stormwater Asset Management and Wastewater program grant $450,000 with a $50,000 match.

Answers prompt more questions in Flint water crisis (Detroit Free Press)
The City of Flint, under the watchful eye of a state-appointed emergency manager, joined a new regional water authority in 2013, a decision that was supposed to save money.

DHHS
County receives $10K to help parents of special needs children (Midland Daily News)
Midland County Board of Commissioners approved a $10,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide training services for parents of special needs children.

Henry Ford: Contract loss won't hurt growth (Crain's Detroit Business)
Executives of Henry Ford Health System told *Crain's* last week that the five-hospital system's growth plans will not be affected by the loss of a lucrative regional Medicaid contract by its HAP Midwest Health Plan.

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State inspectors find another credit card skimmer; here's how to stay safe (MLive)
Since late August, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has found 22 credit card skimmers in gas pumps around the state.
The most recent skimmer was found by agriculture department Weights and Measures inspectors at a gas station in Grand Blanc Township.

Detroit eyes adding livestock to urban farms (Detroit Free Press)
In Detroit, city laws technically don't allow for the raising of livestock. But Covington said his neighbors have never complained since he started raising some animals six years ago. It's complaints from neighbors that usually bring law enforcement.

Credit card skimmers a growing problem at gas pumps (The Detroit News)
It''s becoming clear the small electronic devices — called skimmers — that steal credit card information from consumers at gas pumps are a wider problem in Michigan than previously suspected.

Credit card thieves hit gas pumps with card skimmers across metro Detroit (WDIV)

Drivers in metro Detroit and across the state are getting ripped off at the pump… by credit card thieves. The state of Michigan has its first influx of credit card skimmers on gas pumps. There have been 22 cases since August. Scammers are unlocking gas pumps and are installing credit card skimmers from the inside.

Skimmer discovered, removed from pump (WNEM)
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In the News

Monday, November 23, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Syrian refugees

Governor Who Started Stampede Against Refugees Says He Only Wants Answers (NPR)
Michigan's Rick Snyder was the first governor to urge a pause in admitting Syrian refugees into the United States. He triggered a national debate about refugee resettlement, and insists now that he only wants answers. The Republican has described himself as "the most pro-immigration governor in the country," but he argues the caution he wants the U.S. to show doesn't conflict with the compassion thinks should be shown to refugees.

Administration assures govs refugee vetting is rigorous (Detroit News)
The Obama administration is assuring governors that refugees who come to the United States in its resettlement program undergo a "rigorous security vetting process," particularly if they are fleeing from Syria.

Syrian refugee family arrives in Detroit area (Freep)
Three days after Gov. Rick Snyder called for a halt on new Syrian refugees, a Syrian couple and their 9-year-old son arrived Wednesday at Metro Airport from Jordan, said refugee advocate Rasha Basha of Bloomfield Hills.

Michael Moore: I'll house Syrian refugees in Traverse City (Freep)
Michigan documentary filmmaker Michael Moore and Gov. Rick Snyder's administration continue to spar over the issue of Syrian refugees.

Daimler/Detroit Diesel event

Daimler Trucks to invest $475M, add 330 jobs in Detroit (Freep)
"Michigan has long been the world's automotive leader and we are proud that Daimler will continue to play a big role in our state's reinvention moving forward," said Gov. Rick Snyder who unveiled one of the medium-duty engines by towing it with a cart as he drove in front of the crowd. "This is an investment in Detroit and the hardworking people of Michigan."

Daimler Trucks to invest $375 million for engine production (AP)
Daimler Trucks plans to invest $375 million to bring production of medium-duty engines to its manufacturing facility in the Detroit area.

Daimler to bring medium engine production to Detroit (Detroit News)
Former Detroit Red Wing and color commentator Mickey Redmond kicked off the "Built in Detroit" event Friday, welcoming Bernhard, Gov. Rick Snyder, Daimler Trucks North America CEO Martin Daum, Roger Penske and others.

Reaching the next milestone of its platform strategy: Daimler Trucks expands production of powertrain components in the US (Automotive World)
Under the theme "Built in Detroit", Michigan's Governor Rick Snyder and Daimler Trucks honored the production launch in the North American industrial metropolis. Daimler Trucks has invested $100 million in the new production of the DT12 automated manual transmission in Detroit. For this, Daimler Trucks is creating around 170 new jobs in the local area, making a major contribution to the revitalization of Detroit. For the development and production of the new DD5 and DD8 engines, Daimler Trucks will additionally invest over $375 million, creating approximately 160 more jobs locally.

Daimler Trucks Invests $375 Million To Expand Redford, Michigan, Assembly Plant (Area Development News)
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Detroit schools reform
Skubick: Gov. Snyder changes proposal to revamp Detroit Public Schools (Fox 2 Detroit)
Governor Rick Snyder has made some major compromises on his plans to revamp the Detroit Public Schools. FOX 2's Political Correspondant Tim Skubick joins us with details.

Comms staff changes
Longtime journalist Meegan Holland to become Snyder's communications director (Crain's Detroit Business)
Longtime Michigan journalist Meegan Holland will become Gov. Rick Snyder's communications director next month. Current communications staff members Laura Biehl and Anna Heaton will become deputy press secretaries, Snyder said.

Flint water
Flint water mystery: How was decision made? (Freep)
On March 25, 2013, then-state Treasurer Andy Dillon and Gov. Rick Snyder's chief of staff, Dennis Muchmore, held a telephone conversation about "Flint water supply alternatives," according to records obtained by the Free Press under FOIA.

Bill signings
Fix for roads leads new bills signed into law by Snyder (Freep)
With the state Legislature on a two-week break for hunting season and Thanksgiving, there were no new bills introduced last week. But Gov. Rick Snyder signed 29 bills into law.

Energy plan
Energy efficiency in Michigan: what you need to know (AP)
A centerpiece of Gov. Rick Snyder's long-range energy plan derives from a simple premise — using less. How Michigan can best require or incentivize utilities and their customers to cut electricity and natural gas "waste" through efficiency programs is a big issue for lawmakers looking to rewrite energy laws, potentially yet this year.

LT. GOV'S ACTIVITIES

Michigan urged to overhaul Rx monitoring system (Detroit News)
Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, chairman of the governor's opioid task force, told The News that MAPS "needs to be updated or replaced in order to achieve its actual goals."

Lt. Gov. Calley Leads Mental-Health Conversation in Michigan (WDET)
Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley began his journey as an advocate for mental health issues in Michigan while he was a lawmaker in the state House. Now with the Snyder administration he has continued to lead the conversation about mental health in the state. Calley helped push for health coverage for autism treatment in Michigan, a subject he understands well as his young daughter has the condition.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Budget
State workers hold steady in '15 budget (LSJ)
Despite a year of downer headlines, the budgetary bottom line for state workers held steady throughout Michigan's 2014-15 fiscal year, new data shows.

DEQ
Holland receives $500,000 grant to scope out storm sewers (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Stormwater Asset Management and Wastewater program grant $450,000 with a $50,000 match.

Answers prompt more questions in Flint water crisis (Detroit Free Press)
The City of Flint, under the watchful eye of a state-appointed emergency manager, joined a new regional water authority in 2013, a decision that was supposed to save money.

DHHS
County receives $10K to help parents of special needs children (Midland Daily News)
Midland County Board of Commissioners approved a $10,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to provide training services for parents of special needs children.

Henry Ford: Contract loss won't hurt growth (Crain's Detroit Business)
Executives of Henry Ford Health System told *Crain's* last week that the five-hospital system's growth plans will not be affected by the loss of a lucrative regional Medicaid contract by its HAP Midwest Health Plan.

MDARD
State inspectors find another credit card skimmer; here's how to stay safe (MLive)
Since late August, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has found 22 credit card skimmers in gas pumps around the state.
The most recent skimmer was found by agriculture department Weights and Measures inspectors at a gas station in Grand Blanc Township.

Detroit eyes adding livestock to urban farms (Detroit Free Press)
In Detroit, city laws technically don't allow for the raising of livestock. But Covington said his neighbors have never complained since he started raising some animals six years ago. It's complaints from neighbors that usually bring law enforcement.

Credit card skimmers a growing problem at gas pumps (The Detroit News)
It''s becoming clear the small electronic devices — called skimmers — that steal credit card information from consumers at gas pumps are a wider problem in Michigan than previously suspected.

Credit card thieves hit gas pumps with card skimmers across metro Detroit (WDIV)
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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2015 9:44 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/4 Newsroom
Attachments: 151204 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Friday, December 4, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Spartan Green Day
Gov. Snyder proclaims Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (AP)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed Friday as "Spartan Green Day" in the state, in honor of the No. 5 Michigan State football team. The celebratory day is one day before the Spartans play No. 4 Iowa in the Big Ten championship in Indianapolis. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, a Michigan State graduate, this week presented the proclamation to Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio and the team in East Lansing.

Gov. Snyder declares Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (State News)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a self-professed fan of MSU Football and a graduate of U-M, used his legislative power to declare Friday, Dec. 4 'Spartan Green Day' in honor of the No. 5 MSU football team.

Gov. Snyder proclaims Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed Friday, Dec. 4, as "Spartan Green Day" in support of the Michigan State football team. Snyder in his proclamation encouraged Michigan residents to wear green on Friday ahead of Saturday's Big Ten championship game against No. 4-ranked Iowa in Indianapolis. Michigan State is No. 5 in the College Football Playoff rankings.

Friday is "Spartan Green Day" in Michigan, per Calley-delivered proclamation (WKZO)
Michiganders are being asked to dress themselves in green Friday in honor of the Michigan State University football team winning the Big Ten Conference's East Division crown last week. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, an MSU alumnus, delivered a proclamation to Spartans head coach Mark Dantonio on Thursday, declaring Dec. 4 "Spartan Green Day" in Michigan.

Board of Canvassers meeting
Petition language to recall Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder flops again at Board of State Canvassers (Mlive)
A Detroit resident attempting to recall Gov. Rick Snyder over the city's water crisis saw his third attempt at petition language fail this morning.

Event preview
Gov. Snyder, Detroit Mayor Duggan join at Wayne State for post-bankruptcy talk (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Stephen Rhodes will convene at Wayne State University to talk about Detroit a year out of bankruptcy. "Detroit Bankruptcy: One Year Later" will be held Dec. 9 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the university's Community Arts Auditorium.

Flag honors

Governor Snyder lowers flags for victims in California (UP Matters)

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In the News

Friday, December 4, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Spartan Green Day
Gov. Snyder proclaims Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (AP)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed Friday as "Spartan Green Day" in the state, in honor of the No. 5 Michigan State football team. The celebratory day is one day before the Spartans play No. 4 Iowa in the Big Ten championship in Indianapolis. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, a Michigan State graduate, this week presented the proclamation to Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio and the team in East Lansing.

Gov. Snyder declares Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (State News)
Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, a self-professed fan of MSU Football and a graduate of U-M, used his legislative power to declare Friday, Dec. 4 'Spartan Green Day' in honor of the No. 5 MSU football team.

Gov. Snyder proclaims Friday 'Spartan Green Day' (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder has proclaimed Friday, Dec. 4, as "Spartan Green Day" in support of the Michigan State football team. Snyder in his proclamation encouraged Michigan residents to wear green on Friday ahead of Saturday's Big Ten championship game against No. 4-ranked Iowa in Indianapolis. Michigan State is No. 5 in the College Football Playoff rankings.

Friday is "Spartan Green Day" in Michigan, per Calley-delivered proclamation (WKZO)
Michiganders are being asked to dress themselves in green Friday in honor of the Michigan State University football team winning the Big Ten Conference's East Division crown last week. Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, an MSU alumnus, delivered a proclamation to Spartans head coach Mark Dantonio on Thursday, declaring Dec. 4 "Spartan Green Day" in Michigan.

Board of Canvassers meeting
Petition language to recall Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder flops again at Board of State Canvassers (Mlive)
A Detroit resident attempting to recall Gov. Rick Snyder over the city's water crisis saw his third attempt at petition language fail this morning.

Event preview
Gov. Snyder, Detroit Mayor Duggan join at Wayne State for post-bankruptcy talk (Mlive)
Gov. Rick Snyder, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Stephen Rhodes will convene at Wayne State University to talk about Detroit a year out of bankruptcy. "Detroit Bankruptcy: One Year Later" will be held Dec. 9 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the university's Community Arts Auditorium.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 9:22 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/7 Newsroom
Attachments: 151207 Newsroom.docx

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"Gov. Snyder's approach to economic development has been in a way that is fiscally responsible over the long term," Snyder Press

Secretary David Murray wrote in an email to MiBiz. “The legislation linked to this project has only recently been submitted, and we are still very early in the process. We expect there will be a lot of discussion about this project as we move forward.”

EAA

Is Tuesday the start of the end for the EAA? (Freep)

"Gov. Snyder is working on a plan to improve academics and finances in Detroit Public Schools, and work is ongoing with city and community leaders and our partners in the Legislature," Snyder spokesman Dave Murray said in an e-mail to the Free Press."The EAA’s role in a restructured Detroit public school plan is still to be determined."

DEPARTMENTS

DEQ

Raw sewage erupts from manhole in Kalamazoo (Mlive)

Solidifying kitchen grease blocked a sanitary sewer Saturday night, causing raw sewage to come up through an opening in a manhole at the corner of Ravine Road and Douglas Avenue and spill onto the pavement. As required by law, Water Reclamation Plant personnel notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at the Kalamazoo District Office and the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health and Community Services of the spill.

Loan forgiveness sought for Flint to replace lead pipes (The Detroit News)

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is in talks with Flint officials about financing forgivable loans to replace lead-leaching water pipes while U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee is pursuing federal forgiveness for the city’s nearly $21 million in past loans for drinking water infrastructure improvements.

DNR

Michigan DNR to continue testing after 4th CWD case (Detroit Free Press)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is encouraging hunters to have their deer checked for chronic wasting disease after a fourth case was confirmed in the state today. CWD is a contagious neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose.

U.P. hunters bag fewer deer, more mature bucks (Detroit Free Press)

Hunters in the Upper Peninsula bagged fewer deer during firearm season but came away with high-quality bucks, state officials said. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources said Friday that preliminary deer check station data showed a drop of about 13.5 percent through the season that ended Monday. Wildlife officials predicted a drop after three consecutive severe winters in the region.

MDOT

MDOT releases new research report (TI News Daily)

Leaders from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently published a new research report entitled “Research on Evaluation and Standardization of Accelerated Bridge Construction Techniques." There is now a full listing of research reports that MDOT has published between 1940 and 2015 available on the MDOT website. All of the reports between those years are online in the form of PDFs.

MI unveils online help for aging drivers, their families (WOOD TV)

Against that backdrop, state leaders on Monday unveiled a new website full of resources to help aging drivers stay on the road as long as safely possible. Among its features, the website, www.michigan.gov/agingdriver, shows elderly drivers how to assess their own driving skills, identify problems that might impact their driving ability, find classes designed to help senior drivers and develop strategies to allow them to continue driving safely as long as possible. The website was developed over two years by a coalition that included MDOT, the Secretary of State’s Office, Michigan State Police and several private organizations.

MSP

Spectrum-Holland Hospital JV now includes $12.1 million surgical center in Grand Haven (MiBiz)

Spectrum Health in November filed a letter of intent with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services indicating it planned to seek certificate-of-need approval for a $12.1 million, 17,400-square-foot outpatient surgical center at the Health Pointe campus. The campus will allow the Spectrum Health Medical Group to consolidate physician practices in the area into a single location.

MSP participates in multi-state commercial vehicle enforcement operation (Mi News 26)

Michigan State Police motor carrier officers will be joining officers from the Indiana State Police and Ohio Highway Patrol in focusing their enforcement on I-94 this next week as part of a week-long 'Eyes on 94' commercial vehicle crash reduction effort.

LEGISLATIVE

Senate approves tax cuts for proposed $5 billion Grand Rapids data center (WKZO)
The Michigan Senate made quick work of a set of bills approving massive tax breaks for a firm that wants to put a $5 billion server farm in Kent County.

Michigan Senate approves tax breaks for data center campus (AP)
The state Senate approved yesterday lucrative tax breaks designed to guarantee that a major Internet data center developer chooses Caledonia as the site of its first mega-campus in the eastern half of the U.S.

Election law front and center in newly introduced bills (Detroit Free Press)
A Grand Blanc Republican wants to make it harder for people to vote by absentee ballot and has introduced legislation toward that end. State Sen. David Robertson, R-Grand Blanc, wants to prohibit clerks from opening their offices on weekends in the four weeks leading up to elections to hand out, process and accept absentee ballots.

Lawmakers blast alleged plan to charter Detroit schools (Detroit Free Press)
Democratic state lawmakers from Detroit on Thursday issued a stern warning against trying to turn more than two dozen Detroit schools including all the EAA schools, into charters.

Michigan may dump cities' bans on pit bulls (The Detroit News)
Two mauling deaths by pit bulls in two days in Michigan come as state lawmakers consider legislation that would make it illegal for communities to ban specific dog breeds. In October, the state Senate approved legislation to prohibit communities from banning or regulating specific breeds such as pit bulls.

DETROIT

State of Michigan explores EAA changes (WDIV)
The state of Michigan is putting out requests for proposals to find a company or companies to take over Education Achievement Authority (EAA) schools. According to two state representatives, 31 schools are involved under this proposal. This is not Gov. Rick Snyder's plan. The Detroit Delegation in Lansing said they fell completely back-doored by this.

Detroit lawmakers claim EMU eyes EAA expansion (The Detroit News)
The House Democratic Detroit Caucus is claiming Eastern Michigan University is considering adding 16 schools to the 15-school Education Achievement Authority that is being investigated for possible financial improprieties in educating its 4,500 students in Detroit.

Effort to provide jobs for young Detroiters expands, adds mayor's son as recruitment officer (Crain's Detroit Business)
Grow Detroit's Young Talent, a public-private effort to provide summer jobs, has set a goal to get 8,000 youth into jobs next summer. And it's looking for commitments from 1,000 local companies to hire them.

Detroit water chief Gary Brown: Real work just starting (The Detroit News)
Gary Brown has been a Detroit cop, a city councilman, an aide to the city's emergency manager and one of the mayor's top lieutenants. In October, he added director of Michigan's largest water utility and one of the biggest in the country — the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department — to his resume. He'll earn $175,000 as head of the department, according to city officials.

OPINION

What's your take: straight-party voting (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Republicans in the Michigan House of Representative are weighing a compromise bill to mollify critics of their effort to ban straight-party voting. Whether the bill answers those critics is debatable.

All the risk, none of the rewards for Michigan cities (Detroit Free Press)

Lincoln Park's financial emergency, declared in 2014, inspired some serious rewrites of employee contracts and outsourcing of some city services. Retirees had their health coverage yanked.

Anders: The house the Gary built (Midland Daily News)
This is a continuation of the fairy tale about the fantasy house that Midland lawmaker Gary Glenn has been building during his now year-long re-election campaign.

Let local laws determine how to reduce dog attacks, restrict breeds (MLive)
Americans value individual freedoms that allow us to choose what house to buy, what pet to own and what car to drive. However, there are many situations when individual freedom is not the best choice for society. Drinking and driving, or texting while driving the cars of our choice, both come to mind. Similarly, enabling the proliferation of dogs well known to be dangerous and even fatal to people and other animals should not be in the best interest of any community.
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The Gravity of the Cyber Threats we face (Governing)
It is very likely that the next devastating attack on the United States won't be like any other we've experienced. It will come through the computers on our desks at work, the laptops we set on the kitchen table, or even the mobile phones and tablets we scroll through while standing in line at the coffee shop. And most of the time, people won't even realize they're being attacked.

Editorial: Raise juvenile age in Michigan (Detroit News)
Legislators are studying a package of more than 20 bills that would raise the age of juveniles who are treated as adults when they commit certain crimes. This is an important step in the quest to reform Michigan's criminal justice system.

Finley: Gun laws won't stop terror (Detroit News)
More gun control laws won't stop terrorism.

EAA chairwoman: Schools key to city's rebirth (Detroit News)
With the resurgence of Detroit shocking those outside the city limits, those within are adjusting to a renewed sense of hope — we are hopeful for a comeback, hopeful for a rise from nationwide criticism and driving the hope of retaining the newest generation of Detroiters.

Editorial: Detroit must get rid of deadly dogs (Detroit News)
Detroit can not lay claim to being a comeback city, nor can it hope to attract large numbers of new residents to its neighborhoods, as long as children are at risk of being mauled to death by vicious dogs on its streets.

Hit the books, Michigan, and get smart about economic growth (Bridge MI)
Our work at Michigan Future, Inc. is focused on understanding the changes occurring in the American economy and how to be successful in that economy. Our interest is in the long-term structural changes in the economy, rather than year-to -year, largely cyclical changes.

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A major Internet data center developer's decision to expand into Michigan as long as it receives lucrative tax breaks is testing the economic development strategy of Gov. Rick Snyder, who has called them the "heroin drip of government."

Abate, then Switch: Las Vegas tech firm asks legislators to change Michigan tax law to benefit data center industry (MI Biz)

"Gov. Snyder's approach to economic development has been in a way that is fiscally responsible over the long term," Snyder Press Secretary David Murray wrote in an email to MiBiz. "The legislation linked to this project has only recently been submitted, and we are still very early in the process. We expect there will be a lot of discussion about this project as we move forward."

EAA

Is Tuesday the start of the end for the EAA? (Freep)

"Gov. Snyder is working on a plan to improve academics and finances in Detroit Public Schools, and work is ongoing with city and community leaders and our partners in the Legislature," Snyder spokesman Dave Murray said in an e-mail to the Free Press."The EAA's role in a restructured Detroit public school plan is still to be determined."

DEPARTMENTS

DEQ

Raw sewage erupts from manhole in Kalamazoo (Mlive)

Solidifying kitchen grease blocked a sanitary sewer Saturday night, causing raw sewage to come up through an opening in a manhole at the corner of Ravine Road and Douglas Avenue and spill onto the pavement. As required by law, Water Reclamation Plant personnel notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at the Kalamazoo District Office and the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health and Community Services of the spill.

Loan forgiveness sought for Flint to replace lead pipes (The Detroit News)

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is in talks with Flint officials about financing forgivable loans to replace lead-leaching water pipes while U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee is pursuing federal forgiveness for the city's nearly $21 million in past loans for drinking water infrastructure improvements.

DNR

Michigan DNR to continue testing after 4th CWD case (Detroit Free Press)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is encouraging hunters to have their deer checked for chronic wasting disease after a fourth case was confirmed in the state today. CWD is a contagious neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose.

U.P. hunters bag fewer deer, more mature bucks (Detroit Free Press)

Hunters in the Upper Peninsula bagged fewer deer during firearm season but came away with high-quality bucks, state officials said. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources said Friday that preliminary deer check station data showed a drop of about 13.5 percent through the season that ended Monday. Wildlife officials predicted a drop after three consecutive severe winters in the region.

MDOT

MDOT releases new research report (TI News Daily)

Leaders from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) recently published a new research report entitled "Research on Evaluation and Standardization of Accelerated Bridge Construction Techniques." There is now a full listing of research reports that MDOT has published between 1940 and 2015 available on the MDOT website. All of the reports between those years are online in the form of PDFs.

MI unveils online help for aging drivers, their families (WOOD TV)

Against that backdrop, state leaders on Monday unveiled a new website full of resources to help aging drivers stay on the road as long as safely possible. Among its features, the website, www.michigan.gov/agingdriver, shows elderly drivers how to assess their own driving skills, identify

problems that might impact their driving ability, find classes designed to help senior drivers and develop strategies to allow them to continue driving safely as long as possible. The website was developed over two years by a coalition that included MDOT, the Secretary of State's Office, Michigan State Police and several private organizations.

MSP

Spectrum-Holland Hospital JV now includes $12.1 million surgical center in Grand Haven (MiBiz)
Spectrum Health in November filed a letter of intent with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services indicating it planned to seek certificate-of-need approval for a $12.1 million, 17,400-square-foot outpatient surgical center at the Health Pointe campus. The campus will allow the Spectrum Health Medical Group to consolidate physician practices in the area into a single location.

MSP participates in multi-state commercial vehicle enforcement operation (Mi News 26)
Michigan State Police motor carrier officers will be joining officers from the Indiana State Police and Ohio Highway Patrol in focusing their enforcement on I-94 this next week as part of a week-long 'Eyes on 94' commercial vehicle crash reduction effort.

LEGISLATIVE

Senate approves tax cuts for proposed $5 billion Grand Rapids data center (WKZO)
The Michigan Senate made quick work of a set of bills approving massive tax breaks for a firm that wants to put a $5 billion server farm in Kent County.

Michigan Senate approves tax breaks for data center campus (AP)
The state Senate approved yesterday lucrative tax breaks designed to guarantee that a major Internet data center developer chooses Caledonia as the site of its first mega-campus in the eastern half of the U.S.

Election law front and center in newly introduced bills (Detroit Free Press)
A Grand Blanc Republican wants to make it harder for people to vote by absentee ballot and has introduced legislation toward that end. State Sen. David Robertson, R-Grand Blanc, wants to prohibit clerks from opening their offices on weekends in the four weeks leading up to elections to hand out, process and accept absentee ballots.

Lawmakers blast alleged plan to charter Detroit schools (Detroit Free Press)
Democratic state lawmakers from Detroit on Thursday issued a stern warning against trying to turn more than two dozen Detroit schools, including all the EAA schools, into charters.

Michigan may dump cities' bans on pit bulls (The Detroit News)
Two mauling deaths by pit bulls in two days in Michigan come as state lawmakers consider legislation that would make it illegal for communities to ban specific dog breeds. In October, the state Senate approved legislation to prohibit communities from banning or regulating specific breeds such as pit bulls.

DETROIT

State of Michigan explores EAA changes (WDIV)
The state of Michigan is putting out requests for proposals to find a company or companies to take over Education Achievement Authority (EAA) schools. According to two state representatives, 31 schools are involved under this proposal. This is not Gov. Rick Snyder's plan. The Detroit Delegation in Lansing said they fell completely back-doored by this.

Detroit lawmakers claim EMU eyes EAA expansion (The Detroit News)
The House Democratic Detroit Caucus is claiming Eastern Michigan University is considering adding 16 schools to the 15-school Education Achievement Authority that is being investigated for possible financial improprieties in educating its 4,500 students in Detroit.

Effort to provide jobs for young Detroiters expands, adds mayor's son as recruitment officer (Crain's Detroit Business)
Grow Detroit's Young Talent, a public-private effort to provide summer jobs, has set a goal to get 8,000 youth into jobs next summer. And it's looking for commitments from 1,000 local companies to hire them.

Detroit water chief Gary Brown: Real work just starting (The Detroit News)
Gary Brown has been a Detroit cop, a city councilman, an aide to the city's emergency manager and one of the mayor's top lieutenants. In October, he added director of Michigan's largest water utility and one of the biggest in the country — the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department — to his resume. He'll earn $175,000 as head of the department, according to city officials.

OPINION

What's your take: straight-party voting (Battle Creek Enquirer)
Republicans in the Michigan House of Representative are weighing a compromise bill to mollify critics of their effort to ban straight-party voting. Whether the bill answers those critics is debatable.

All the risk, none of the rewards for Michigan cities (Detroit Free Press)
Lincoln Park's financial emergency, declared in 2014, inspired some serious rewrites of employee contracts and outsourcing of some city services. Retirees had their health coverage yanked.

Anders: The house the Gary built (Midland Daily News)
This is a continuation of the fairy tale about the fantasy house that Midland lawmaker Gary Glenn has been building during his now year-long re-election campaign.

Let local laws determine how to reduce dog attacks, restrict breeds (MLive)
Americans value individual freedoms that allow us to choose what house to buy, what pet to own and what car to drive. However, there are many situations when individual freedom is not the best choice for society. Drinking and driving, or texting while driving the cars of our choice, both come to mind. Similarly, enabling the proliferation of dogs well known to be dangerous and even fatal to people and other animals should not be in the best interest of any community.
Detroit education reforms also must address school-to-prison pipeline (MLive)
My organization, StudentsFirst Michigan, recently began partnering with other youth advocacy groups to host screenings of a Tavis Smiley documentary that examines the school-to-prison pipeline. In doing research for these events, I came across a statistic that resonated with me:

The Gravity of the Cyber Threats we face (Governing)
It is very likely that the next devastating attack on the United States won't be like any other we've experienced. It will come through the computers on our desks at work, the laptops we set on the kitchen table, or even the mobile phones and tablets we scroll through while standing in line at the coffee shop. And most of the time, people won't even realize they're being attacked.

Editorial: Raise juvenile age in Michigan (Detroit News)

Legislators are studying a package of more than 20 bills that would raise the age of juveniles who are treated as adults when they commit certain crimes. This is an important step in the quest to reform Michigan's criminal justice system.

Finley: Gun laws won't stop terror (Detroit News)
More gun control laws won't stop terrorism.

EAA chairwoman: Schools key to city's rebirth (Detroit News)
With the resurgence of Detroit shocking those outside the city limits, those within are adjusting to a renewed sense of hope — we are hopeful for a comeback, hopeful for a rise from nationwide criticism and driving the hope of retaining the newest generation of Detroiters.

Editorial: Detroit must get rid of deadly dogs (Detroit News)
Detroit can not lay claim to being a comeback city, nor can it hope to attract large numbers of new residents to its neighborhoods, as long as children are at risk of being mauled to death by vicious dogs on its streets.

Hit the books, Michigan, and get smart about economic growth (Bridge MI)
Our work at Michigan Future, Inc. is focused on understanding the changes occurring in the American economy and how to be successful in that economy. Our interest is in the long-term structural changes in the economy, rather than year-to -year, largely cyclical changes.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 9:31 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/14 Newsroom
Attachments: 151214 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Monday, December 14, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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Making it work for workers: Employers aim to retain low-income employees, improve bottom line (Crain's Detroit Business)

At a car wash this past summer, a young man noticed Tanya Allen's hat bearing the LongHorn Steakhouse logo and asked her if she knew anyone who worked at the restaurant chain.She told him she owned one. Allen is a partner with a joint venture between Atlanta-based Hojeij Branded Foods and its Detroit partner, AP United LLC.

DNR

Michigan DNR finds fourth case of chronic wasting disease (WMMT)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has found a fourth case of chronic wasting disease in a mid-Michigan deer. During firearm deer season, a hunter from DeWitt Township, in Clinton County, brought in a buck that tested positive for CWD.

93-pound Petoskey stone confiscated by Michigan DNR (AP)
State wildlife officials have confiscated a 93-pound Petoskey boulder from a man who pulled it out of Lake Michigan. The Grand Rapids Press reports Department of Natural Resources officers went to Tim O'Brien's home in the Manistee County community of Copemish on Wednesday.

Wildlife researchers not so sure about drones (Great Lakes Echo)
Perhaps drones could track feral swine to help oust the invasive critter from Michigan.

$300K grant to fund universal-access playground at Gallup Park (MLive)
The city of Ann Arbor's parks department, along with the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, announced the city is getting a $300,000 grant for construction of a universal-access playground at Gallup Park.

SH park projects get state boost (Herald Palladium)
outh Haven will see a lot of hammers fly in 2016 after the city landed four grants for park improvements.

MDARD

Michigan Department of Agriculture warns against Lock Stock & Barrel Ranch products (Holland Sentinel)The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development warns consumers that may have purchased any of the products listed below produced by Lock Stock & Barrel Ranch of Onaway to dispose of all products immediately because they were manufactured without using the required controls for the safe production of processed foods.

Invasive bug found in Birmingham smells when crushed (Detroit News)
A smelly, invasive species first found in North America in 2012 has been found in Michigan for the first time.

Botulism concerns prompt recall of Michigan-made food products (MLive)
Consumers who have purchased products from an Onaway food producer are being advised to throw the items away due to concerns of botulism.

Warning about food sold at some Michigan Farmers' Markets (WILX)
State officials are warning consumers to discard some food items sold at a number of northern Michigan farm markets.

Forestry Assistance Program provides local forester for area (Gaylord Herald Times)
The Otsego Conservation District currently employs a forester to provide free technical assistance to private landowners in Otsego, Crawford, and Roscommon counties. The forester position is part of the Forestry Assistance Program, which provides grant money from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to conservation districts so that they can employ forestry professionals.

MDOC

Prison ministry program gives prisoners a chance to be a dad again for a day (ABC Nightline)
ABC News' "Nightline" was given access to go behind prison walls at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon, Michigan, as Arkinya met her dad for the first time.

MDE

Debate delays new social studies standards (Michigan Radio)
There's a civil rights debate brewing in Michigan. It's about whether schools have too much civil rights education or too little. This controversy has prompted the State Board of Education to delay voting on new social studies standards.

Study: Higher education is key to Michigan's future but comes with $500M annual price tag (MLive)
Michigan needs an additional 779,000 students to earn an education or training credential beyond high school by 2025 to meet the needs of employers and place Michigan among the nation's 10 best educated states, according to a report issued by a coalition of business, education, labor and government leaders.

Better career and college advice is a phone call away (Huffington Post)
It looks like things are starting to turn around for Michigan's school counselors. Saddled with the fifth largest caseload in the country (with 704 students per school counselor), the counselors in our state are used to being overworked and under appreciated, but they've been hoping things might change that would make their work easier.

MDOT
State updating 20-year transportation plan (Grand Rapids Business Journal)
The long-range transportation plan for Michigan is ready for public opinion. As required by federal law, the Michigan Department of Transportation is requesting public feedback to help revise its long-range transportation plan, or SLRP.

MDOT seeks input on 5-year road plan (The Detroit News)
Drivers on Interstate 96 will have another headache to deal with next year if the Michigan Department of Transportation moves ahead with its list of road projects.

MSHDA
Insider's e-mails shed light on Detroit demolitions (Detroit Free Press)
A consultant tapped by the state to help Detroit with its blight demolition program refused to attend meetings where city officials and handpicked companies agreed to a contract price for a massive project before others could submit bids.

Agency helps record number with housing (Huron Daily Tribune)
Almost 70 individuals and families either homeless or at risk of homelessness in Huron County got help this year from a growing, local nonprofit.

MPSC
MPSC approves increased electricity rates at DTE Energy (AP)
The average residential customer of DTE Energy will pay $8.22 a month more for electricity under a rate increase.

DTE Energy gets OK to raise rates an average of 5.3% (Crain's Detroit Business)
DTE Electric Co. has received approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to raise its overall electric rates by 5.3 percent, or $238.2 million annually, but 36 percent below the $370 million it had requested earlier this year.

DTE to raise electric rates by more than $8 per month next week (MLive)
DTE Electric Company will increase its electric rates by an average of $8.22 per month under an order approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission on Friday

MSP
FBI, area police conduct numerous raids in Detroit to curb heroin flowing into Oakland, Macomb counties (Oakland Press)
The FBI and several local law enforcement agencies conducted numerous raids targeting heroin dealers in Detroit, hoping to disrupt the flow of narcotics into Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

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Supreme Court
Michigan Supreme Court lets stand Grand Rapids law easing prosecution of marijuana cases (AP)
A Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana an offense similar to a traffic ticket has survived a challenge in the Michigan Supreme Court after the justices declined to take an appeal from a prosecutor.

Gr. Rapids pot laws stands after high court takes a pass (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Supreme Court won't intervene in a dispute over a Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense similar to a traffic ticket.

Michigan Supreme Court allows Grand Rapids marijuana law to stand (WMUK)
The Michigan Supreme Court has let stand an amendment to the Grand Rapids city charter that decriminalizes marijuana.

Supreme Court won't intervene in Grand Rapids marijuana dispute (AP)
The Michigan Supreme Court won't intervene in a dispute over a Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense similar to a traffic ticket.
In an order released Saturday, the court declined to take an appeal from the Kent County prosecutor.

Grand Rapids pot law will stand after court declines case (Holland Sentinel)
A Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana an offense similar to a traffic ticket has survived a challenge in the Michigan Supreme Court after the justices declined to take an appeal from a prosecutor.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan lawmakers seek assurances surgical conditions safe at VA hospital in Ann Arbor (AP)
Two members of Michigan's congressional delegation have sought assurances from a Veterans Affairs hospital director that surgeries are being conducted safely.

Lawmakers remove property tax break from data center bills (AP)
Michigan lawmakers plan to scale back tax break legislation designed to land a mega-Internet data center in the state. The House's Tax Policy Committee chairman said Thursday the chamber will not pass a Senate-approved bill that would fully exempt data centers from Michigan's personal property tax owed on business equipment.

Michigan Senate Approves Bill That Will Help Local School Districts (News 9 and 10)
The Michigan senate approved a bill that could help the statewide shortage of substitute teachers. It allows teachers who've retired after mid-2010 to teach as substitute teachers without losing their pension.

Senate OKs bill to codify super PACS in Michigan law; committees can spend unlimited funds (AP)
A split state Senate voted Wednesday to codify into Michigan law unfettered political spending by independent committees that is legal under the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision and other federal rulings.

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The state of Michigan is putting out requests for proposals to find a company or companies to take over Education Achievement Authority (EAA) schools. According to two state representatives, 31 schools are involved under this proposal.

DETROIT

Administrator appointed to Detroit Federation of Teachers (AP)
An administrator has been appointed to the Detroit Federation of Teachers. American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten announced Thursday that Ann Mitchell will begin her new position in Detroit on Tuesday. Weingarten said the administrator position is meant to create a sense of stability and to help the union strengthen its voice.

Metro Detroit casino workers OK contracts (The Detroit News)
Workers at Detroit's casinos Sunday ratified labor contracts that include a $4,250 signing bonus and hourly wage increases of 2 percent and 3 percent in the fourth and fifth years, respectively, according an announcement on the union's website.

Detroit-Wayne mental health board suspends CEO's decision to terminate contract with Integrated Care Alliance (Crain's Business Detroit)
The board of Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority voted 7-5 today to temporarily suspend a decision earlier this month by CEO Tom Watkins to terminate a contract with Integrated Care Alliance, a Detroit-based developmental disability services provider.

Exclusive Detroit poll: 69% say city headed in right direction (Detroit Free Press)
A year after Detroit exited the nation's largest bankruptcy, a solid majority of residents polled - 69% - say city is heading in the right direction. In a wide-ranging poll of opinions commissioned by the Free Press, Detroit residents gave high marks to Mayor Mike Duggan and an even higher approval rating to Police Chief James Craig a year after a federal judge approved the city's exit plan.

OPINION

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder Donald Trump does not speak for me (Detroit Free Press)
Just as terrorists who betray cherished values in the name of Islam do not speak for the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, Donald Trump does not speak for me, the state of Michigan, nor the entire Republican Party.

Attitude changing for the better in Detroit (Detroit Free Press)
Things are changing in Detroit. And we're not talking about more streetlights or the pace of blight demolition.

New bills boost legislator's attack on democracy (Detroit Free Press)
It's beginning to look a lot like open season on our democracy.

Editorial: Slow down on tax hike (Detroit News)
Lawmakers are rushing to extend a bill that levies a tax on Michigan businesses that promises to grow exponentially over the next few years. There is no need for such haste.

Warren: Any data-center tax breaks need accountability (Detroit News)
A Nevada-based multibillion-dollar company wants to take over the Steelcase pyramid in Grand Rapids and develop a data center. The company, Switch, promises 1,000 well-paying jobs over the course of its development, as well as a $5 billion investment in our state.

GOP debate a chance to address American workers (Detroit News)
Nearing the Iowa caucuses, Democratic presidential candidates are setting their sights on labor policy. Frontrunner Hillary Clinton routinely rails against income inequality, vowing "to strengthen workers' voices" and protect them from "exploitation." Sen. Bernie Sanders recently introduced a labor-backed bill "(making) it easier for workers to join unions."

Finley: Big GOP bucks won't go to Trump (Detroit News)

It's the second Sunday in December and Donald Trump hasn't gone away. The Republican money is starting to plan what it will do if he never does.

Editorial: Limit militarization of police (Detroit News)
The image has become all too familiar: military-grade tanks driving through American neighborhoods as they respond to emergency situations.

In Courser-Gamrat matter, will we ever know who knew what and when? (MLive)
The Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser saga is the story that keeps on giving.

Whistleblowers shine light on lack of transparency and accountability in Lansing (MLive)
Nowhere is transparency more important than in government, where elected decision-makers must be held to the highest standard of accountability. Unfortunately, that standard has gone missing from the halls of Michigan's Capitol. The lack of accountability among the Republicans who control our state government is so severe, that it's taken the courageous actions of two whistleblowing staff members to bring the truth to light.

As Legislature considers medical marijuana proposals, facts must overcome fiction, myths (MLive)
The Michigan Legislature is poised to provide much-needed clarity to our state's medical marijuana law. By approving a framework of strong regulations that hold people accountable, policymakers can end seven years of confusion that has harmed patients, local communities and responsible businesses eager to follow the rules.

Editorial: Schools are no place for open carry (Battle Creek Enquirer)
It's one thing to have a principled debate over the regulation of firearms in public spaces; it's another entirely to put everybody's children in the middle of it simply to make a point.

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Across Michigan, in cities large and small, lead poisoning continues to plague children, limiting them in school and on the playground. Although much of the state's focus has been on lead-poisoned water in Flint, the metal continues to turn up annually in the bodies of thousands of children across the state, at percentages well above the numbers that raised red flags in Flint.

Making it work for workers: Employers aim to retain low-income employees, improve bottom line (Crain's Detroit Business)
At a car wash this past summer, a young man noticed Tanya Allen's hat bearing the LongHorn Steakhouse logo and asked her if she knew anyone who worked at the restaurant chain.She told him she owned one. Allen is a partner with a joint venture between Atlanta-based Hojeij Branded Foods and its Detroit partner, AP United LLC.

DNR
Michigan DNR finds fourth case of chronic wasting disease (WMMT)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has found a fourth case of chronic wasting disease in a mid-Michigan deer. During firearm deer season, a hunter from DeWitt Township, in Clinton County, brought in a buck that tested positive for CWD.

93-pound Petoskey stone confiscated by Michigan DNR (AP)
State wildlife officials have confiscated a 93-pound Petoskey boulder from a man who pulled it out of Lake Michigan. The Grand Rapids Press reports Department of Natural Resources officers went to Tim O'Brien's home in the Manistee County community of Copemish on Wednesday.

Wildlife researchers not so sure about drones (Great Lakes Echo)
Perhaps drones could track feral swine to help oust the invasive critter from Michigan.

$300K grant to fund universal-access playground at Gallup Park (MLive)
The city of Ann Arbor's parks department, along with the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, announced the city is getting a $300,000 grant for construction of a universal-access playground at Gallup Park.

SH park projects get state boost (Herald Palladium)
outh Haven will see a lot of hammers fly in 2016 after the city landed four grants for park improvements.

MDARD
Michigan Department of Agriculture warns against Lock Stock & Barrel Ranch products (Holland Sentinel)The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development warns consumers that may have purchased any of the products listed below produced by Lock Stock & Barrel Ranch of Onaway to dispose of all products immediately because they were manufactured without using the required controls for the safe production of processed foods.

Invasive bug found in Birmingham smells when crushed (Detroit News)
A smelly, invasive species first found in North America in 2012 has been found in Michigan for the first time.

Botulism concerns prompt recall of Michigan-made food products (MLive)
Consumers who have purchased products from an Onaway food producer are being advised to throw the items away due to concerns of botulism.

Warning about food sold at some Michigan Farmers' Markets (WILX)
State officials are warning consumers to discard some food items sold at a number of northern Michigan farm markets.

Forestry Assistance Program provides local forester for area (Gaylord Herald Times)
The Otsego Conservation District currently employs a forester to provide free technical assistance to private landowners in Otsego, Crawford, and Roscommon counties. The forester position is part of the Forestry Assistance Program, which provides grant money from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to conservation districts so that they can employ forestry professionals.

MDOC
Prison ministry program gives prisoners a chance to be a dad again for a day (ABC Nightline)
ABC News' "Nightline" was given access to go behind prison walls at Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility in Muskegon, Michigan, as Arkinya met her dad for the first time.

MDE

Debate delays new social studies standards (Michigan Radio)
There's a civil rights debate brewing in Michigan. It's about whether schools have too much civil rights education or too little. This controversy has prompted the State Board of Education to delay voting on new social studies standards.

Study: Higher education is key to Michigan's future but comes with $500M annual price tag (MLive)
Michigan needs an additional 779,000 students to earn an education or training credential beyond high school by 2025 to meet the needs of employers and place Michigan among the nation's 10 best educated states, according to a report issued by a coalition of business, education, labor and government leaders.

Better career and college advice is a phone call away (Huffington Post)
It looks like things are starting to turn around for Michigan's school counselors. Saddled with the fifth largest caseload in the country (with 704 students per school counselor), the counselors in our state are used to being overworked and under appreciated, but they've been hoping things might change that would make their work easier.

MDOT
State updating 20-year transportation plan (Grand Rapids Business Journal)
The long-range transportation plan for Michigan is ready for public opinion. As required by federal law, the Michigan Department of Transportation is requesting public feedback to help revise its long-range transportation plan, or SLRP.

MDOT seeks input on 5-year road plan (The Detroit News)
Drivers on Interstate 96 will have another headache to deal with next year if the Michigan Department of Transportation moves ahead with its list of road projects.

MSHDA
Insider's e-mails shed light on Detroit demolitions (Detroit Free Press)
A consultant tapped by the state to help Detroit with its blight demolition program refused to attend meetings where city officials and handpicked companies agreed to a contract price for a massive project before others could submit bids.

Agency helps record number with housing (Huron Daily Tribune)
Almost 70 individuals and families either homeless or at risk of homelessness in Huron County got help this year from a growing, local nonprofit.

MPSC
MPSC approves increased electricity rates at DTE Energy (AP)
The average residential customer of DTE Energy will pay $8.22 a month more for electricity under a rate increase.

DTE Energy gets OK to raise rates an average of 5.3% (Crain's Detroit Business)
DTE Electric Co. has received approval from the Michigan Public Service Commission to raise its overall electric rates by 5.3 percent, or $238.2 million annually, but 36 percent below the $370 million it had requested earlier this year.

DTE to raise electric rates by more than $8 per month next week (MLive)
DTE Electric Company will increase its electric rates by an average of $8.22 per month under an order approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission on Friday

MSP

FBI, area police conduct numerous raids in Detroit to curb heroin flowing into Oakland, Macomb counties (Oakland Press)
The FBI and several local law enforcement agencies conducted numerous raids targeting heroin dealers in Detroit, hoping to disrupt the flow of narcotics into Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

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Supreme Court

Michigan Supreme Court lets stand Grand Rapids law easing prosecution of marijuana cases (AP)
A Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana an offense similar to a traffic ticket has survived a challenge in the Michigan Supreme Court after the justices declined to take an appeal from a prosecutor.

Gr. Rapids pot laws stands after high court takes a pass (Detroit Free Press)
The Michigan Supreme Court won't intervene in a dispute over a Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense similar to a traffic ticket.

Michigan Supreme Court allows Grand Rapids marijuana law to stand (WMUK)
The Michigan Supreme Court has let stand an amendment to the Grand Rapids city charter that decriminalizes marijuana.

Supreme Court won't intervene in Grand Rapids marijuana dispute (AP)
The Michigan Supreme Court won't intervene in a dispute over a Grand Rapids law that makes possession of small amounts of marijuana a civil offense similar to a traffic ticket.
In an order released Saturday, the court declined to take an appeal from the Kent County prosecutor.

Grand Rapids pot law will stand after court declines case (Holland Sentinel)
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LEGISLATIVE

Michigan lawmakers seek assurances surgical conditions safe at VA hospital in Ann Arbor (AP)
Two members of Michigan's congressional delegation have sought assurances from a Veterans Affairs hospital director that surgeries are being conducted safely.

Lawmakers remove property tax break from data center bills (AP)
Michigan lawmakers plan to scale back tax break legislation designed to land a mega-Internet data center in the state. The House's Tax Policy Committee chairman said Thursday the chamber will not pass a Senate-approved bill that would fully exempt data centers from Michigan's personal property tax owed on business equipment.

Michigan Senate Approves Bill That Will Help Local School Districts (News 9 and 10)
The Michigan senate approved a bill that could help the statewide shortage of substitute teachers. It allows teachers who've retired after mid-2010 to teach as substitute teachers without losing their pension.

Senate OKs bill to codify super PACS in Michigan law; committees can spend unlimited funds (AP)
A split state Senate voted Wednesday to codify into Michigan law unfettered political spending by independent committees that is legal under the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision and other federal rulings.

State of Michigan explores EAA changes (WDIV)
The state of Michigan is putting out requests for proposals to find a company or companies to take over Education Achievement Authority (EAA) schools. According to two state representatives, 31 schools are involved under this proposal.

DETROIT

Administrator appointed to Detroit Federation of Teachers (AP)
An administrator has been appointed to the Detroit Federation of Teachers. American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten announced Thursday that Ann Mitchell will begin her new position in Detroit on Tuesday. Weingarten said the administrator position is meant to create a sense of stability and to help the union strengthen its voice.

Metro Detroit casino workers OK contracts (The Detroit News)
Workers at Detroit's casinos Sunday ratified labor contracts that include a $4,250 signing bonus and hourly wage increases of 2 percent and 3 percent in the fourth and fifth years, respectively, according an announcement on the union's website.

Detroit-Wayne mental health board suspends CEO's decision to terminate contract with Integrated Care Alliance (Crain's Business Detroit)
The board of Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority voted 7-5 today to temporarily suspend a decision earlier this month by CEO Tom Watkins to terminate a contract with Integrated Care Alliance, a Detroit-based developmental disability services provider.

Exclusive Detroit poll: 69% say city headed in right direction (Detroit Free Press)
A year after Detroit exited the nation's largest bankruptcy, a solid majority of residents polled - 69% - say city is heading in the right direction. In a wide-ranging poll of opinions commissioned by the Free Press, Detroit residents gave high marks to Mayor Mike Duggan and an even higher approval rating to Police Chief James Craig a year after a federal judge approved the city's exit plan.

OPINION

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder Donald Trump does not speak for me (Detroit Free Press)
Just as terrorists who betray cherished values in the name of Islam do not speak for the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, Donald Trump does not speak for me, the state of Michigan, nor the entire Republican Party.

Attitude changing for the better in Detroit (Detroit Free Press)
Things are changing in Detroit. And we're not talking about more streetlights or the pace of blight demolition.

New bills boost legislator's attack on democracy (Detroit Free Press)
It's beginning to look a lot like open season on our democracy.

Editorial: Slow down on tax hike (Detroit News)
Lawmakers are rushing to extend a bill that levies a tax on Michigan businesses that promises to grow exponentially over the next few years. There is no need for such haste.

Warren: Any data-center tax breaks need accountability (Detroit News)
A Nevada-based multibillion-dollar company wants to take over the Steelcase pyramid in Grand Rapids and develop a data center. The company, Switch, promises 1,000 well-paying jobs over the course of its development, as well as a $5 billion investment in our state.

GOP debate a chance to address American workers (Detroit News)
Nearing the Iowa caucuses, Democratic presidential candidates are setting their sights on labor policy. Frontrunner Hillary Clinton routinely rails against income inequality, vowing "to strengthen workers' voices" and protect them from "exploitation." Sen. Bernie Sanders recently introduced a labor-backed bill "(making) it easier for workers to join unions."

Finley: Big GOP bucks won't go to Trump (Detroit News)
It's the second Sunday in December and Donald Trump hasn't gone away. The Republican money is starting to plan what it will do if he never does.

Editorial: Limit militarization of police (Detroit News)
The image has become all too familiar: military-grade tanks driving through American neighborhoods as they respond to emergency situations.

In Courser-Gamrat matter, will we ever know who knew what and when? (MLive)
The Cindy Gamrat and Todd Courser saga is the story that keeps on giving.

Whistleblowers shine light on lack of transparency and accountability in Lansing (MLive)
Nowhere is transparency more important than in government, where elected decision-makers must be held to the highest standard of accountability. Unfortunately, that standard has gone missing from the halls of Michigan's Capitol. The lack of accountability among the Republicans who control our state government is so severe, that it's taken the courageous actions of two whistleblowing staff members to bring the truth to light.

As Legislature considers medical marijuana proposals, facts must overcome fiction, myths (MLive)
The Michigan Legislature is poised to provide much-needed clarity to our state's medical marijuana law. By approving a framework of strong regulations that hold people accountable, policymakers can end seven years of confusion that has harmed patients, local communities and responsible businesses eager to follow the rules.

Editorial: Schools are no place for open carry (Battle Creek Enquirer)
It's one thing to have a principled debate over the regulation of firearms in public spaces; it's another entirely to put everybody's children in the middle of it simply to make a point.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:36 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/17 Newsroom
Attachments: 151217 Newsroom.docx

Thursday, December 17, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

GOVERNOR'S ACTIVITIES

Bill signings
Snyder signs law letting school retirees return with pension (AP)
Certain retired teachers can return to work in critical shortage subjects without sacrificing their pension and health care benefits under a law signed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The law enacted Wednesday is designed to address shortages of full-time teachers in some subjects and substitute teachers.

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Gov. Snyder analyzes old laws that don't apply to the 21st Century (WLNS)
Go ahead and trample a blackberry bush or accept a challenge to a duel. Believe it or not, those laws were still on the books 24 hours ago but not anymore.

New law exempts young adults if they report drug abuse (Detroit News)
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Student takes 'selfie' with Gov. Snyder after bill signing (WZZM)
Gov. Rick Snyder doesn't usually take "selfies," but Evan Dean managed to get one following a bill signing ceremony Wednesday morning at the Romney Building in Lansing.

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Gov. Rick Snyder signs Blue Alert legislation (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed into law Public Act 167 of 2015, which is legislation aimed to protect the public and law enforcement after an attack on an officer. The legislation, sponsored by State Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker, R-26th District, will create the Blue Alert system in Michigan.

Retired teachers can return to classroom in some areas (Freep)
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W. Mich. mother who inspired 'good Samaritan' law speaks out on its passage (WWMT)
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Interviews
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Governor Rick Snyder says more work needs to be done, but there is now a timeline to plan for re-settling refugees from the Middle East in Michigan.

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Snyder: Data center tax breaks different from type he hates (AP)
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Gov. Snyder chats with Michael Patrick Shiels about 2015 accomplishments (Michigan's Big Show)

Gov. Snyder chats with Jay Morris about 2015 accomplishments (WKZO)

DEPARTMENTS

DNR
Parjana, Lawrence Tech collaborate on drainage project (Crain's Detroit Business)
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Delhi, Charlotte targeted for parks improvement grants (Lansing State Journal)
Parks in Charlotte and Delhi Township are among 12 in Michigan in line to benefit from more than $1.2 million in state Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. Delhi has been recommended for a $100,000 grant to improve the restroom

facility at Kiwanis Park. The $75,000 tentatively going to Charlotte will help fund development of recreation facilities in that community.

DNR awards more than $1.3 million in Recreation Passport grants (Upper Michigan Source)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that 33 communities across the state will share $1,348,700 in Recreation Passport grants. Funding for this program is derived from sales of the Recreation Passport, the $11 annual pass that grants residents vehicle entry at state parks and recreation areas throughout Michigan.

MPSC
Cities successfully challenge DTE Energy over LED streetlight costs (Michigan Radio)
A group of cities has successfully challenged DTE Energy's plan to charge it more for LED streetlights. A coalition of cities took its case against DTE's proposed rate change to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

MSHDA
Congress set to give Detroit demolitions a huge boost (Detroit Free Press)
A massive federal spending bill expected to be passed this week includes a provision allowing the U.S. Treasury to transfer billions of dollars into a fund which has already sent or promised $130 million to Detroit to tear down thousands of blighted buildings and is expected to provide at least tens of millions more.

MCSC
New contracts approved: State employees to get 1% raise, 1.5% lump sum payment (MLive)
State employees will get a 1 percent raise and a 1.5 percent lump sum payment under new contracts approved by the Michigan Civil Service Commission on Wednesday. The 1 percent raise goes into effect with the state's next fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2016.

Michigan Civil Service Commission Approves Contracts With Five Unions (9&10 News)
The union contracts of more than 33,000 state workers have been approved by the state Civil Service Commission. The contracts include a 1 percent pay increase, a 1.5 percent lump-sum payment this fall and flat health care costs and benefits.

MVAA
New Chief at Grand Rapids Vets Home Appointed (WHTC)
The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans has a new Chief Operating Officer. Starting next Monday, Scott Blakeney takes over the helm of that facility's operations, working closely with state Veteran Health System CEO Leslie Shanlian and Jacobetti Home for Veterans COO Brad Slagle "to ensure both state veterans' homes continue to offer modern, quality care for residents," says state Veterans Affairs Agency Director Jeff Barnes.

DEQ
Michigan In State Of Emergency After Contaminated Water Causes High Levels Of Lead In Kids (Medical Daily)
The city of Flint, Mich., made the decision to break away from Detroit's water system last year, and the city's residents have been struggling to find clean drinking water ever since. Mayor Karen Weaver declared a State of Emergency on Monday over the dangerously high levels of lead in the city's drinking water supply.

Flint's Water Crisis Just Became A Double Emergency (Huffington Post)
JeCorey Hawkins had a scary moment with the water in Flint, Michigan, in September. The 22-year-old psychology student had stopped at a drinking fountain at his university when the water took on a grainy texture in his mouth. "I was very creeped out because I didn't know if I would be sick," Hawkins told The Huffington Post on Tuesday.

Great Lakes program would get $300M under compromise (Detroit Free Press)
A wide-ranging Great Lakes cleanup program would escape President Barack Obama's proposal to cut its funding under a compromise federal spending plan, members of Congress said Wednesday. Obama established the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2009 to make progress on some of the freshwater seas' biggest environmental problems,

including invasive species, industrial pollution, loss of wildlife habitat and nutrient runoff that causes harmful algae blooms.

DHHS

Chicken Pox Vaccine Debate: Amid Michigan Outbreaks, State Officials Beg Parents To Keep Children Healthy (International Business Times)

Amid a national debate on vaccines for children, Michigan health officials implored parents this week to keep children's vaccinations up to date following recent chickenpox outbreaks. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said Tuesday that outbreaks have been reported in multiple counties involving mainly unvaccinated children in school settings.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan Senate GOP plans to pass straight-ticket voting ban, ditch absentee voting bill (Mlive)

Michigan will ban straight-ticket voting without expanding absentee ballot options -- if Senate Republicans have their way. Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, said the upper chamber will move Wednesday to separate elections bills linked and approved last week by the House.

LMC gets big boost (The Herald Palladium)

The Michigan Senate on Tuesday passed legislation proposed by Rep. Al Pscholka that will bring a $17 million dollar renovation project to Lake Michigan College in Benton Township. Since 2006, Lake Michigan College has pushed for the funding to restore and upgrade the 307,997-square-foot Napier Avenue Campus Academic Facility, a 45-year-old building.

Legislature approves tax breaks for data center campus (Grand Rapids Business Journal)

Both the Michigan House and Senate had a late Tuesday night as they approved tax-exemption bills that were deemed necessary to bring a major data center campus to the Grand Rapids area. The two bills, exempting data centers from use and sales tax, are on their way to Gov. Rick Snyder to be signed. The House approved the amended bills, 61-45, and then the Senate approved those versions, 26-12, after initially passing them last week.

Senate passes bill allowing termination of rapist's parental rights (Michigan Radio)

A new law would protect rape victims from a custody battle with their rapists when a child is conceived. The Michigan Senate unanimously passed legislation this week that would allow courts to terminate a rapist's parental rights to a child conceived by the rape of the mother.

Michigan Senate votes to end straight-ticket voting option (AP)

The Republican-led Senate late Wednesday voted to eliminate the straight-party voting option from Michigan ballots after uncoupling the legislation from a House measure that would let voters cast an absentee ballot without having to meet specific criteria. The straight-ticket bill was sent back across the Capitol on a 24-13 vote, more than a month after the Senate passed an earlier version. The House, also controlled by Republicans, may vote later Wednesday to send the legislation to Gov. Rick Snyder.

Michigan Senate bills pit cherries against blueberries (WZZM 13)

It's a debate that's pitted cherry growers against Blueberry farmers. And now it's playing out in the state Senate. Ann Arbor Democrat Rebekah Warren introduced a bill Wednesday designating the cherry as Michigan's official fruit. But what about the blueberry? Michigan is, after all, the nation's top producer of highbush blueberries, harvesting more than 100 million pounds of blueberries a year.

DETROIT

Detroit honored in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (Detroit Free Press)

In recognition of its innovative work in design, Detroit has been named a part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, along with dozens of new member cities from 33 countries. The international agency announced that Detroit and the other cities were "committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy." The network is immensely geographically diverse, and includes cities like Austin, Barcelona, Rome, Singapore and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

OPINION

For Detroit students, don't go back to status quo (Detroit Free Press)
When it comes to reforming education for students stuck in under-performing and failing schools, it's far past time to set aside our ideological differences and put our collective focus on the kids in the classroom.

When did state know kids in Flint were lead poisoned? (Detroit Free Press)
When did the State of Michigan first learn that kids in Flint had been poisoned by lead in the city's drinking water?

Reading bill focuses on advancing students to proficiency (MLive)
House Bill 4822, which I sponsored and which passed the House in October, was the subject of a recent op-ed. The writer, psychologist Michael Ryan, is a longtime advocate for children and I commend him for his passion and contributions to improving literacy. However, a number of mischaracterizations and omissions warrant a response.

Young voters—where are they now? Not very close to the polling place (MLive)
Seniors vote. Young adults not so much.

Senate absentee-voting bill takes away more than it gives (MLive)
While much of the rest of the country has brought voting into the 21st century, Michigan has kept its badly outdated election laws. It is one of a minority of states that offers a limited number of options for hard-working Americans to register to vote and cast a ballot before Election Day. A Michigan voter cannot vote before Election Day without a valid excuse, must register nearly a month before the election without exception and cannot register online as voters in more than half the country now can.

Without guidelines for Michigan teacher evaluations, everyone is awesome (MLive)
Just 19 of the nearly 96,000 teachers statewide have met the official threshold for being terminated due to poor evaluations since the passage of teacher tenure reforms four years ago, state data show.

Durant: Give Michigan schools more freedom to innovate (Detroit News)
We have a public school crisis in Detroit and in Michigan. It is about outcomes, money and the need for new schools.

Editorial: Deal to cap GM should be public (Detroit News)
General Motors Co. will invest $1 billion in Michigan by 2030, part of a new deal the company reached with the state to reconfigure and cap the automakers' tax credits under a program that gives companies credits for keeping jobs and other investments in the state.

Letter: Time, dollars needed for juvenile justice (Detroit News)
Re: The Detroit News' Dec. 7 editorial, "Raise juvenile age in Michigan": I agree that Michigan's juvenile justice system is in disrepair. But the solution the News is pushing, and which is under consideration in Lansing, misses the mark.

When it comes to talent, Michigan needs more of everything (Bridge)
When it comes to building a brighter future for Michigan, no factor is more important than providing our state's residents the education and training they need to be successful. Children and adults become poised for success when they have the knowledge and skills they need to grow, thrive and contribute to Michigan's overall prosperity.

#####

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICHIGAN
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

In the News

Thursday, December 17, 2015
NEWS (Click the link to read the full article)

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MPSC
Cities successfully challenge DTE Energy over LED streetlight costs (Michigan Radio)

A group of cities has successfully challenged DTE Energy's plan to charge it more for LED streetlights. A coalition of cities took its case against DTE's proposed rate change to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

MSHDA

Congress set to give Detroit demolitions a huge boost (Detroit Free Press)

A massive federal spending bill expected to be passed this week includes a provision allowing the U.S. Treasury to transfer billions of dollars into a fund which has already sent or promised $130 million to Detroit to tear down thousands of blighted buildings and is expected to provide at least tens of millions more.

MCSC

New contracts approved: State employees to get 1% raise, 1.5% lump sum payment (MLive)

State employees will get a 1 percent raise and a 1.5 percent lump sum payment under new contracts approved by the Michigan Civil Service Commission on Wednesday. The 1 percent raise goes into effect with the state's next fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 2016.

Michigan Civil Service Commission Approves Contracts With Five Unions (9&10 News)

The union contracts of more than 33,000 state workers have been approved by the state Civil Service Commission. The contracts include a 1 percent pay increase, a 1.5 percent lump-sum payment this fall and flat health care costs and benefits.

MVAA

New Chief at Grand Rapids Vets Home Appointed (WHTC)

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans has a new Chief Operating Officer. Starting next Monday, Scott Blakeney takes over the helm of that facility's operations, working closely with state Veteran Health System CEO Leslie Shanlian and Jacobetti Home for Veterans COO Brad Slagle "to ensure both state veterans' homes continue to offer modern, quality care for residents," says state Veterans Affairs Agency Director Jeff Barnes.

DEQ

Michigan In State Of Emergency After Contaminated Water Causes High Levels Of Lead In Kids (Medical Daily)

The city of Flint, Mich., made the decision to break away from Detroit's water system last year, and the city's residents have been struggling to find clean drinking water ever since. Mayor Karen Weaver declared a State of Emergency on Monday over the dangerously high levels of lead in the city's drinking water supply.

Flint's Water Crisis Just Became A Double Emergency (Huffington Post)

JeCorey Hawkins had a scary moment with the water in Flint, Michigan, in September. The 22-year-old psychology student had stopped at a drinking fountain at his university when the water took on a grainy texture in his mouth. "I was very creeped out because I didn't know if I would be sick," Hawkins told The Huffington Post on Tuesday.

Great Lakes program would get $300M under compromise (Detroit Free Press)

A wide-ranging Great Lakes cleanup program would escape President Barack Obama's proposal to cut its funding under a compromise federal spending plan, members of Congress said Wednesday. Obama established the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in 2009 to make progress on some of the freshwater seas' biggest environmental problems, including invasive species, industrial pollution, loss of wildlife habitat and nutrient runoff that causes harmful algae blooms.

DHHS

Chicken Pox Vaccine Debate: Amid Michigan Outbreaks, State Officials Beg Parents To Keep Children Healthy (International Business Times)

Amid a national debate on vaccines for children, Michigan health officials implored parents this week to keep children's vaccinations up to date following recent chickenpox outbreaks. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services said Tuesday that outbreaks have been reported in multiple counties involving mainly unvaccinated children in school settings.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan Senate GOP plans to pass straight-ticket voting ban, ditch absentee voting bill (Mlive)

Michigan will ban straight-ticket voting without expanding absentee ballot options -- if Senate Republicans have their way. Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, R-West Olive, said the upper chamber will move Wednesday to separate elections bills linked and approved last week by the House.

LMC gets big boost (The Herald Palladium)

The Michigan Senate on Tuesday passed legislation proposed by Rep. Al Pscholka that will bring a $17 million dollar renovation project to Lake Michigan College in Benton Township. Since 2006, Lake Michigan College has pushed for the funding to restore and upgrade the 307,997-square-foot Napier Avenue Campus Academic Facility, a 45-year-old building.

Legislature approves tax breaks for data center campus (Grand Rapids Business Journal)

Both the Michigan House and Senate had a late Tuesday night as they approved tax-exemption bills that were deemed necessary to bring a major data center campus to the Grand Rapids area. The two bills, exempting data centers from use and sales tax, are on their way to Gov. Rick Snyder to be signed. The House approved the amended bills, 61-45, and then the Senate approved those versions, 26-12, after initially passing them last week.

Senate passes bill allowing termination of rapist's parental rights (Michigan Radio)

A new law would protect rape victims from a custody battle with their rapists when a child is conceived. The Michigan Senate unanimously passed legislation this week that would allow courts to terminate a rapist's parental rights to a child conceived by the rape of the mother.

Michigan Senate votes to end straight-ticket voting option (AP)

The Republican-led Senate late Wednesday voted to eliminate the straight-party voting option from Michigan ballots after uncoupling the legislation from a House measure that would let voters cast an absentee ballot without having to meet specific criteria. The straight-ticket bill was sent back across the Capitol on a 24-13 vote, more than a month after the Senate passed an earlier version. The House, also controlled by Republicans, may vote later Wednesday to send the legislation to Gov. Rick Snyder.

Michigan Senate bills pit cherries against blueberries (WZZM 13)

It's a debate that's pitted cherry growers against Blueberry farmers. And now it's playing out in the state Senate. Ann Arbor Democrat Rebekah Warren introduced a bill Wednesday designating the cherry as Michigan's official fruit. But what about the blueberry? Michigan is, after all, the nation's top producer of highbush blueberries, harvesting more than 100 million pounds of blueberries a year.

DETROIT

Detroit honored in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (Detroit Free Press)

In recognition of its innovative work in design, Detroit has been named a part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network, along with dozens of new member cities from 33 countries. The international agency

announced that Detroit and the other cities were "committed to investing in creativity as a driver for sustainable urban development, social inclusion and cultural vibrancy." The network is immensely geographically diverse, and includes cities like Austin, Barcelona, Rome, Singapore and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

OPINION

For Detroit students, don't go back to status quo (Detroit Free Press)
When it comes to reforming education for students stuck in under-performing and failing schools, it's far past time to set aside our ideological differences and put our collective focus on the kids in the classroom.

When did state know kids in Flint were lead poisoned? (Detroit Free Press)
When did the State of Michigan first learn that kids in Flint had been poisoned by lead in the city's drinking water?

Reading bill focuses on advancing students to proficiency (MLive)
House Bill 4822, which I sponsored and which passed the House in October, was the subject of a recent op-ed. The writer, psychologist Michael Ryan, is a longtime advocate for children and I commend him for his passion and contributions to improving literacy. However, a number of mischaracterizations and omissions warrant a response.

Young voters—where are they now? Not very close to the polling place (MLive)
Seniors vote. Young adults not so much.

Senate absentee-voting bill takes away more than it gives (MLive)
While much of the rest of the country has brought voting into the 21st century, Michigan has kept its badly outdated election laws. It is one of a minority of states that offers a limited number of options for hard-working Americans to register to vote and cast a ballot before Election Day. A Michigan voter cannot vote before Election Day without a valid excuse, must register nearly a month before the election without exception and cannot register online as voters in more than half the country now can.

Without guidelines for Michigan teacher evaluations, everyone is awesome (MLive)
Just 19 of the nearly 96,000 teachers statewide have met the official threshold for being terminated due to poor evaluations since the passage of teacher tenure reforms four years ago, state data show.

Durant: Give Michigan schools more freedom to innovate (Detroit News)
We have a public school crisis in Detroit and in Michigan. It is about outcomes, money and the need for new schools.

Editorial: Deal to cap GM should be public (Detroit News)
General Motors Co. will invest $1 billion in Michigan by 2030, part of a new deal the company reached with the state to reconfigure and cap the automakers' tax credits under a program that gives companies credits for keeping jobs and other investments in the state.

Letter: Time, dollars needed for juvenile justice (Detroit News)
Re: The Detroit News' Dec. 7 editorial, "Raise juvenile age in Michigan": I agree that Michigan's juvenile justice system is in disrepair. But the solution the News is pushing, and which is under consideration in Lansing, misses the mark.

When it comes to talent, Michigan needs more of everything (Bridge)

When it comes to building a brighter future for Michigan, no factor is more important than providing our state's residents the education and training they need to be successful. Children and adults become poised for success when they have the knowledge and skills they need to grow, thrive and contribute to Michigan's overall prosperity.

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From: GOV Newsroom
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 11:00 AM
To: GOV Newsroom
Subject: 12/18 Newsroom
Attachments: 151218 Newsroom.docx

Governor Rick Snyder
REINVENTING MICH
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.

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From finding a way to fund our crumbling roads, to boosting business and bringing jobs to the state, it's been a big year for Michigan. Newschannel 3's Andy Dominianni sat down one-on-one with Governor Rick Snyder on Thursday to talk about the big successes and failures of the year, along with projects that impact West Michigan.

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Gov. Snyder names state point-man for Flint water crisis (Michigan Radio)
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Michigan secures waiver to continue Medicaid expansion (AP)
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Feds approve Medicaid waiver for Michigan (Detroit News)
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Federal government approves waiver for Healthy Michigan (Freep)
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Bill signings
Gov. Snyder signs bill making allergy pens more accessible for emergencies (UP Matters/TV 3)
Epi-Pens and other auto-injectibles of epinephrine will be available in more public places to address severe allergic reactions, under legislation signed Thursday by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs allergy pen accessibility, liquid industrial byproduct bills (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed legislation that will make EpiPens and other auto-injectables of epinephrine available in more public places to address severe allergic reactions. House Bill 4438 will allow pharmacists to dispense EpiPens to authorized entities with a prescription, such as recreation camps, youth sports leagues, amusement parks and similar locations/events. The bill was approved unanimously and is now Public Act 221 of 2015.

Governor Snyder Signs Bill Allowing Stadiums, Amusement Parks to Stock EpiPens (WILX))
EpiPens and other injectable forms of Epinephrine will be on hand in more public places. Governor Snyder signed a bill Thursday that would allow stadiums, amusement parks, recreation camps and other similar locations to stock the injectors.

New law aims to make allergy pens more available (WZZM)
Governor Snyder has signed legislation intended to make allergy pens available in more public places. The injection device is used when a person has a severe allergic reaction. The new law allows pharmacists to dispense EpiPens to authorized organizations like sports and summer camps, amusement parks, and other similar locations.

Refugee vetting
Michigan's Middle Eastern Commission backs Snyder's refugee pause (Arab American News)
When Gov. Rick Snyder announced a pause in efforts to bring in new Syrian refugees to Michigan after the terrorist attacks in Paris, major Arab, Muslim, immigration advocacy and civil rights organization criticized him. But days after the governor's decision, the Michigan Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA) published a statement in support of the step.

DEPARTMENTS

AG
Skubick: AG Schuette opens up in 2015 review (WLNS)
Michigan's attorney general has ruled out using oil tankers on the Great Lakes to ship oil that now flows underneath the Straits of Mackinac. That's just one of the topics Bill Schuette touched on in his review of 2015.

DEQ
Harvey Hollins tapped to lead Flint water effort (Detroit Free Press)

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Some state officials still in denial or misinformed over Flint River decision (Michigan Radio)
I don't blame the governor's press secretary for not understanding exactly who made the decision to have Flint pump its drinking water from the Flint River. It was a complicated-decision making process with multiple key players that lasted at least a few months.

CWD scary, but not enough to quit hunting (Port Huron Times Herald)
Brewer is an avid and accomplished hunter who says his family of four lives on wild game. With his two children, ages 9 and 11, along on the hunt, he took what looks like a nice 8-point buck on a friend's ranch on Nov. 1. After dressing the animal, he took it to a state check station and then he took it home.

DNR
DNR awards communities $1.3 million in passport grants (ABC 10)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that 33 communities across the state will share $1,348,700 in Recreation Passport grants. Funding for this program is derived from sales of the Recreation Passport, the $11 annual pass that grants residents vehicle entry at state parks and recreation areas throughout Michigan.

Kivela bill would help protect U.P. deer herd from CWD (Upper Michigan's)
State Representative John Kivela recently introduced legislation to increase the penalties for illegally bringing a deer carcass into Michigan from another state that is known to have deer with Chronic Wasting Disease.

MDNR honors hunter education instructor of the year (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently named Timothy Pifher, of Davidson, its 2015 Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year.

MDARD
MDARD warns of potential food problem (Alpena News)
Consumers are warned to throw away any of 22 products by Lock Stock & Barrel Ranch of Onaway, according to a food safety advisory from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. MDARD inspectors conducting a routine food safety inspection discovered a potential problem with the required safety controls in the manufacturing process.

MEDC
Holland-area businesses to invest in employees through state program (Holland Sentinel)
ight businesses in Holland and Zeeland have funds to develop their workforce after receiving grants totalling $385,000 from the Michigan Skilled Trades Training Fund.

Despite politics, strides made in 2015 to break Michigan's status quo (Michigan Radio)
It's that time of year to reflect on what worked and what didn't this past year here in the Great Lakes State, and to give due consideration to potential adjustments to improve our situation.

MDE
Many Detroit area schools lag statewide M-STEP results (Detroit News)
Just half of Michigan third-graders achieved proficiency in English on the state's new M-STEP exam, and newly released data show that more than two-thirds of Metro Detroit districts and charters missed that mark.

Ann Arbor M-STEP results show achievement gap persists (MLive)

New testing data shows the Ann Arbor school district still struggles with an achievement gap between between black and white students and wealthy and poor students.

Michigan releases more detailed breakdown of school tests (AP)
The Michigan Department of Education released a more detailed breakdown of results of the state's new, more rigorous standardized tests, highlighting some of the challenges facing educators in Detroit.

MSP
Michigan State Police raid Dearborn city clerk's office (Press & Guide)
Michigan State Police raided the office of Dearborn City Clerk Kathy Buda on Wednesday morning in connection with an embezzlement investigation.

Michigan State Police: Troopers make warrant, drug arrests (MLive)
Troopers stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in Springport Township. The driver, identified as a 19-year-old man from Albion, was driving with a suspended license and wanted on a misdemeanor warrant out of Hillsdale County. He posted bond on the misdemeanor warrant and was given a notice to appear for the charge of driving while license suspended.

MPSC
Business group, utilities, clash over rate hikes, electric choice (Capitol Confidential)
A business group is asking the Michigan Court of Appeals to overturn a rate hike it claims would give Consumers Energy the highest profits granted by regulators this year in the U.S. The lawsuit comes while Michigan customers face the highest electricity rates in the region and the state's two largest utilities, Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison, lobby the Legislature to return them to the status of full monopolies.

TREASURY
Adrian's school board approves bond financial paperwork, moves to state (LenConnect)
Adrian Public Schools moved one step closer Wednesday to putting a $29.5 million ballot proposal before voters in May, after the Michigan Department of Treasury approved the district's preliminary bond paperwork.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan Legislature OKs end of straight-party voting (AP)
A sharply divided Legislature late Wednesday voted to eliminate the straight-party voting option from ballots, a step majority Republicans said would bring Michigan in line with 40 other states and Democrats denounced as a partisan maneuver to help the GOP win elections.

Tax breaks for data storage centers passed by House, Senate (Free Press)
Tax breaks for data centers in Michigan cleared the House and Senate Tuesday , but the sales and use tax exemptions still face significant opposition from some in the business community, local governments and the administration of Gov. Rick Snyder.

Mich. lawmakers need to do more for Detroit's public schools (The Blade)
As the clock ticked down the last days of this year's legislative session, majority Republicans mounted a full-court press to give their party more partisan advantage in coming elections.

DETROIT

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Just half of Michigan third-graders achieved proficiency in English on the state's new M-STEP exam, and newly released data show that more than two-thirds of Metro Detroit districts and charters missed that mark.

M-STEP results: Just 1 EAA 4th-grader passed math (Free Press)

Detailed results from Michigan's tough new standardized exam paint a worrisome picture for many schools in Detroit and will likely boost state efforts to fix what many see as a broken educational system in the city.

Snyder Scales Back Proposed Overhaul of Detroit Schools (WDET)
Governor Rick Snyder says he's slowing down his plans to fix Detroit's schools in order to the process moving. In the face of resistance from Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature, the governor says he wants to break up the work, focusing first on retiring the district's massive debt.

Detroit demolitions likely to get big boost from Congress (Free Press)
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Detroit-led blight fight may spur demolitions across U.S. (Free Press)
A Michigan-led effort to get $2 billion more put into a federal neighborhood stabilization fund could touch off one of the biggest initiatives to demolish abandoned, derelict buildings in older urban centers ever seen, with cities across the Midwest — Detroit first and foremost among them — standing to benefit.

Paying water bills in Detroit is a test of good will (Detroit News)
Even Good Samaritans have trouble paying water bills in Detroit. It's not because they don't have the money. It's because the city makes it difficult to pay.

OPINION

Don't punish a breed of dogs for actions of bad owners (Detroit Free Press)
When tragic incidents with pit bulls happen, as they have recently, many are quick to blame the breed, without seeing where the true responsibility lies: the dog's owner. We share in the sadness of these tragedies, and it is understandable that, in the immediate aftermath, some try to find a simple solution to ensure similar incidents never happen again. The problem, however, is much broader and complex than one fix-all solution.

Bankruptcy could be option for ailing DPS (Detroit News)
Each month the Legislature fails to act on Gov. Rick Snyder's proposals for fixing Detroit Public Schools brings the district a step nearer to a Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing, which now even the governor is calling an option.

Editorial: Protect access to medical marijuana (Detroit News)
The Senate failed to pass legislation again this year that would legalize non-smokable forms of marijuana under the state's medical pot program. That means nearly 180,000 medical marijuana patients in Michigan remain in limbo, as do their caregivers and suppliers.

Wolfram: Data center bill consistent with tax policy (Detroit News)
The state Senate recently passed bills that deal with exempting data centers from the sales and use taxes as well as the personal property tax. While most of the discussion has been about the effect on economic activity, in particular whether the tax reductions will advance economic activity in Michigan, it is useful to examine the fundamental theory of the sales taxes and whether the property tax exemption is consistent with current policy.

Susan J. Demas: Anti-vaccination bills will harm Michigan children (MLive)
When it comes to keeping kids healthy in Michigan, it seems we always take one step forward and two steps back.

#####

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Epi-Pens and other auto-injectibles of epinephrine will be available in more public places to address severe allergic reactions, under legislation signed Thursday by Gov. Rick Snyder.

Gov. Rick Snyder signs allergy pen accessibility, liquid industrial byproduct bills (Holland Sentinel)
Gov. Rick Snyder recently signed legislation that will make EpiPens and other auto-injectables of epinephrine available in more public places to address severe allergic reactions. House Bill 4438 will allow pharmacists to dispense EpiPens to authorized entities with a prescription, such as recreation camps, youth sports leagues, amusement parks and similar locations/events. The bill was approved unanimously and is now Public Act 221 of 2015.

Governor Snyder Signs Bill Allowing Stadiums, Amusement Parks to Stock EpiPens (WILX))
EpiPens and other injectable forms of Epinephrine will be on hand in more public places. Governor Snyder signed a bill Thursday that would allow stadiums, amusement parks, recreation camps and other similar locations to stock the injectors.

New law aims to make allergy pens more available (WZZM)
Governor Snyder has signed legislation intended to make allergy pens available in more public places. The injection device is used when a person has a severe allergic reaction. The new law allows pharmacists to dispense EpiPens to authorized organizations like sports and summer camps, amusement parks, and other similar locations.

Refugee vetting
Michigan's Middle Eastern Commission backs Snyder's refugee pause (Arab American News)
When Gov. Rick Snyder announced a pause in efforts to bring in new Syrian refugees to Michigan after the terrorist attacks in Paris, major Arab, Muslim, immigration advocacy and civil rights organization criticized him. But days after the governor's decision, the Michigan Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs (CMEAA) published a statement in support of the step.

DEPARTMENTS

AG
Skubick: AG Schuette opens up in 2015 review (WLNS)
Michigan's attorney general has ruled out using oil tankers on the Great Lakes to ship oil that now flows underneath the Straits of Mackinac. That's just one of the topics Bill Schuette touched on in his review of 2015.

DEQ

Harvey Hollins tapped to lead Flint water effort (Detroit Free Press)
Harvey Hollins, a former vice president of Wayne State University, has been tapped by Gov. Rick Snyder to coordinate the state's response to the Flint water crisis.

Gov. Snyder names state point-man for Flint water crisis (Michigan Radio)
One man will lead the state's efforts to deal with Flint's water crisis. Harvey Hollins is the director of the Office of Urban Initiatives. Gov. Snyder has appointed Hollins to oversee the state agencies responding to Flint's water crisis.

Some state officials still in denial or misinformed over Flint River decision (Michigan Radio)
I don't blame the governor's press secretary for not understanding exactly who made the decision to have Flint pump its drinking water from the Flint River. It was a complicated-decision making process with multiple key players that lasted at least a few months.

CWD scary, but not enough to quit hunting (Port Huron Times Herald)
Brewer is an avid and accomplished hunter who says his family of four lives on wild game. With his two children, ages 9 and 11, along on the hunt, he took what looks like a nice 8-point buck on a friend's ranch on Nov. 1. After dressing the animal, he took it to a state check station and then he took it home.

DNR

DNR awards communities $1.3 million in passport grants (ABC 10)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources today announced that 33 communities across the state will share $1,348,700 in Recreation Passport grants. Funding for this program is derived from sales of the Recreation Passport, the $11 annual pass that grants residents vehicle entry at state parks and recreation areas throughout Michigan.

Kivela bill would help protect U.P. deer herd from CWD (Upper Michigan's)
State Representative John Kivela recently introduced legislation to increase the penalties for illegally bringing a deer carcass into Michigan from another state that is known to have deer with Chronic Wasting Disease.

MDNR honors hunter education instructor of the year (Holland Sentinel)
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recently named Timothy Pifher, of Davidson, its 2015 Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor of the Year.

MDARD

MDARD warns of potential food problem (Alpena News)
Consumers are warned to throw away any of 22 products by Lock Stock & Barrel Ranch of Onaway, according to a food safety advisory from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. MDARD inspectors conducting a routine food safety inspection discovered a potential problem with the required safety controls in the manufacturing process.

MEDC

Holland-area businesses to invest in employees through state program (Holland Sentinel)
ight businesses in Holland and Zeeland have funds to develop their workforce after receiving grants totalling $385,000 from the Michigan Skilled Trades Training Fund.

Despite politics, strides made in 2015 to break Michigan's status quo (Michigan Radio)
It's that time of year to reflect on what worked and what didn't this past year here in the Great Lakes State, and to give due consideration to potential adjustments to improve our situation.

MDE

Many Detroit area schools lag statewide M-STEP results (Detroit News)
Just half of Michigan third-graders achieved proficiency in English on the state's new M-STEP exam, and newly released data show that more than two-thirds of Metro Detroit districts and charters missed that mark.

Ann Arbor M-STEP results show achievement gap persists (MLive)
New testing data shows the Ann Arbor school district still struggles with an achievement gap between between black and white students and wealthy and poor students.

Michigan releases more detailed breakdown of school tests (AP)
The Michigan Department of Education released a more detailed breakdown of results of the state's new, more rigorous standardized tests, highlighting some of the challenges facing educators in Detroit.

MSP

Michigan State Police raid Dearborn city clerk's office (Press & Guide)
Michigan State Police raided the office of Dearborn City Clerk Kathy Buda on Wednesday morning in connection with an embezzlement investigation.

Michigan State Police: Troopers make warrant, drug arrests (MLive)
Troopers stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in Springport Township. The driver, identified as a 19-year-old man from Albion, was driving with a suspended license and wanted on a misdemeanor warrant out of Hillsdale County. He posted bond on the misdemeanor warrant and was given a notice to appear for the charge of driving while license suspended.

MPSC

Business group, utilities, clash over rate hikes, electric choice (Capitol Confidential)
A business group is asking the Michigan Court of Appeals to overturn a rate hike it claims would give Consumers Energy the highest profits granted by regulators this year in the U.S. The lawsuit comes while Michigan customers face the highest electricity rates in the region and the state's two largest utilities, Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison, lobby the Legislature to return them to the status of full monopolies.

TREASURY

Adrian's school board approves bond financial paperwork, moves to state (LenConnect)
Adrian Public Schools moved one step closer Wednesday to putting a $29.5 million ballot proposal before voters in May, after the Michigan Department of Treasury approved the district's preliminary bond paperwork.

LEGISLATIVE

Michigan Legislature OKs end of straight-party voting (AP)
A sharply divided Legislature late Wednesday voted to eliminate the straight-party voting option from ballots, a step majority Republicans said would bring Michigan in line with 40 other states and Democrats denounced as a partisan maneuver to help the GOP win elections.

Tax breaks for data storage centers passed by House, Senate (Free Press)
Tax breaks for data centers in Michigan cleared the House and Senate Tuesday , but the sales and use tax exemptions still face significant opposition from some in the business community, local governments and the administration of Gov. Rick Snyder.

Mich. lawmakers need to do more for Detroit's public schools (The Blade)
As the clock ticked down the last days of this year's legislative session, majority Republicans mounted a full-court press to give their party more partisan advantage in coming elections.

DETROIT

Many Detroit area schools lag statewide M-STEP results (Detroit News)
Just half of Michigan third-graders achieved proficiency in English on the state's new M-STEP exam, and newly released data show that more than two-thirds of Metro Detroit districts and charters missed that mark.

M-STEP results: Just 1 EAA 4th-grader passed math (Free Press)
Detailed results from Michigan's tough new standardized exam paint a worrisome picture for many schools in Detroit and will likely boost state efforts to fix what many see as a broken educational system in the city.

Snyder Scales Back Proposed Overhaul of Detroit Schools (WDET)
Governor Rick Snyder says he's slowing down his plans to fix Detroit's schools in order to the process moving. In the face of resistance from Republicans and Democrats in the Legislature, the governor says he wants to break up the work, focusing first on retiring the district's massive debt.

Detroit demolitions likely to get big boost from Congress (Free Press)
A massive federal spending bill expected to be passed this week includes a provision allowing the U.S. Treasury to transfer billions of dollars into a fund which has already sent or promised $130 million to Detroit to tear down thousands of blighted buildings and is expected to provide at least tens of millions more.

Detroit-led blight fight may spur demolitions across U.S. (Free Press)
A Michigan-led effort to get $2 billion more put into a federal neighborhood stabilization fund could touch off one of the biggest initiatives to demolish abandoned, derelict buildings in older urban centers ever seen, with cities across the Midwest — Detroit first and foremost among them — standing to benefit.

Paying water bills in Detroit is a test of good will (Detroit News)
Even Good Samaritans have trouble paying water bills in Detroit. It's not because they don't have the money. It's because the city makes it difficult to pay.

OPINION

Don't punish a breed of dogs for actions of bad owners (Detroit Free Press)
When tragic incidents with pit bulls happen, as they have recently, many are quick to blame the breed, without seeing where the true responsibility lies: the dog's owner. We share in the sadness of these tragedies, and it is understandable that, in the immediate aftermath, some try to find a simple solution to ensure similar incidents never happen again. The problem, however, is much broader and complex than one fix-all solution.

Bankruptcy could be option for ailing DPS (Detroit News)
Each month the Legislature fails to act on Gov. Rick Snyder's proposals for fixing Detroit Public Schools brings the district a step nearer to a Chapter 9 bankruptcy filing, which now even the governor is calling an option.

Editorial: Protect access to medical marijuana (Detroit News)
The Senate failed to pass legislation again this year that would legalize non-smokable forms of marijuana under the state's medical pot program. That means nearly 180,000 medical marijuana patients in Michigan remain in limbo, as do their caregivers and suppliers.

Wolfram: Data center bill consistent with tax policy (Detroit News)
The state Senate recently passed bills that deal with exempting data centers from the sales and use taxes as well as the personal property tax. While most of the discussion has been about the effect on economic activity, in particular whether the tax reductions will advance economic activity in Michigan, it is useful to examine the fundamental theory of the sales taxes and whether the property tax exemption is consistent with current policy.

Susan J. Demas: Anti-vaccination bills will harm Michigan children (MLive)
When it comes to keeping kids healthy in Michigan, it seems we always take one step forward and two steps back.

#####

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Leeds, Lauren (DTMB)
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state of Michigan

Daily update - December 18, 2015

NEWS

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio's name was misspelled on the cover of Sports Illustrated

For The Win

Mark Dantonio's name is Mark Dantonio. His football team, the **Michigan State** Spartans, had an incredible season. Incredible enough that they won ...

Sports Illustrated goofs with 'Mike' Dantonio on cover featuring Michigan State - MLive.com

Michigan State's Mark Dantonio misidentified on SI special issue cover - Sports Illustrated

SI has Mike Dantonio coaching Michigan State to the playoffs. Who's Mike Dantonio? - Washington Post

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

State Of Emergency Issued In Flint, Michigan Due To High Lead Levels In Water

News One

Officials in Flint, **Michigan** have declared a **state** of emergency due to the quality of the city's drinking water. According to NBC News, "Tests have ...

Michigan Mayor Declares State Of Emergency Over Lead Levels - KTOO

Flint, Michigan, Declares State of Emergency after Lead from Flint River Poisons Scores of Children - The Daily Meal

Flint, Michigan Declares State Of Emergency Over Lead In Drinking Water - Waltonian

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

A creator and innovator, Michigan State's Mark Hollis has become the nation's most forward ...

Campus Rush

That man in the red suit and comically large belt, toting a pneumatic T-shirt gun instead of a bag of toys at a recent **Michigan State** basketball game?

Flag as irrelevant

Connor Cook's personality, like it or not, is reason for Spartans' success

ESPN (blog)

No one likes you when you beat them. **Michigan State** is learning this year what it's like to go from the scrappy underdog to the power team people root ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State football offers scholarship to Lansing Catholic's Tony Poljan

MLive.com

Lansing Catholic Central's Tony Poljan has received a scholarship offer from **Michigan State**, according to his Twitter account. (Alex McDougall ...

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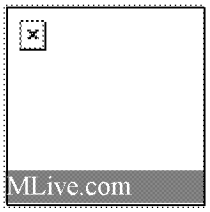

Michigan State's Bryn Forbes sheds 'soft' label, earns praise from Tom Izzo

MLive.com

Michigan State guard Bryn Forbes (5) looks to pass in the first half of their NCAA basketball game against Florida at the Breslin Center in East Lansing, ...

5 Best Places To Eat And Watch Michigan State Basketball - CBS Local Sports

Michigan State Coach Tom Izzo Leads Spartans in Christmas Carols on Accordion - Bleacher Report

Michigan State Coach Tom Izzo Plays Christmas Music On Accordion (Video) - NESN.com

Full Coverage

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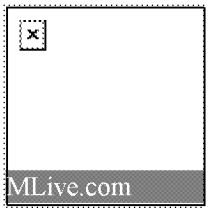

No. 1 Michigan State pays a visit to historic Matthews Arena

The Boston Globe

In 2001, he came up with the idea for the **Michigan State** men's hockey team to play its Cold War rivalry game against **Michigan** in the middle of ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State Police: Troopers make warrant, drug arrests

MLive.com

A sergeant from the **Michigan State** Police Jackson Post stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in Hillsdale. During the subsequent investigation a ...

Flag as irrelevant

Cotton Bowl 2015: Updated Odds and Comments for Alabama vs. Michigan State

Bleacher Report

Both **Michigan State** and Alabama have developed reputations for looking like the great teams of yesteryear. The Spartans and the Crimson Tide can ...

Iowa Commit Offered by Michigan State - Scout

((Free)) Michigan State vs Iowa Live Streaming, TV Channel, Scores, Start Time - Journal Observer (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State notes: Gavin Schilling has 40 percent chance to play on Saturday

MLive.com

Michigan State forward Gavin Schilling (34) shoots a layup in the first half of their NCAA tournament Sweet 16 game against Oklahoma at the Carrier ...

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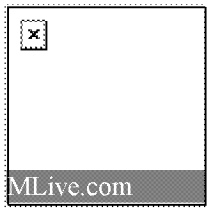

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Daily update - December 19, 2015

NEWS

Michigan State can make history in Boston

The Detroit News

"They have had a weird year," **Michigan State** coach Tom Izzo said. "They lost to a couple of teams I didn't think they'd lose to, but they beat a Miami ...

College hoops: **Michigan State** women win at Northeastern - Detroit Free Press

Northeastern trying not to be awed by **Michigan State** - Boston Herald

No. 24/22 **Michigan State** Handles Northeastern, 77-51 - Michigan State Athletics

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

MSU players endured finals, grueling bowl practices

Detroit Free Press

EAST LANSING -- To prepare for Alabama, **Michigan State** is going with the loud-quiet-loud approach. An intense week just finished. Players are off ...

Flag as irrelevant

Tom Izzo says Northeastern a 'major concern' as Michigan State looks to go to 12-0

MLive.com

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo looks on in the second half of their NCAA basketball game against Maryland Eastern Shore at the Breslin Center in ...

Northeastern set for big weekend hosting **Michigan State** - Boston Herald

Northeastern basketball coach Bill Coen praises **Michigan State** coach Tom Izzo - The Boston Globe

Marvin Clark, Tom Izzo Set to Defend No. 1-Ranking on the Road - Today's U (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Report: Michigan beats out Ohio State for attendance crown

FOXSports.com

Michigan, which finished 9-3 in its first season under Jim Harbaugh, averaged 110,168 fans per home game, while Ohio **State** averaged 107,244.

Michigan regains football attendance crown - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

No. 1 Michigan State not overlooking Northeastern

The Boston Globe

Before **Michigan State** made the trip to Boston, coach Tom Izzo wanted to make sure his team knew what it was getting into. He cued up film from a ...

Top-ranked Michigan State next for Northeastern and Stow's David Walker on Saturday - cleveland.com (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Can Northeastern beat Michigan State? Yes? OK, maybe

The Boston Globe

Michigan State at Northeastern: Incredible that Tom Izzo brings the No. 1 team in the country to Boston to play NU; if the Spartans are paying attention, ...

Flag as irrelevant

Charlevoix resident honored as Wall of Fame inductee at Michigan State University

Petoskey News-Review

Charlevoix native and current resident, Ritchie T. Davis, was inducted into the **Michigan State** University, School of Criminal Justice, Wall of Fame ...

Flag as irrelevant

Preview: Youngstown State at Michigan

WPTZ The Champlain Valley

Michigan looks to win its fourth straight home game when it welcomes Youngstown **State** to Ann Arbor on Saturday. The Wolverines are 5-1 at Crisler ...

Michigan Basketball Gameday: Wolverines continue homestand with date vs. Youngstown State - MLive.com

Men's Basketball Visits B1G Foe Michigan Saturday Night - Youngstown State Athletics

Michigan Basketball: What to Watch vs Youngstown State - SportsBlog.com (blog)

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Colton Bowl 2015. Latest Odds, Storylines for Alabama vs. Michigan State

Bleacher Report

Michigan State embarks on arguably the biggest game in program history, and standing between the chance to play for its first outright national title in ...

Flag as irrelevant

Legislative Black Caucus backs Flint's request for State of Emergency

Michigan Radio

Michigan's legislative black caucus is urging Gov. Rick Snyder to issue a **State** of Emergency to address the continuing health concerns caused by the ...

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Daily update - December 22, 2015

NEWS

A look at **Michigan State**'s journey to the College Football Playoff. Khris Haie/Icon Sportswire/AP ...

ESPN

ON A TYPICALLY rain-doused Big Ten evening in Columbus, Ohio, the **Michigan State** offense gets the ball late in the fourth quarter of a tie game with ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State football: Spirit of Detroit to don Spartan jersey

NCAA.com

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- The "Spirit of Detroit," an iconic monument located in the heart of downtown Detroit at the Coleman A. Young Center on ...

'Spirit of Detroit' statue getting big **Michigan State** jersey - News & Observer

'Spirit of Detroit' statue gets big **Michigan State** jersey - Wichita Eagle

Jankoska, No. 24 **Michigan State** Women Beat Detroit 81-42 - ABC News

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Alabama will have to overcome **Michigan State** defensive front that's 'hard to block'

AL.com

Michigan State defensive end Shilique Calhoun lines up against Jacksonville **State** on Aug. 29, 2014. (Photo: Paul Sancya Associated Press) ...

America wants **Michigan State** to win national title - Detroit Free Press

As **Michigan State**'s coach in the '90s, Nick Saban was not well liked, but he was seen as brilliant ... - Campus Rush

Alabama should ignore **Michigan State**'s pledge of hitting Derrick Henry "harder than we've ever hit ... - SECcountry.com

Full Coverage

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Michigan State basketball: Valentine out 2-3 weeks with injury

NCAA.com

EAST LANSING, Mich. — No. 1 **Michigan State's** top scorer, Denzel Valentine, will be out for two to three weeks with a knee injury. Coach Tom Izzo ...

Michigan State's Valentine out 2-3 weeks with injury - Yahoo Canada Sports

Grinz On Green: Spartans Ready To Adjust Without Valentine - Michigan State Athletics

MSU-Oakland game day: Time, TV, radio info - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

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Michigan State still leads AP poll, but Providence cracks the top 10

ESPN

Michigan State, Kansas and Oklahoma held the top three spots in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for a second straight week. There was ...

Michigan State remains No. 1 in AP hoops poll - The Detroit News

Michigan State, Kansas, Oklahoma stay 1-2-3 in AP Top 25 - U.S. News & World Report

2 Michigan State Still No. 1in AP and Coaches Polls - SLAM Online

Full Coverage

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Michigan Ignored 'Conclusive Evidence' Of Flint Lead Poisoning, Researcher Says

Huffington Post

Michigan state officials insisted that the water supply in Flint was safe even though they knew an unusual number of children had suffered lead ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's Jalen Watts-Jackson wouldn't change a thing

ESPN (blog)

Even now, more than two months after his starring role in one of the most incredible endings in college football history, it's difficult for Jalen ...

Flag as irrelevant

No. 9 Mississippi State beats Western Michigan 90-68

USA TODAY

Mississippi **State**: The Bulldogs took 78 shots to just 42 for Western **Michigan**. ... McGowan has 41 offensive rebounds this year to 33 on the defensive ...

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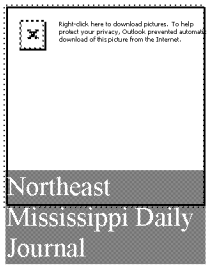

5 Michigan State players Alabama fans should be familiar with besides Connor Cook

AL.com

Connor Cook is **Michigan State's** star quarterback, a three-year starter who CBS Sports projects will be a first round pick in next year's NFL draft.

Why does Michigan State's Connor Cook get as much criticism as credit? - USA TODAY

Michigan State ranked No. 1 in AP poll for third straight week - MLive.com

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State Endowment to Be Run by Zecher, an Ex-Fund Manager

Bloomberg

Michigan State University hired Philip Zecher, a former hedge fund manager with a doctorate in nuclear physics, as its first chief investment officer to ...

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Daily update - December 31, 2015

NEWS

College Football Playoff | Pro and cons of Michigan State, Alabama

Columbus Dispatch

So this matchup against mighty Alabama feeds right into **Michigan State's state** of mind. The Spartans will not be intimidated, and if it's close in the ...

Nick Saban explains Michigan State's unique defensive approach - AL.com

Cases for and problems with Alabama and Michigan State - U.S. News & World Report

National predictions: Michigan State vs. Alabama - The Detroit News

Full Coverage

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3 reasons why Michigan State will beat Alabama

MLive.com

Big Ten Receiver of the Year Aaron Burbridge figures to get plenty of targets from **Michigan State** quarterback Connor Cook in the College Football ...

Cotton Bowl: Underestimate Michigan State at your own peril - USA TODAY

3 prominent Michigan State coaches have worked under Nick Saban - AL.com

MSU vs. Alabama: Scouting report, prediction - Detroit Free Press

Full Coverage

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Michigan governor apologizes for state's handling of Flint's water

Yahoo News

DETROIT (Reuters) - **Michigan's** governor apologized on Tuesday for the **state's** mishandling of lead contamination in the city of Flint's water supply ...

Michigan governor apologizes for state's mishandling of Flint's water supply - Raw Story

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's Mark Staten loves coaching, and that's no act

USA TODAY

Staten's energy and creativity are what make the **Michigan State** offensive line what it is. The group of linemen are quick-witted, exceptionally smart, ...

Flag as irrelevant

Big Ten reset: Michigan State on top, but Purdue surpasses expectations

Sports Illustrated

Michigan State. The Spartans had a regrettable start to their conference schedule, losing to Iowa by 13 on Dec. 29, but don't discount their 13--0 start ...

Iowa sends No. 1 Michigan State to first loss, never trails - abc7news.com

Iowa upends No. 1 Michigan State 83-70 - AOL News

Iowa cruises past No. 1 Michigan State, 83-70 - The State Journal-Register

Full Coverage

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State's Mark Dantonio, Alabama's Nick Saban share stage and stories

MLive.com

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio, left, shakes hands with Alabama coach Nick Saban near the Cotton Bowl trophy during their 2015 Cotton Bowl ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State and Alabama marching bands perform at "Battle of the Bands"

MLive.com

DALLAS – Thousands of **Michigan State** fans flocked to Klyde Warren Park in downtown Dallas to watch as the Spartan marching band and Alabama ...

Flag as irrelevant

Trevon Pendleton, a fullback, is Michigan State's man of the moment

Campus Rush

He is nowhere but everywhere, an everyman and an exception, a Forrest Gump-like infiltrator of the biggest moments that brought the **Michigan State** ...

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan State vs. Alabama: Individual Matchups to Watch in Cotton Bowl 2015

Bleacher Report

Alabama and **Michigan State** both got to this point thanks to the ability of their key players performing at a high level throughout the year. However ...

Flag as irrelevant

College Playoff Picks Against Spread For Alabama-Michigan State, Clemson-Oklahoma

NESN.com

Michigan State has the longest national title drought of the four playoff teams. The Spartans last won in 1966. Clemson's last championship came in ...

Silverman: Oklahoma, Michigan State Have The Edge In College Football Playoff - CBS Local

Full Coverage

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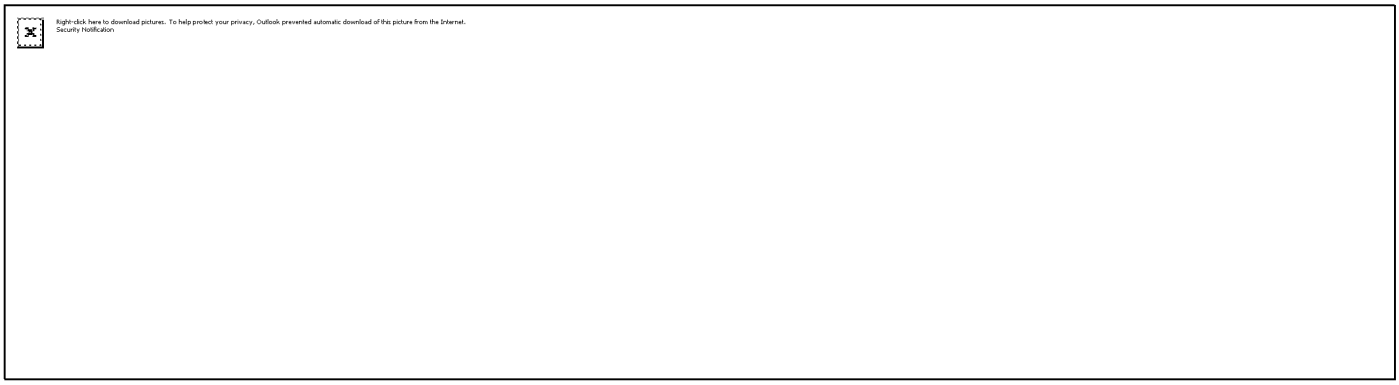

Protest Activity

Date/Time:

Wednesday, October 28, 2015 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Details:

Please be aware that there is a protest event planned for today, October 28, outside of the Constitution Hall from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. The event is being held in response to the water condition in Flint. Please plan your daily activities with this in mind as a large turnout for this event is anticipated. DTMB and MSP will be working together to monitor the situation.

Contact:

DTMB Customer Service Center, DTMB-Customerservice@michigan.gov or 517-373-6227

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From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 11:20 AM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: Gov. Snyder accepts Brown resignation; names Earley successor

Gov. Snyder accepts Brown resignation as Flint emergency manager; names Darnell Earley successor

Appointment to be effective October 1st

Gov. Rick Snyder today accepted the resignation of Mike Brown as the city of Flint's emergency manager, effective Oct. 31, 2013. Gov. Snyder has tapped current Saginaw City Manager Darnell Earley as successor-emergency manager in Flint. His appointment will be effective Oct. 1, 2013. Brown and Earley will work collaboratively during the month-long transition period.

"Mike Brown has worked hard for the city of Flint," Gov. Snyder said. "He offered a calm hand in the face of turbulent times, and was continually willing to push forward in addressing the financial emergency, while keeping the needs of Flint residents as his focus. I thank him for his service."

Darnell Earley, who will become successor-emergency manager Oct. 1, has been city manager in Saginaw for the last eight years, first joining the city as deputy city manager and interim director of fiscal services in August of 2004. Prior to that, Earley served as city administrator in Flint and also did a six-month stint as temporary mayor during a vacancy in 2002.

"Darnell Earley has extensive experience in municipal government and his familiarity with the city of Flint and its finances will be an essential asset as he transitions into the role of emergency manager," Gov. Snyder said. "I am certain he will work together with the mayor, other elected officials, residents, and community leaders to resolve the city's fiscal crisis with the goal of returning Flint to local control as quickly and efficiently as possible."

For more information regarding the city of Flint and other Local Government Fiscal Health issues visit the Local Government Fiscal Health page on Treasury's website.

Right-click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of this picture from the Internet.
Michigan Department of Treasury Seal

Michigan Department of Treasury
Lansing, Michigan 48922
(517) 335-2167
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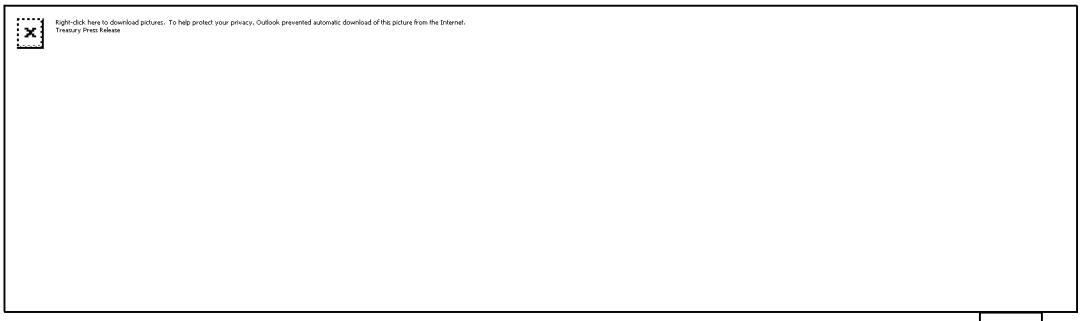
From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 10:20 AM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: ELB approves Flint EM's fire contract modifications

--- PRESS RELEASE ---

For Immediate Release



January 9, 2015 **Contact: Terry Stanton, (517) 335-2167**

ELB approves Flint EM's fire contract modifications

Proposal Receives Unanimous Support

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board (ELB) today approved a proposal from City of Flint Emergency Manager Darnell Earley, to modify the collective bargaining agreement the City has with International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 352. Modifications are expected to generate more than $600,000 in current year savings and reduce future city costs by nearly $6 million.

Under Public Act 436, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, before an emergency manager can impose changes to collectively bargained agreements, he/she must submit the proposal to the local unit's governing body for approval. If a proposed action is rejected, the governing body has 7 days to submit to the Emergency Loan Board, an alternative proposal which *"would yield substantially the same financial result as the action proposed by the emergency manager."*

The Flint City Council disapproved of the EM's proposed CBA modifications in December and submitted an alternative proposal, which the ELB considered today, before making its decision. Under PA 436, the board *"shall approve the proposal which best serves the interest of the public in that local government."*

"Ensuring strong public safety, including firefighting, is critical to residents and key to the underlying strength of any municipality," said Chief Deputy State Treasurer Tom Saxton, who chaired today's meeting. "However, following an in-depth analysis by Treasury staff and thoughtful consideration of each proposal today, it became clear that the alternative proposal, when compared to the original proposed modifications, did not generate the same level of projected savings."

For more information about the City of Flint or Public Act 436 of 2012, visit the Local Government Fiscal Health page on the Department of Treasury's web site at www.michigan.gov/treasury.

# # # #

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From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 4:25 PM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: Gov. Rick Snyder announces grants helping distressed municipalities with water, public safety, appraisal issues

--- PRESS RELEASE ---

For Immediate Release

February 3, 2015 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contacts: Terry Stanton, Treasury (517) 335-2167

Dave Murray, Governor (517) 335-6397

Gov. Rick Snyder announces grants helping distressed municipalities with water, public safety, appraisal issues

$8 million awarded for projects to improve services, quality of life

Gov. Rick Snyder today awarded $8 million to eleven municipalities to fund various improvement projects, including water system and street lighting enhancements and technology upgrades through the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, and Townships Grant Program.

Municipalities are eligible for the grants if they are experiencing one or more conditions indicative of "probable financial stress," as defined by Public Act 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act.

"Municipalities receiving this special funding are some of the areas hardest hit by the Great Recession," Snyder said. "I am pleased we can offer funding assistance to help

expect and deserve."

Under the grant program, funding may be used to pay for specific projects, services, or strategies that move a city, village, or township toward financial stability. There was $8 million appropriated for the program with a $2 million cap, per local unit.

The following communities will receive funding this year, with projects and amounts noted (alphabetical order):

City of Benton Harbor $475,000

Complete a property reappraisal to provide updated and accurate assessing records. Additionally, community enhancement through blight management and sidewalk replacement.

City of Benton Harbor $434,960

Water system enhancement through water main replacements and fire hydrant repairs.

City of Ecorse $350,000

Public safety enhancement through improved street lighting.

City of Flint $1,100,000

Water system enhancement through improved waste management.

City of Flint $900,000

Water system enhancement through leak detection and pipe assessments.

City of Hamtramck $167,860

Complete a property reappraisal to provide updated and accurate assessing records.

City of Hamtramck $50,000

Upgrade City Hall security.

City of Hamtramck $404,600

Public safety enhancement through improved street lighting.

City of Highland Park $2,000,000

Water system enhancement through meter replacement, leak detection, and system repairs.

City of Inkster $73,460

Complete a property reappraisal to provide updated and accurate assessing records.

City of Inkster $150,000

Water system enhancement through fire hydrant repairs.

City of Inkster $30,000

Provide a backup power source for public safety.

City of Inkster $240,000

Public safety enhancement through the creation of a multi-jurisdictional narcotic team.

City of Inkster $41,970

Public safety enhancement through police officer training.

City of Inkster $320,000

Public safety enhancement through the deployment of an additional police officer.

City of Lincoln Park $143,490

Public safety enhancement through updated technology.

City of Melvindale $88,000

Public safety enhancement through fleet replacement of police vehicles and updated technology.

City of Pontiac $125,000

Community enhancement through blight management.

City of River Rouge $591,508

Public safety enhancement through improved street lighting. Additionally, infrastructure replacements to City Hall.

Royal Oak Township $86,559

Public safety enhancement through improved street lighting

Royal Oak Township $217,593

Public safety enhancement of police services.

All appropriated funding has been awarded. No future rounds will occur in FY 2015.

# # # #

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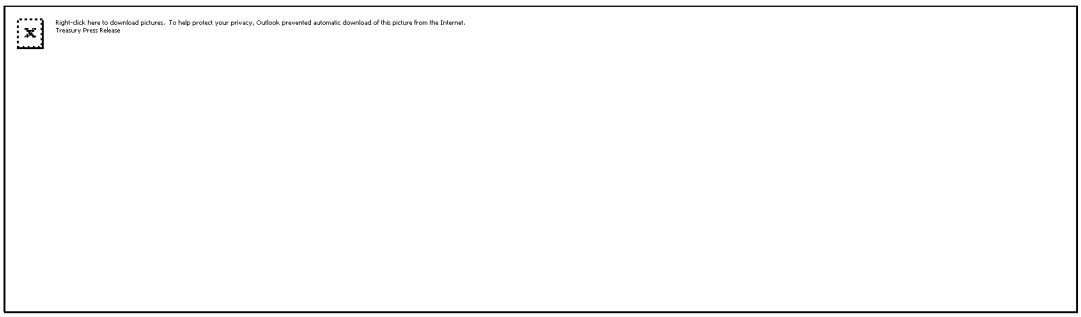
From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 1:31 PM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: Media Advisory

--- PRESS RELEASE ---

For Immediate Release



April 28, 2015 **Contact: Terry Stanton, (517) 335-2167**

Media Advisory

for

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board (Emergency Loan Board) is scheduled to meet at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29th in the State Treasurers' Board Room in the Richard H. Austin Building, located at 430 W. Allegan in Lansing.

The Emergency Loan Board will consider an emergency loan application from the City of Flint, pursuant to Public Act 243 of 1980, the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.

Individuals planning to attend the meeting must obtain a visitor's pass from security representatives in the Austin Building lobby. The meeting site is accessible for disabled persons. Individuals who may need assistance should call (517) 373-3223.

All Emergency Loan Board meetings are special or called meetings and are not regularly-scheduled.

# # # #

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From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 1:56 PM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: CORRECTED MEDIA ADVISORY

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Treasury Communications Banner

April 28, 2015

Contact: Terry Stanton (517) 335-2167

CORRECTED

Media Advisory for Wednesday, April 29, 2015

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Previous advisory erroneously used old template.

If you know of an employee who isn't receiving these emails, they can sign-up here to be added to our lists.

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From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:08 AM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contacts: Terry Stanton, Treasury (517) 335-2167

Media Advisory for Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Deputy State Treasurer Wayne Workman, Flint Emergency Manager Jerry Ambrose, and City officials will host a press conference regarding the City of Flint at 1:30 this afternoon, at Flint City Hall, located at 1101 South Saginaw Street.

The press conference will be in the Mayor's Conference Room. Media is asked to check-in at the Mayor's Office.

####

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From: Fitzpatrick, John (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 3:37 PM
To: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB);Weiler, Bryan (DTMB)
Cc: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Subject: RE: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

Thanks, Jeff. It's in all the papers now.

John

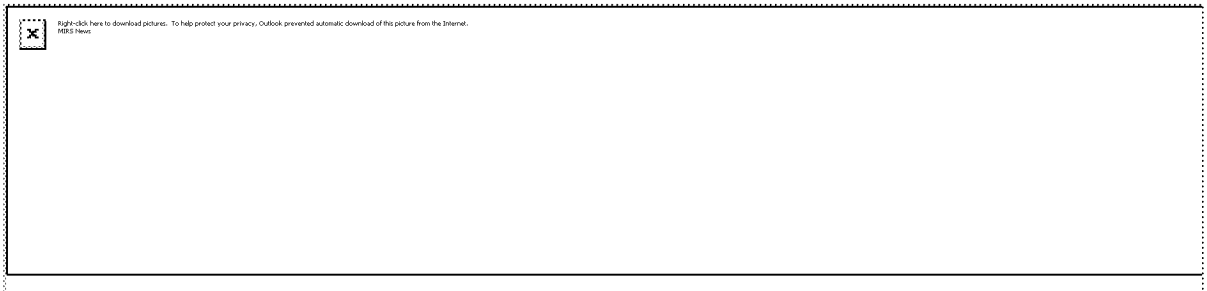
From: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB)
Sent: 29 December, 2015 15:32
To: Weiler, Bryan (DTMB) <weilerb@michigan.gov>
Cc: Fitzpatrick, John (DTMB) <FitzpatrickJ@michigan.gov>; Lowe, Richard (DTMB) <lower@michigan.gov>
Subject: Fwd: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
> **Date:** December 29, 2015 at 3:22:24 PM EST
> **To:** <bankowskij@michigan.gov>
> **Subject: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM**



MIRS BREAKING NEWS: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2154

Dan **WYANT**, the director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), is resigning in the wake of criticism about how the state handled elevated lead

levels in Flint drinking water.

Gov. Rick **SNYDER** announced Wyant's resignation in a statement today. Also, in the statement, the Governor said his administration would invite scientists who have been tracking the situation "to be our partners in helping us improve Flint water."

"I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this has happened," Snyder's statement added. "And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure."

On Wyant, Snyder said Wyant offered his resignation, "and I've determined that it's appropriate to accept it."

"I'm also making other personnel changes at MDEQ to address problems cited by the task force," Snyder's statement said.

Those other changes haven't been finalized yet, according to Laura **BIEHL**, a spokesperson for the Governor.

The news of Wyant's resignation comes as a task force continues to work on a report about the Flint water crisis, which occurred after the city's water source was switched to the Flint River in 2014.

"Although the task force's final report is not yet completed, members have made me aware of some interim findings and corrective steps that I have decided to take immediately in order to restore trust in how the state keeps its citizens safe and informed," Snyder said today. He continued, "We'll continue to work with the community members to make sure we hear and respond to their concerns."

Snyder also noted the he called Flint Mayor Karen **WEAVER** last week and the two are going to meet soon to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance.

Wyant has been MDEQ director since Snyder took office in 2011.

Previously, Wyant was the director of the Department of Agriculture under former Govs. John **ENGLER** and Jennifer **GRANHOLM**.

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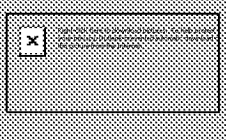

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www.mirsnews.com

From: Fitzpatrick, John (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Lowe, Richard (DTMB);Patrick J. McDonnell (pat@themcdonnellcompany.com)
Subject: RE: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

Rick, Pat has no OpEx meetings scheduled at Lansing on Friday, January 8. That day, I believe he is headed to Grand Rapids to work at the MVAA Grand Rapids Veterans Home, but I do not know his meeting schedule.

Pat, please respond to Rick's note below regarding a morning meeting at Lansing on Friday, January 8.

John

From: Lowe, Richard (DTMB)
Sent: 30 December, 2015 10:42
To: Fitzpatrick, John (DTMB) <FitzpatrickJ@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

Hi John – I am trying to coordinate Pat McDonnell for a Friday Jan 8th meeting in the morning… probably about 11am. Do you know if he could be available sometime that day before noon? Thanks much.

Rick

From: Fitzpatrick, John (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 3:37 PM
To: Bankowski, Jeffrey S. (DTMB) <BankowskiJ@michigan.gov>; Weiler, Bryan (DTMB) <weilerb@michigan.gov>
Cc: Lowe, Richard (DTMB) <lower@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

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Sent: 29 December, 2015 15:32
To: Weiler, Bryan (DTMB) <weilerb@michigan.gov>
Cc: Fitzpatrick, John (DTMB) <FitzpatrickJ@michigan.gov>; Lowe, Richard (DTMB) <lower@michigan.gov>
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Subject: MIRS Breaking News: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

MIRS BREAKING NEWS: Wyant Resigns As MDEQ Director -- 3:09 PM

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2164

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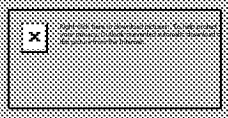

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Phone 517-482-2125 Fax 517-374-0949
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From: MacKenzie, Connie (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:35 AM
To: Budd, Virgil (DTMB) (BuddV@michigan.gov)
Subject: FW: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

If you get an opportunity, please congratulate Sara on their hospice award that is discussed in an article below.

From: MIRS Delivery [mailto:mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 6:40 AM
To: MacKenzie, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

You are receiving the following headlines from various news sources and list of recent press releases received at MIRS as part of your paid subscription to MIRSnews.com If you do not wish to receive these e-mails, please go to your MIRSnews.com account preferences.

Michigan Senate approves revised concealed gun bill in first vote of new session

"LANSING, MI -- Michigan's Republican-led Senate on Tuesday, in its first official vote of the 2015-16 session, approved gun legislation that supporters say will streamline the application process for obtaining a concealed pistol permit."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/02/michigan_senate_approves_revis.html#incart_river*

Michigan facing deadline to recognize 300 gay marriages or appeal federal ruling

"LANSING, MI -- Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is reviewing legal options as he considers whether to appeal a recent federal ruling or recognize some 300 same-sex couples married on a single day last year."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/02/michigan_facing_deadline_to_re.html#incart_river*

Michigan lawmaker says he was booted from Democratic caucus after committee post dispute

"LANSING, MI -- State Rep. Harvey Santana of Detroit said Tuesday that he has been expelled from the House Democratic caucus after accepting a committee assignment in the midst of a feud between party leaders."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/02/michigan_rep_says_he_was_kicke.html#incart_river*

Detroit-area doctor prescribed pills in exchange for sex, money, AG Bill Schuette says

"LANSING, MI -- State Attorney General Bill Schuette on Tuesday levied damning charges against Dr. John Ronald Verbovsky, 67, of Southfield."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2015/02/detroit-area_doctor_prescribed.html#incart_river*

Report: Mich. has 16th-lowest racial income gaps

"LANSING – The median household income for black residents in Michigan is about 45 percent lower than for white residents, and the poverty rate for black Michiganders is 161 percent higher than for whites."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2015/02/03/report-mich-th-lowest-racial-income-gaps/22791001/*

Lansing Capitol likely to remain open to guns

"LANSING – Emotions can flare in politics. In Lansing, that can happen around guns."

Source: *Lansing State Journal* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/capitol/2015/02/03/lansing-capitol-likely-remain-open-guns/22649773/*

Kildee to head effort to re-elect vulnerable House Dems

"The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee said Tuesday that Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint, will head

the party's efforts to help re-elect vulnerable Democratic incumbents in 2016."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/kildee-head-effort-re-elect-vulnerable-house-dems/22805493/*

Detroit Rep. Santana ousted from Dem caucus

"Lansing – — Detroit Rep. Harvey Santana said Tuesday he has been booted out of the Democratic House caucus for breaking ranks with his party over a key committee assignment in the new legislative session."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/michigan/2015/02/03/detroit-state-house-member-ousted-democratic-caucus/22816213/*

Revised gun board bills get Senate OK, move to House

"Lansing — Without debate or discussion Tuesday, the state Senate quickly passed a new version of legislation, vetoed by Gov. Rick Snyder last month, that would do away with county gun boards whose members for 87 years have decided who should be allowed to carry concealed weapons in Michigan."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/michigan-gun-legislation/22794897/*

Senators: Homeland Security grants at risk

"Washington — Democratic senators and the head of the Homeland Security Department on Tuesday urged the Republican-led Congress to approve a funding bill for the agency that covers U.S. security agencies."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/senators-homeland-security-grants-risk/22798509/*

Snyder soon to decide appeal on 323 gay marriages

"Lansing — Gov. Rick Snyder said Tuesday he will decide within two days whether to appeal a federal judge's ruling that 323 same-sex marriages performed last March were valid."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/gay-marriage-michigan/22808239/*

Flint gets $2M grant to improve water system

"Flint — Gov. Rick Snyder on Tuesday awarded the city of Flint $2 million in grants to help improve its water system."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/02/03/flint-gets-grant-improve-water-system/22820077/*

U.S. says deal near to build Detroit bridge plaza

"Washington — The Obama administration's top homeland security official and Michigan's senior U.S. senator said Tuesday that a deal is close to fund a $250 million customs plaza needed for a planned $2.1 billion Detroit River bridge crossing."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/us-says-deal-near-build-detroit-bridge-plaza/22795237/*

Bush to test 'right to rise' policy in Detroit

"Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is scheduled to speak in Detroit Wednesday about "restoring the right to rise in America," the first in a series of speeches that will test potential themes for his possible run for president in 2016."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/bush-test-right-rise-policy-detroit/22836819/*

Civil rights leader "always wanted to help people"

"Driven by a deep conviction, Dan Krichbaum spent decades devoting himself to building bridges and championing civil rights."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/obituaries/2015/02/04/civil-rights-leader-always-wanted-help-people/22841169/*

Wayne County's deficit is 'a moving target'

"Detroit – — New Wayne County Executive Warren Evans has finished his review of the county's precarious finances and concluded the deficit is even worse than reported."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2015/02/03/wayne-countys-deficit-moving-target/22637357/*

Senate approves gun bill without PPO provision

"LANSING – The first bill to get a vote in the state Legislature this year would abolish the county boards that determine whether a person can get a concealed weapons permit."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/gun-bill-reworked-apprvoed-senate/22796785/

Kildee to head up Democratic effort

"WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township, will head up the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's efforts to protect vulnerable House members in the 2016 elections."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/02/03/kildee-leads-effort/22803405/

Rep. Harvey Santana booted out of Democratic caucus

"LANSING – State Rep. Harvey Santana, D-Detroit, has become a lightning rod in the state House of Representatives, for his work and occasional votes with Republicans."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/02/03/santana-kicked-democratic-caucus/22808119/

Fund-raising starts slowly for group opposing tax hike

"LANSING — The first group formed to oppose a hike in the state sales tax to fund road repairs among other things reported having raised no money in the first campaign finance report filed related to a May 5 ballot question."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/03/tax-hike-opponents-raised-money-december/22813575/

Daniel Krichbaum, Michigan civil rights leader, dies

"Daniel Krichbaum, a longtime civil rights and interfaith leader who was Gov. Jennifer Granholm's chief operating officer and former director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, died today of complications from a cerebral hemorhage. He was 72."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/obituary/2015/02/03/civil-rights-leader-daniel-krichbaum-dies/22829463/*

Senator: Plaza deal could be finalized soon

"WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow's office said Tuesday that she has been told a deal is apparently being worked out for the Canadian government to fund a new customs plaza in Detroit, as has been expected for many months."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/02/03/plaza-deal-near/22832137/*

Advocacy/Opinion

Tim Skubick: Road funding plan is in a deep pile of snow

"In keeping with the weather story that has dominated the news headlines this week, here's the latest news flash: Gov. Rick Snyder's road funding plan is buried in a deep snow pile."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/02/tim_skubick_8.html#incart_river*

Is more money needed to close K-12 achievement gap between low- and middle-income students?

*"**KALAMAZOO, MI** -- Many high-poverty districts such as Kalamazoo Public Schools fared well on a new Bridge magazine ranking that compares school test scores to subsidized lunch participation."*

Source: *Kalamazoo Gazette* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2015/02/does_michigans_funding_formula.html#incart_river*

Perry: How energy policy hurts Michigan

"For some time now, the Obama administration has been trying to force through a climate change policy aimed at reducing carbon emissions from electricity production, particularly coal-fired power plants. Regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency could force states to shut down hundreds of coal plants and shift to natural gas and renewable energy."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2015/02/04/mark-perry-coal/22814489/*

Labor Voices: When working people win, America wins

"It was the American Dream."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2015/02/04/williams-workers-america-need-wages/22814569/*

Vaccination crisis leaves no room for pandering pols

"Liberty is the happy outcome achieved when a people strike the right balance between individual choice and communal rules."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/columnists/brian-dickerson/2015/02/04/vaccination-parental-choice/22835711/*

Litigants Ask Supreme Court to Review County Land Bank Cherry-Picking Prime Property

"Some private real estate investors have asked the Michigan Supreme Court to review their case against the Kent County Land Bank, the Kent County treasurer, Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids after the Michigan Appeals Court rejected their claims involving tax-foreclosed property. They had argued they were deprived of the ability to purchase properties at a public auction because the land bank, a government agency, was able to cherry-pick and purchase them first, for the minimum bid."

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/20956*

Giving parents the tools to truly compare schools

""We just bought a new house. It's a nice house in a good neighborhood. But the big thing in our mind is the local school is really good.""

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2015/02/giving-parents-the-tools-to-truly-compare-schools/*

Michigan's overachieving school districts are State Champs

"Seventy-three Michigan school districts earned top marks from Bridge Magazine as 2014 Academic State Champs."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2015/02/2014-academic-state-champs-michigans-top-districts/*

Press Releases

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans honored for excellence in hospice care

"LANSING, Mich. – The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHV) was recently recognized for its excellence in hospice and palliative care, receiving the 2014 Award for Excellence from Great Lakes Caring. GRHV was chosen from more than 1,200 private and public facilities, physicians and hospitals across Michigan, Indiana and Ohio."

Source: *Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/14230001806_grh.pdf

OAKLAND COUNTY FAMILY-FOCUSED JUVENILE DRUG COURT ART SHOW

"Oakland County, MI (February 3, 2015) – The Oakland County Family-Focused Juvenile Drug Court will once again be presenting "Self-Exploration Through Art" on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, on the second floor of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac, MI. The reception and art viewing will begin at 4:00 with remarks from the Honorable Mary Ellen Brennan at 4:30."

Source: *Oakland County Circuit Court* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/14230000892_druu.pdf

Upton Statement on the President's Budget Proposal Including Money for Dredging the St. Joseph Harbo

"WASHINGTON, D.C. – A longtime advocate for Lake Michigan harbors, Congressman Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, released the following statement on the news that President Obama's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Proposal will include $45 million for Michigan civil works projects at harbors and rivers, including $1.59 million for the St. Joseph Harbor and an additional $800,000 in emergency dredging for Fiscal Year 2015.

"

Source: *Congressman Fred Upton* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/14230000782_upy.pdf

Gov. Rick Snyder awards Flint $2 million in 'distressed municipalities' grants for water system inf

"LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today awarded Flint $2 million in grants for water system infrastructure

improvements, part of an overall $8 million plan to help municipalities through the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, and Townships Grant Program."

Source: *Governor Rick Snyder* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1423000731_rsny.pdf*

Nominations Open for Major State Bar Awards

*"Nominations are now open for major State Bar of Michigan awards that will be presented at the October 2015 Annual Meeting in Novi. The **Roberts P. Hudson Award** goes to a person whose career has exemplified the highest ideals of the profession. This award is presented periodically to commend one or more lawyers for their unselfish rendering of outstanding and unique service to and on behalf of the State Bar, given generously, ungrudgingly, and in a spirit of self-sacrifice. It is awarded to that member of the State Bar of Michigan who best exemplifies that which brings honor, esteem and respect to the legal profession. The Hudson Award is the highest award conferred by the Bar."*

Source: *SBM* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1423000644_sbmm.pdf*

Peters Statement on Homeland Security Funding Bill

*"**WASHINGTON, DC –**U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI), a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, released the following statement on the need for a clean, full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security:"*

Source: *US Senator Gary Peters* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1423000557_usss.pdf*

Risky Business Project Finds Midwest Agriculture and Manufacturing Industries Face Economic Risk fro

"LANSING— The Midwest faces potential disruptions to its agricultural economy and dangerous levels of heat in many of its largest cities if climate change continues unabated, according to a new report released last week by the Risky Business Project. Heat in the Heartland: Climate Change and Economic Risk in the Midwest details how extreme heat could transform the Midwest economy. Left unchecked, a changing climate will negatively impact crop yields and increase the incidence of extreme heat, leading to significant public health and safety risks."

Source: *Byrum Fisk* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1423000495_risky.pdf*

Schuette Charges Southeast Michigan Doctor with Felony Sex Offenses, Drug Delivery and Fraud

*"**LANSING –** Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced his Health Care Fraud Division has charged Dr. John Ronald Verbovsky, 67, of Southfield, Michigan, with two counts of first degree Criminal Sexual Conduct, one count of Conducting a Criminal Enterprise -Racketeering, one count of Conspiracy to Deliver Controlled Substances less than 50 grams, and nine counts of Medicaid Fraud - False Claim. The charges allege Verbovsky orchestrated an ongoing scheme to prescribe controlled substances in exchange for sexual favors and money. "*

Source: *Attorney General Bill Schuette* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1423000258_schu.pdf*

Santana Says He's Been Expelled From Dem Caucus -- 2:04 p.m.

*"Rep. Harvey **SANTANA** (D-Detroit) announced this afternoon that House Democrats have decided to expel him from their caucus meetings. "*

Source: *Representative Harvey Santana* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999943_sant.pdf*

Rockford City Manager Michael Young to Lead Statewide Municipal Managers Group

*"**NOVI, Michigan** – Rockford City Manager Michael Young is the new leader of a statewide association representing Michigan's municipal managers.
"*

Source: *MLGMA* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999829_novii.pdf*

Michigan Local Government Management Association Honors Kathie Grinzinger

*"**NOVI, Michigan** – Former Mt. Pleasant City Manager Kathie Grinzinger received the 2014 Patriarche Colloquium Award for her continued service to Michigan communities spanning more than 30 years."*

Source: *MLGMA* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999713_mlmgma.pdf*

Sparrow Clinton Hospital welcomes new Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer

"St. Johns, Mich. – Sparrow Clinton Hospital has named Beth Ann Daugherty, BSN, RN, MPH, CRRN, as Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer."

Source: *Sparrow Hospital* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**

http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999644_sp.pdf

Gary Peters Applauds Passage of Veterans Suicide Prevention Bill

*"**WASHINGTON, DC –** U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) today applauded unanimous passage in the Senate of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention For American Veterans Act. Peters cosponsored the Senate version of the bipartisan legislation that would improve mental health care and suicide prevention for veterans. The legislation unanimously passed the House of Representatives earlier this month and now heads to the President's desk to be signed into law."*

Source: *US Senator Gary Peters* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999411_gp.pdf

Congresswoman Dingell Invites Local Students to Participate in "Valentines for Veterans"

*"**Washington, DC** – Valentine's Day is February 14th, and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12) is inviting local students to participate in the "Valentines for Veterans" program by making homemade valentines for local veterans to show them they are loved and appreciated by the community."*

Source: *Congresswoman Dingell* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999331_hs.pdf

Still Growing: Powerball Jackpot Climbs to $317 Million for Wednesday's Drawing

*"**LANSING, Mich., Feb. 3, 2015** – Michigan Lottery players looking to turn $2 into $317 million get their chance with Wednesday's Powerball drawing. Wednesday's $317 million jackpot is the second-largest Powerball jackpot in the past 12 months. In February 2014, a California man won a $425.3 million jackpot. The cash option for Wednesday's jackpot is about $221 million. Powerball was a lucrative game for Michigan Lottery players in 2014. Four players won the game's $1 million prize, including three winners in a four-day span last February."*

Source: *MI Lottery* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999153_mill.pdf

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Improving our response to a severe flu season could mean saving thousands of lives

"WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Fred Upton, R- St. Joseph, made the following opening statement this morning at The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing on "Examining the U.S. Public Health Response to Seasonal Influenza."

"

Source: *Congressman Fred Upton* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422999109_fupton.pdf

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NRA-Backed Gun Bill Passes Senate: Shows GOP Has Wrong Priorities

"LANSING — Today, the Michigan Senate approved a bill that would eliminate county gun boards that approve concealed pistol licenses."

Source: *Progress Michigan* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422998974_nra.pdf

GRAND HAVEN'S STEVE LOFTIS RECEIVES AWARD FOR DISTRINGUISHED SERVICE FROM THE MICHIGAN RESTAURANT A

"LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is pleased to announce that Steve Loftis of Grand Haven has received the MRA Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the Association. He was bestowed the honor at the MRA's annual Chairman's Dinner, held this year in Kalamazoo on January 25, 2015."

Source: *Michigan Restaurant Association* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422978548_ghav.pdf

Peters Recognizes Black History Month

*"**WASHINGTON, DC –** U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) released the following statement honoring the celebration of Black History Month:"*

Source: *United States Senate* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422976264_bhm.pdf

Last Call for McCree Award Nominations: Deadline is Friday

*"This is the last call for submissions and nominations for the State Bar of Michigan's 41st Annual Wade H. McCree Jr. Awards for the Advancement of Justice. **The deadline is this Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.***

"

Source: *State Bar of Michigan* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422976206_sbm.pdf

2015 SBC Nominations

"TRAVERSE CITY, MI – Nominations are being accepted for the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Small Business Celebration."

Source: *Traverse City Chambers* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422976129_sbc.pdf

Wayne County Educator Wins Excellence in Education Award from the Michigan Lottery

*"**LANSING, Mich., Feb. 3, 2015** – A Wayne County educator known for the individual attention she provides each student and her willingness to help them work through problems to succeed inside and outside the classroom has been honored with an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery.*

"

Source: *MI Lottery* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422975973_milot.pdf

MI Women Win Selects 2015-16 Leadership Team

*"LANSING – State Rep. **Marcia Hovey-Wright** (D-Muskegon) has been elected to serve as 2015-16 chairwoman of the MI Women Win PAC, an organization dedicated to recruiting, screening, endorsing and supporting progressive women candidates seeking seats in the state Legislature. Other officers elected to serve for the current term include Vice Chairwoman Rep. **Leslie Love** (D-Detroit), Secretary Rep. **Kristy Pagan** (D-Canton) and Treasurer Rep.**Vanessa Guerra** (D-Saginaw)."*

Source: *Michigan Dems* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422975834_mwom.pdf

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Announces Specialty Crop Grant Opp

"

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Director Jamie Clover Adams today announced new opportunities for Michigan businesses thanks to the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Ag Marketing Services. The program is designed to enhance the competitiveness of Michigan's specialty crops. Grant proposals must be received by MDARD no later than 3 p.m. on March 26, 2015 by submitting them to MDA-grants@Michigan.gov."

Source: *Michigan Dept of Agriculture and Rural Development* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422975714_mdoaard.pdf

MDOT sharing M-123 plans at Feb. 12 meeting in Newberry

*"**WHAT:** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will share plans for the upcoming resurfacing project on M-123 in Newberry and discuss a proposed lane configuration change. The project is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016. Residents, community stakeholders and business owners can review preliminary concept drawings and ask questions of MDOT staff members.*

"

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422975619_mdot.pdf*

Michigander named chief speechwriter to Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader

"

*I wanted to update you on several changes to our leadership communications team, including the hiring of a new staff director of theSenate Republican Communications Center and the promotion of veteran staff members. **Antonia Ferrier will take over as staff director for the SRCC**, **Brian Forest has been promoted to chief speechwriter**, and **Laura Hendrickson was promoted to communications manager**. In addition, two new staffers will be joining the SRCC – **Hunter Hawkins who will serve as creative advisor** and **Scott Sloofman as communications advisor**. "*

Source: *Office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell* **Date:** *02-04-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422975516_mitchm.pdf*

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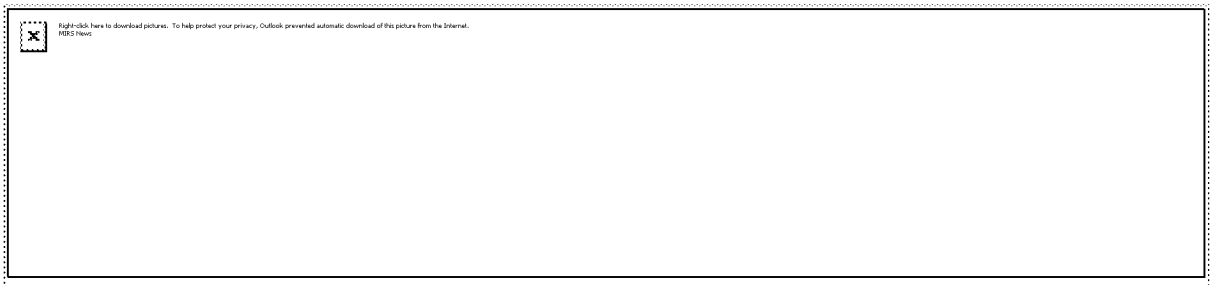
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 7:00 AM
To: McGroarty, Michael (CEPI)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases



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U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee's staff sets twice-monthly 'mobile office hours' in Saginaw, Bay City

*"**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Staff from the office of U.S. Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Flint Township, will be available to meet with constituents in Bay City, Saginaw, Standish and Tawas City twice each month, starting in February."*

Source: *Saginaw News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2015/01/us_rep_dan_kildees_staff_sets.html#incart_river*

Snyder: Don't 'jump to conclusions' on income tax deductions for vehicle registration fees

"LANSING, MI — Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday downplayed a local economist's assertion that an upcoming road funding ballot proposal will lead to higher federal income tax bills for some residents who itemize deductions."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/01/snyder_people_shouldnt_jump_to.html#incart_river*

Poll: Support for Michigan road funding starts at 46 percent, drops with additional details

"LANSING, MI — The more details that Michigan voters learn about the May 5 road funding ballot

proposal, the less they like it, according to the results of a new statewide poll."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/01/poll_support_for_michigan_road.html#incart_river*

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder encourages community college leaders to 'push the envelope'

"LANSING — Gov. Rick Snyder on Thursday encouraged members of the Michigan Community College Association to push their limits, continuing his own push toward improving the junction between high school and higher education."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/01/gov_rick_snyder_encourages_com.html#incart_river*

Monitor of contract between Michigan prisons and Aramark no longer employed by the state

"LANSING — The man hired as the monitor of the contract between the Michigan Department of Corrections and Aramark is no longer employed by the state, an official confirmed Thursday.

"

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/01/monitor_of_contract_between_mi.html#incart_river*

Counting Michigan's homeless humans draws down cash for services

"LANSING, MI -- I'm not sure what I expected searching for homeless people to sound like, but there's a serenity to it."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/01/counting_michigans_homeless_hu.html#incart_river*

Lawmakers combat wolf ruling; opponents offer compromise

"

MARQUETTE - While state and federal lawmakers work to combat relisting of gray wolves to the federal endangered species list in Michigan, several groups opposed to wolf hunting have offered a compromise solution.

"

Source: *Mining Journal (Marquette)* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.miningjournal.net/page/content.detail/id/613007/Lawmakers-combat-wolf-ruling--opponents-*

offer-compromise.html?nav=5006

State police testing drone to support public safety

"The Michigan State Police is seeking approval to use an unmanned aircraft system — commonly known as a drone — to enhance public safety efforts."

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/local/community/livingston-county/2015/01/29/state-police-testing-drone-support-public-safety/22564433/*

State elevator inspector out golfing charged with fraud

"Lansing — A state elevator inspector who likes to play golf is in the rough."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/01/29/state-inspector-golfing-charged-fraud/22542945/*

Senators push auto whistle-blower bill

"Washington — – A bipartisan group of U.S. senators led by the top Republican and Democrat on the Commerce Committee reintroduced legislation Thursday to give automotive sector employees incentives to sound the alarm on vehicle defects."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/2015/01/29/auto-whistle-blower-bill/22538987/*

Michigan prison food monitor mysteriously departs

"Lansing — – Ed Buss, hired less than five months ago to oversee a controversial privatized state prison meal contract, has left his $160,000-a-year job despite improved performance by the food vendor in the final quarter of 2014."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/01/29/michigan-prison-food-monitor-mysteriously-departs/22547793/*

Snyder stresses safety as road campaign kicks off

"Lansing — Gov. Rick Snyder plans to make public safety on Michigan roads the key message in

selling a sales tax hike to voters this spring, even as the campaign by supporters gets off to a rocky start."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/michigan/2015/01/29/snyders-sales-tax-hike-campaign-team-quits/22525911/*

Lottery cracking down on retailers with winning tickets

"The Michigan Lottery Bureau is cracking down on lottery retailers and their family members who frequently cash in big prizes on behalf of their customers."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/2015/01/29/lottery-probing-retailers-win-big/22565189/*

Poll finds slight edge for Michigan sales tax hike

"LANSING – A plurality of likely Michigan voters would approve a 1-percentage-point increase in the state sales tax that will appear on a May 5 ballot. But the more voters hear about the complex proposal, the less they like it, according to a new poll."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/01/29/poll-michigan-sales-tax-hike/22525391/*

Snyder issues directive to improve government purchasing

"LANSING – Gov. Rick Snyder says he wants to improve the state of Michigan's purchasing after identifying "gaps" in how the state currently buys goods and services."

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2015/01/29/rick-snyder-michigan-government-purchasing/22552249/*

Monitor of Michigan prison food contract leaves $160K job

"LANSING – The man Gov. Rick Snyder tapped to oversee the controversial Aramark prison food contract has left the $160,000-a-year job after less than five months, and state officials wouldn't say Thursday whether he quit or was fired."

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/01/29/aramark-prison-food-contract-monitor-leaves-suddenly/22560193/*

Bond refinancing will save Ann Arbor schools taxpayers $2 million

"Ann Arbor Public Schools will save $2 to $3 million by refinancing district bonds."

Source: *Ann Arbor News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2015/01/bond_refinancing_will_save_ann.html#incart_river*

Advocacy/Opinion

Tim Skubick: The four untouchable areas of the next state budget

"That collective sigh of relief you just heard was from four special interest groups that are apparently going to escape the budget axe when lawmakers start wielding it in a few weeks."

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://www.mlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/01/tim_skubick_the_four_untouchab.html#incart_river

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Telford: Snyder's school choice plan falls short

"Gov. Rick Snyder certainly didn't create Detroit's problems, but a large part of his legacy will be tied to its recovery. With the city finally emerging from bankruptcy, Snyder has sets his sights on fixing Detroit's massively dysfunctional public schools. Unfortunately during his recent State of the State address, Snyder set narrow goals focused on mending a broken system rather than laying down the groundwork for expanded educational opportunities."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2015/01/30/snyder-must-expand-school-choice/22543787/

In right to work era, unions must add more value

"Union membership is declining. In fact, it's at an all-time low nationwide. And numbers dropped significantly in Michigan last year — the first full year the state was right to work. Rather than just fight against these trends, unions should devote themselves to offering their members better services.

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/01/29/unions-must-offer-value/22543809/

'Secret tax' allegation complicates road funding debate

"Combatants on both sides of the road tax debate are beginning to coalesce around the sales strategies they hope will carry the day in the May 5 election that will determine the fate of the $1.8-billion initiative.

"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/columnists/brian-dickerson/2015/01/29/road-tax-debate-michigan--egistrastion-fees/22547105/*

Federal Government Stymies Energy Production on its Land

"In an April 3, 2013 statement, the White House boasted of how domestic oil production had climbed every year since President Barack Obama took office. Among other claims, the document stated, "U.S. production of oil is rising under Obama.""

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/20938*

Two Cheers for Legislators on Licensing

"An important if usually under-the-radar public policy issue is occupational licensing – state rules that require residents to meet various criteria (and pay for them) before they may earn a living in a particular profession."

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/20936*

Granholm Too Cool For Her Own Cool Initiative?

"Recent research into the archives of former Gov. Jennifer Granholm uncovered one of her speeches on the "Cool Cities" concept. The document, housed at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library, raises several questions that are worth asking, given that the former governor is in Detroit for a speaking engagement.

"

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/20947*

Michigan criminal code encroaching on civil liberties

"Phil Powers and I were on the same wavelength last week, frustrated by the proliferation of often absurd crimes in the Great Lakes State ("Crime Crime Everywhere"). I don't need to add to Mr. Power's list, but suffice it to say that the Michigan Penal Code contains about 918 sections, which is eight times the number of the Model Penal Code and, with 3,100 identified criminal offenses, far more than nearby Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin. It seems that those in the Michigan legislature believe if we propose and pass laws often enough, nothing bad will happen."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2015/01/michigan-criminal-code-encroaching-on-civil-liberties/*

MSU Dean: Obama's free college plan is not best path to a degree

"In a Bridge Magazine column this week, Chuck Wilbur voiced support for President Obama's proposal to offer two years of community college free to all students across the country. Wilbur is right that expanding access to higher education is critical to Michigan's continuing economic recovery from the worst recession in generations. But his support of the president's plan is misguided, and will not result in the best use of the state's limited resources."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2015/01/msu-dean-obamas-free-college-plan-is-not-best-path-to-a-degree/*

Cringe over troubled water – Flint's smelly dilemma

"Ineatha Waters pays for water she does not drink."

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2015/01/cringe-over-troubled-water-flints-smelly-dilemma/*

Press Releases

Huron and Lapeer counties slated to receive Transportation Economic Development Fund grants

*"**January 29, 2015** -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is awarding state transportation economic development grants that will support 135 new jobs in Huron and Lapeer counties. The Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category A grants totaling $974,084 will leverage $5,020,000 in private investment, at a private/public investment ratio of approximately 5-to-1."*

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422579442_mdot6.pdf

LGBT Youth Deserve To Learn in Environments Free From Harassment and Bullying

"WASHINGTON - Today, the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, praised the bipartisan reintroduction of the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA) by U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Mark Kirk (R-IL). SSIA would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to require school districts in states that receive ESEA funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion."

Source: *Human Rights Campaign* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422577452_lgbt.pdf

Lathrup Village Citizens Submit Term Limits Petitions

"Citizen activists Robert and Regina Brim of Lathrup Village, Michigan, turned in petitions to their city clerk's office Tuesday, bearing the signatures of 241 registered voters, more than enough to require the measure be placed on the May 2015 ballot."

Source: *Robert and Regina Brim* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422577254_lathrup.pdf

Peters Statement Senate Passage of Keystone XL Pipeline Bill

*"**WASHINGTON, DC –**Below is a statement from U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) on today's Senate passage of legislation authorizing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline:"*

Source: *U.S. Senator Gary Peters* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422577125_peters.pdf

AFP: Stabenow and Peters Placed Special Interests Above Job-Creation

"LANSING - Americans for Prosperity's Michigan State Director, Scott Hagerstrom, issued the following statement in response to Senator Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters votes today against approving Keystone XL pipeline construction."

Source: *Americans for Prosperity* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422577000_afp.pdf

Transportation economic development grant to support 211 jobs in

Brighton

*"**January 29, 2015 --** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is awarding a state transportation economic development grant to the City of Brighton, in Livingston County, that will support 211 full-time jobs. The Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category A grant totaling $379,876 will leverage $12,943,000 in private investment, at a private/public investment ratio of 34-to-1."*

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422576381_mdot5.pdf

Upton Announces Tyler Zortman Appointed to West Point

"Congressman Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph, today announced the appointment of Tyler Kenneth Zortman of Augusta to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upton nominated Zortman to the prestigious academy and personally congratulated him on his appointment."

Source: *Congressman Fred Upton* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422576344_upton.pdf

Consumers Energy Issues 'Safety First' Message to Outdoor Enthusiasts Near Open Water at Plant Sites

"JACKSON, Mich., Jan. 29, 2015 – Consumers Energy is advising outdoor enthusiasts to practice extreme caution when taking part in activities on or near open water surrounding its generating and hydroelectric plants. "

Source: *Consumers Energy* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422576269_01-29-15 NR Ice Safety.pdf

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Resignation of Michigan Realtors® CEO Bill Martin

"The Michigan Realtors® announced today the departure of Chief Executive Officer Bill Martin, effective March 20, 2015. The association also announces the promotion of Robert Campau to the position of CEO, effective March 20, 2015. Martin has served the association as CEO since 2002. Campau joined the Michigan Realtors® in 1994 and most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer."

Source: *Michigan Realtors* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422576186_Press release for Bill 1-29-15.pdf

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Lake Orion Woman Wins $75,000 Playing Cashword Online from Michigan Lottery

"LANSING, Mich., Jan. 29, 2015 – Winning $75,000 playing the Michigan Lottery's online Cashword game led to a sleepless night and a big secret for a Lake Orion woman."

Source: *Michigan Lottery* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422576082_lottery.pdf

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Snyder Media Advisory for Friday, Jan. 30

"Lt. Gov. Brian Calley will give remarks at the grand opening of St. Joseph County's new diversion assessment center. The center is one of eight pilot programs across the state working to help divert residents from incarceration and connect them with the help they need. Calley will be joined by Michigan Department of Corrections director Dan Heyns, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton and representatives from the Michigan Department of Community Health and St. Joseph County officials."

Source: *Gov. Newsroom* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422576016_gov2.pdf

Showcasing the DNR: Get hooked on fun, camaraderie of ice fishing

"Fishing is a year-round activity and when the thermometer plunges below freezing in Michigan, most anglers have little choice but to hit the hard water. Ice fishing becomes the go-to activity until spring."

Source: *Michigan DNR* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422575889_dnr.pdf

Proos, Upton urge approval of the Keystone XL pipeline

*"**LANSING—**Sen. John Proos on Wednesday introduced a resolution calling on the president and the U.S. secretary of state to support North American energy development by approving the newly routed Keystone XL pipeline to safely bring Canadian oil to American refineries—a measure he says would create Michigan jobs as well as promote national defense interests."*

Source: *Senator John Proos* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570669_proos.pdf

State transportation economic development grants to support nearly 1,500 jobs in southeast Michigan

*"**January 29, 2015** -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is awarding state transportation economic development grants that will support 1,474 new and existing jobs in Oakland, Macomb, St. Clair, and Wayne counties. The Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category A grants totaling $4,141,911 will help leverage $181,352,380 in private investment, at a*

private/public investment ratio of nearly 44-to-1."

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570811_mdot4.pdf

Transportation economic development grant will support 254 new jobs in Calhoun County

*"**January 29, 2015 --** The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is awarding a state transportation economic development grant that will support 254 new jobs in Calhoun County. The Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category A grant totaling $1,364,991 will leverage $78.4 million in private investment, at a private/public investment ratio of 57-to-1."*

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570768_mdot3.pdf

Huron and Lapeer counties slated to receive Transportation Economic Development Fund grants

*"**January 29, 2015** -- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is awarding state transportation economic development grants that will support 135 new jobs in Huron and Lapeer counties. The Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category A grant totaling $873,199 will leverage $5,020,000 in private investment, at a private/public investment ratio of approximately 5-to-1."*

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570704_mdot2.pdf

MEDIA ADVISORY: Area Leaders to Respond to Bernero's Proposed Board of Water and Light Changes

"Lansing — Elected officials from the Greater Lansing area will be available to respond to Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero's State of the City address today in which he will detail his proposal to make the Lansing Board of Water & Light a city run department."

Source: *Robert McCann* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570656_media.pdf

December Jobless Rates Little Changed in Most of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

"Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates in December were mixed and little changed in the 17 major labor market regions in Michigan, according to the Michigan Department of Technology,

Management & Budget. Total employment declined seasonally in most regions over the month while labor force levels were mixed."

Source: *Michigan Dept. of Technology, Management & Budget* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570592_dtmb.pdf*

MAPSA Condemns Saginaw School Board's Decision to Waste $5.75 Million in Taxpayer Money

"LANSING, Michigan (January 29, 2015) – The Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA), the state charter school association, is condemning a decision by the Saginaw School Board to demolish a school building so that it can't be sold to a charter school."

Source: *Michigan Association of Public School Academies* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570475_PRESS RELEASE - MAPSA STATEMENT ON SAGINAW SCHOOL DEMOLITION.pdf*

Dr. Benishek Comments on VA Hearing

"WASHINGTON, D.C.- On Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2015, Congressman Dan Benishek chaired a House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health oversight hearing regarding the quality and cost of medical care the Department of Veterans Affairs provides to veteran patients. The hearing examined a recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis comparing VA health care costs with those of private sector health care systems. The hearing also looked at non-cost factors such as quality of care and patient satisfaction that impact the overall value of the care VA provides. "

Source: *U.S. Congressman Dan Benishek* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570383_drdan.pdf*

Gov. Rick Snyder issues executive directive streamlining state purchasing procedures

"LANSING, Mich. – As part of continued efforts to improve the efficiency and transparency of state government, Gov. Rick Snyder Tuesday issued an executive directive calling for a formalized process for all purchasing done by the state. "

Source: *Gov. Newsroom* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570336_gov.pdf*

REVISION- New location: Public open house to discuss reconstruction of I-96/Cascade Road interchange

"Public open house to discuss the planned 2015-16 reconstruction of the I-96/Cascade Road

interchange in Grand Rapids Township. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and township officials will be available for questions and comments."

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570304_mdot.pdf

U.S. Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence appointed to serve as ranking member of Committee

*"**Washington, D.C**. – U.S. Rep. Brenda L. Lawrence of Michigan's 14th Congressional District has been appointed to serve as ranking member of the Committee on Oversight & Government Reform Interior Subcommittee. "*

Source: *U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570257_lawrence.pdf

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Schuette Announces Charges Against State Employee for Fraud

*"**LANSING –** Attorney General Bill Schuette today announced that his Public Integrity Unit (PIU) has charged Werner Noll, 63, of Kalamazoo with fraud. Noll has been employed by the State of Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) as an Elevator Inspector since 1998. These charges follow an investigation by Schuette's PIU and LARA into Noll's alleged golfing activity and use of a state vehicle for private use while on the state taxpayers' dime."*

Source: *Attorney General Bill Schuette* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422570193_ag.pdf

Truscott Rossman Expands Detroit Office With Hire of New Account Executive

"

DETROIT – Truscott Rossman is expanding its Detroit team with the addition of recent Michigan State University graduate Matt Brady as account executive."

Source: *Truscott Rossman* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548984_NEWS RELEASE - Truscott Rossman Expands Detroit Office With Hire of New Account Executive .pdf

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Boy Scouts of America, Governor Walker to honor class of top achievers

"Grand Rapids, Mich. – Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker will join the President Ford Field Service

Council of the Boy Scouts of America in honoring more than 200 new Eagle Scouts and Venturing Silver Award recipients at the Building Character Celebration on February 25, 2015."

Source: *President Ford Field Service Council* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548468_scouts.pdf

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Study: Michigan Performs Poorly on Women's, Children's Well-Being

"LANSING, Mich. — Michigan performs below average on indicators of women's and children's health and socioeconomic well-being, especially when it comes to mortality rates and the percentage of children living in poverty, according to a new study released today at an event hosted by MI Lead."

Source: *Martin Waymire* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548335_strongw.pdf

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MDOT construction 01/30/15-02/02/15

"The following weekend construction activities are scheduled, in addition to work already in place. As always, some work may be postponed due to weather or other circumstances. For the latest information, please follow on Twitter @ MDOT_MetroDet and always check MDOT's website before traveling, Michigan.gov/drive, where you can search by route, county, and date.

"
Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548231_mdot1.pdf

KALAMAZOO'S KEN MILLER ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"LANSING, MI – Ken Miller was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) at its board meeting on January 26. Miller is the CEO of Millennium Restaurant Group in Kalamazoo, which includes Martell's, Epic Bistro, Central City Tap House, The Union Cabaret and Grille, Fieldstone Grill, The Wine Loft, Panini Express, Centre Street Tap House, Cityscape Events, The Idler Riverboat, and Millennium Catering."

Source: *Michigan Restaurant Association* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548159_km.pdf

Peters Joins Senate Great Lakes Task Force

*"**WASHINGTON, DC –** U.S. Senator Gary Peters today announced he has joined the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, a bipartisan working group made up of Senators representing the states bordering the Great Lakes. Peters will work with Great Lakes Task Force co-chair Senator Debbie Stabenow and his colleagues in the Senate to preserve and protect our Great Lakes, highlight the economic benefits that come from the Great Lakes and the need to combat threats from invasive species, including Asian Carp. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Peters served on the House Great Lakes Task Force."*

Source: *US Senator Gary Peters* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548073_usp.pdf

Lucky For Life: First Drawing Takes Place Tonight

*"**LANSING, Mich., Jan. 29, 2015** – Michigan Lottery players have a chance to be part of history tonight by purchasing a ticket for the first Lucky For Life drawing. Tickets for the Lottery's newest draw game went on sale Tuesday."*

Source: *MI Lottery* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422548010_mil.pdf

Metzenbaum to discuss innovation in government at UM lecture

"The Citizens Research Council of Michigan and our friends at the University of Michigan invite you to join us for a public lecture about the excitement of working in government and how one person can make a difference using the tools of outcomes-focused goals and measurement to illuminate, motivate, and communicate. Shelley Metzenbaum, President of the Volcker Alliance will give a lecture entitled "Can You Be an Entrepreneur in Government?""

Source: *Citizens Research Council of Michigan* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422547963_umh.pdf

Report Released - MSP, Forensic Science Division

"Performance audit of the Forensic Science Division, Michigan Department of State Police"

Source: *Office of the Auditor General* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422547832_ooag.pdf

Citizens United and unlimited spending: Is free speech really free?

"GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — According to a national campaign finance reform organization, the average political donation per person in the United States in the 2012 election cycle was less than $10. But according to a New York Times report, in 2016, billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch and their

vast political network are expected to spend nearly $900 million, the same amount each of the parties are expected to spend on campaigns."

Source: *GVSU* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422547186_gvsu.pdf

Consumers Energy Announces Executive Changes, Building on Customer Focus and Commitment to Michigan

"JACKSON, Mich., Jan. 28, 2015 – Consumers Energy, Michigan's largest utility and the fourth-largest U.S. combination utility, announced today several leadership moves that build on its customer-first focus and commitment to serving Michigan."

Source: *Consumers Energy* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422547125_cone.pdf

JUDGE WARREN, BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND PATRIOT WEEK TEACH DETROIT STUDENTS ABOUT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

*"**Detroit, MI (January 27, 2015)** – Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Michael Warren teamed with several local bar associations and Patriot Week recently to teach Detroit high school students about the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Lawyers and law students from the Wolverine Bar Association, the Straker Bar Association, the Black Women Lawyers Association and the Damon Keith Center joined Judge Warren in programs at the Cornerstone Health + Technology High School and White Academy."*

Source: *Oakland County Circuit Court* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422547008_oak.pdf

Peters, Stabenow Denounce Republican Opposition to Protecting Michigan's Environment

*"**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow expressed disappointment after their amendment to protect Michigan's environment and enhance oversight over aging pipelines in the Great Lakes, such as those underneath the Straits of Mackinac, was defeated today. The amendment, which was offered during Senate consideration of legislation authorizing construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, was opposed by a majority of Republicans."*

Source: *US Senator Gary Peters* **Date:** *01-30-2015* **Link:**
http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1422546791_psiatiocap.pdf

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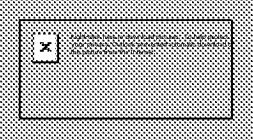

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From: MIRS Delivery <mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 6:46 AM
To: McGroarty, Michael (CEPI)
Subject: MIRS' Statewide Headlines & Press Releases

You are receiving the following headlines from various news sources and list of recent press releases received at MIRS as part of your paid

Lawmakers look for alternatives to Proposal 1

"After the overwhelming rejection of the Proposal 1, state lawmakers are back to the drawing board."

Source: *Port Huron Times Herald* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.thetimesherald.com/story/news/local/2015/05/06/lawmakers-look-alter*

About 1 in 4 Michiganders voted in Tuesday's election

"LANSING, MI — About one in every four registered Michiganders came out to vote for Proposal 1, which aimed to raise taxes to pay for roa

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/05/about_1_in_4_michiganders_vote.html#incar*

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder 'has not made any decisions' on presidential run

"LANSING, MI — Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder "has not made any decisions" about entering the Republican presidential field, a spokeswoma

Source: *M-Live* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/05/michigan_gov_rick_snyder_has_n.html#incar*

Proposal 1 margin was wide in county

"Final vote totals from Tuesday's election confirmed what most people already knew — Livingston County voters were dead set against Prop

Source: *Livingston County Daily Press & Argus* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/06/propo*

Gov. Rick Snyder says 'no one to blame' for Prop 1 failure

"HOLLAND, MI – If Gov. Rick Snyder is perturbed voters soundly rejected his road-fixing Proposal 1 on Tuesday, he wasn't showing it on W

Source: *Grand Rapids Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/05/gov_snyder_says_no_one*

Tea Party calls Proposal 1 thumping a mandate for funding roads with budget cuts

"WEST MICHIGAN – Six months ago, 62 percent of Kent County voters supported Gov. Rick Snyder's re-election."

Source: *Grand Rapids Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/05/tea_party_calls_proposal_*

EPA sets rules to protect from drinking water toxins

"With harmful algal blooms an increasing problem, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a new set of health advisory rules t

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/05/06/epa-sets-rules-protect-drin*

Dingell to become UM guest lecturer and scholar

"John Dingell, the recently retired longest-serving member of Congress, announced Wednesday a partnership with the University of Michiga

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/06/dingell-become-um-guest-lecturer*

Officials say Prop 1's loss means roads will get worse

"Detroit area road officials said Wednesday Proposal 1's crushing defeat Tuesday doesn't change the dire need for millions of dollars more i

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/06/officials-say-prop-loss-means-roa*

Prop 1 suffers worst ballot measure defeat in 50 years

"Proposal 1 suffered the worst defeat Tuesday of any Michigan ballot measure since the current Constitution was adopted more than a half-c

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/06/prop-suffers-worst-ballot-measure*

Snyder resumes national travel to tout 'comeback'

"Gov. Rick Snyder is resuming his national travel schedule Thursday, fresh off a "disappointing" defeat Tuesday by Michigan voters of the Pr

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/07/snyder-resumes-national-travel-to*

Spokeswoman denies Snyder has made White House decision

"A Snyder administration spokeswoman denied a report Wednesday that the Republican governor has decided against running for president

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/06/spokeswoman-denies-snyder-mad*

Road map after Prop 1's failure is full of holes

"Lansing — Reeling from a historic voter defeat of a proposed sales tax increase, Gov. Rick Snyder and legislative leaders disagreed Wedne

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/06/snyder-hopes-legislation-solution-*

Tesla acquires Michigan-based auto supplier

"Washington — Tesla Motors Inc. confirmed late Wednesday it has acquired a west Michigan auto supplier as it ramps up production of elec

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/autos/2015/05/07/tesla-acquires-michigan-based-*

Flags to be lowered in Michigan after SEAL's death

"LANSING – U.S. flags will be lowered Friday in Michigan for a second Navy SEAL who died following a training accident in a swimming poo

Source: *Associated Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/05/06/flags-michigan-seal-training-*

Time for districts to regroup after school bond failures

"School administrators in districts with failed bond proposals Tuesday were licking their wounds Wednesday and looking ahead to figure out

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/05/06/bond-proposal-millages-rej*

Oil and gas pipeline info would become secret under state bill

"It's a matter of national security, says state Rep. Kurt Heise: Keeping information about oil and gas pipelines, high-powered electrical lines a

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/05/07/oil-gas-pipelines-freedom-in*

Dead heat: Snyder vs. politics writer too close to call

"It's not clear yet whether Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder intends to run for president or is merely taking advantage of the national media specula

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/05/06/dead-heat-snyder-vs-writer-close-cal*

Dingell papers go to University of Michigan

"WASHINGTON — Think of your biggest move ever and how many boxes it took: What, 20? Thirty? More?"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/2015/05/06/dingell-collection-um/70900390/*

Snyder draws flak as he heads to NYC after Prop 1 loss

"LANSING – Gov. Rick Snyder leaves for New York City Thursday for a two-day trip that's expected to renew speculation about his possible

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/05/06/snyder-proposal-aftermath-*

House speaker plans road fix bills in days

"LANSING — One thing came through to Gov. Rick Snyder and legislators Tuesday night when voters pummeled a proposal to raise the sal

"

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/05/06/house-plan-roads-will-introd*

A first in Michigan: Tesla buys Grand Rapids auto supplier

"Tesla Motors is acquiring a Grand Rapids-based auto supplier, giving the Silicon Valley technology company a manufacturing presence in M

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/money/cars/2015/05/06/tesla-motors-acquisition-riviera-tool-*

John Dingell donates 6 decades of materials to U-M's Bentley Historical Library

"Earlier this month, John Dingell, the former U.S. Congressman for Michigan's 12th Congressional District, was at the University of Michigan

Source: *Ann Arbor News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2015/05/john_dingell_donates_6_decade*

Advocacy/Opinion

On a college campus, it's not easy being conservative

"As a political science student at the University of Michigan I always felt as though I had to tiptoe around class discussions in fear of outing m

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2015/05/07/draplin-conservative-umich/70899414/*

Editor's Note: Flint botches mayoral race

"Just a week after the governor announced the end of Flint's financial emergency, the city is experiencing severe pains as it returns to local c

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/columnists/ingrid-jacques/2015/05/07/jacques-flint-*

Lapointe: Michigan needs toll roads

"The defeat of Proposition 1, which would've funded a roads fix in Michigan, is why the Great Lakes State needs toll roads."

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2015/05/07/michigan-needs-toll-roads/70899510/*

Finley: Stay home and fight for roads, Gov. Snyder

"Gov. Rick Snyder said he would wait until after this week's special road funding election to decide whether he'll run for president. The overw

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/columnists/nolan-finley/2015/05/06/finley-presidenti*

Howes: Michigan 'comeback' narrative meets cold reality

"On his morning-after call to discuss the 4-1 defeat of Proposal One, the ill-conceived roads measure, no one asked Gov. Rick Snyder about

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/business/columnists/daniel-howes/2015/05/06/howes-michi*

Editorial: Finish work on grading teachers

"Michigan continues to lag the nation in the performance of its students. And since teachers play the biggest role in determining how well the

"

Source: *Detroit News* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/05/06/editorial-grading-teachers/708*

Voters spoke on Prop 1, but what did our leaders hear?

"The day after a ballot proposal to fix our jacked-up roads flopped in spectacular fashion, we know one thing: Our elected officials are ready t

Source: *Detroit Free Press* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/columnists/nancy-kaffer/2015/05/06/roads-michigan/*

Detroit Public Schools Gave 8 of 10 Teachers Highest Rating Despite Being Nation's Worst Urban

"When Gov. Rick Snyder recently proposed creating a new school district organization to serve Detroit schoolchildren, he cited a "lack of edu

Source: *Capitol Confidential* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/21275*

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5 ways to improve standardized testing in Michigan schools

"In the Clarkston Community Schools, we have established a clear vision: to cultivate thinkers, learners, and positive contributors to a global
engaging in co-curricular activities, and pursuing their passions. When an assessment disrupts learning, puts undue physical and emotional

Source: *Bridge Magazine* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://bridgemi.com/2015/05/5-ways-to-improve-standardized-testing-in-michigan-schools*

Press Releases

Lane closure clarification - US-10 bridge replacement over I-75 in Bay County

"The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is replacing both the eastbound and westbound US-10 bridges over I-75. The westbou

"

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430945394_mdp.pdf*

Senate panel approves Jones bill to protect charitable gaming

*"**LANSING—**Legislation sponsored by Sen. Rick Jones to allow charity poker rooms to continue to operate in Michigan was approved Wedn*

Source: *Senator Rick Jones* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430944182_rj.pdf*

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9 Mile Road bridge replacement over US-10 begins May 15

"The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be replacing the 9 Mile Road bridge over US-10 at Exit 134.

"

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430942941_md.pdf*

Dr. Benishek Reminds Local Farmers of Expanded Crop Insurance

"Washington, D.C- As a result of the 2014 Farm Bill, which Dr. Benishek helped craft as a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, s insurance subsidies. These changes help to ensure that there will be less soil erosion and that wetlands will be protected in agricultural area

Source: *US Congressman Dan Benishek* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941438_beni.pdf*

MAC still sees simple, direct election on 1-cent sales tax boost as best way to address roads crisi

*"**LANSING, MICH.** – The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) reiterated today its longstanding support for a statewide vote to increase*

Source: *Michigan Association of Counties* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941373_mac.pdf*

Beyond Nuclear decries Canadian radioactive waste dump on Great Lakes shore, as Environmenta

""Beyond Nuclear joins with a growing groundswell of environmental and public interest groups, concerned residents, and governmental bod Ontario."

Source: *Beyond Nuclear* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941332_nuc.pdf*

Rep. Pettalia: Back to work on Michigan roads

"An 80-to-20 percent trouncing of the May 5 road funding ballot proposal put an exclamation point on the deep rumblings state Rep. Peter Pe

Source: *Rep. Pettalia* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941296_pettal.pdf*

DEQ grants $2.8 million for scrap tire market development

"The DEQ today announced the award of $2.8 million in grants to help develop new markets for scrap tire

Source: *Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941263_envi.pdf*

New Flint AmeriCorps Project Will Provide New Educational Programming for Young Students and

"FLINT, MICH. –The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that ac

"

Source: *Michigan Community Service Commission* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941204_edu.pd*

Sen. Zorn named Michigan Community Action Legislator of the Year

*"**LANSING—**Sen. Dale Zorn, R-Ida, was named Legislator of the Year by Michigan Community Action during the organization's Community*

Source: *Senator Zorn* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430941139_zorn.pdf*

WLNS 6 anchor to host annual auction fundraiser to prevent child abuse, neglect

*"LANSING, Mich., May 6, 2015 – **Chivon Kloepfer**, "6 News this Morning" and Noon Newscast anchor for **WLNS 6 News**, will serve as host efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.*

"

Source: *Byrum Fisk* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936678_wlns.pdf*

Summer 2015 Job Market Forecast For Michigan Teens (Ages 16-19)

"Lansing – The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget has released its summer (June–August) teen employment forec teen labor market is expected to remain competitive during the summer of 2015."

Source: *Dept. of Technology, Management & Budget* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936606_teen*

Dingell Applauds $38,000 in NEA Funding for Dearborn & Ann Arbor Organizations

*"**DEARBORN, MI** – Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12) today applauded the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for awarding three*

Source: *Congresswoman Dingell* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936545_ding.pdf*

May is Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month

"LANSING, Mich. – While high school students are not using indoor tanning salons as much as they have in the past, exposure to sunlight a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is recognizing May as Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month.

"

Source: *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/14309365*

M-26 resurfacing in Houghton, Ontonagon counties starts May 7

"The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will resurface 20.8 miles of M-26 from US-45 north to Twin Lakes Road in Ontonagon

"

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936471_onton.pdf*

M-28 resurfacing in Gogebic, Ontonagon and Houghton counties starts May 11

"The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will resurface 23.8 miles of M-28 from Tula to Bergland, from Ewen to Bruce Crossing,

"

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936434_mdot.pdf*

House Dems Work on Road Plan in Absence of GOP Colleagues

"LANSING — Members of the House Democratic Caucus traveled to the state Capitol today to begin work on a new plan to raise money to f

"

Source: *Michigan Dems* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936398_dems.pdf*

Michigan Lottery Players Club Winners Announced

*"**LANSING, Mich., May 6, 2015** – Three lucky players have won big prizes playing giveaway contests from the Michigan Lottery's Players Cl*

Source: *MI Lottery* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936364_lotto.pdf*

Peters Has Busy First 4 Months as Michigan's New Senator

*"**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – It's been four months now since U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) was sworn in to serve Michigan in the Senate. Durin*

Source: *Senator Peters* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936318_pete.pdf*

MICHAUTO LEADS GROUP OF MICHIGAN-BASED AUTO SUPPLIERS TO MEET WITH LEGISLATO

*"**LANSING, May 6, 2015** – Today, MICHauto, an initiative of the Detroit Regional Chamber, is taking a dozen Michigan-based automotive su*
stakeholders and legislative leadership in Lansing.
"

Source: *MICHauto* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936279_michauto.pdf*

Rep. Lucido introduces bill to fund road repairs without any tax increase

"Legislation introduced by state Rep. Peter J. Lucido would fund much-needed road and infrastructure repairs in Michigan by tapping an alre

Source: *Rep. Lucido* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936177_luc.pdf*

DNR seeks input on plans for State Game Areas in southwestern Michigan

"State game area managers with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources are seeking public input on several draft master plans for s

Source: *MDNR* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936129_jor.pdf*

DEQ Livestock Factory Permit Change: Important but Small Change in Nutrient Pollution of Lake E

"The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced a change to water quality permits for livestock factories, known as co follow the same restrictions as permitted CAFOs regarding application of wastes to fields. "

Source: *Michigan Sierra Club* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936088_deq.pdf*

Rep. Hughes invites local residents to testify on retroactive sex crimes bill

"State Rep. Holly Hughes, R-Muskegon, recently introduced legislation to eliminate the statute of limitations for First Degree Criminal Sexual

Source: *Michigan House Republicans* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936052_mihouserepub.pdf*

World's Leading Skeptics of Man-Caused Global Warming Gather in Washington, DC

"

The Tenth International Conference on Climate Change (#ICCC10) will take place on Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12, 2015 at the W
"

Source: *The Heartland Institute* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430936005_heart.pdf*

Statement from Rob Fowler, President and CEO of the Small Business Association of Michigan, o

"Michigan voters on May 5 made two things abundantly clear: Michigan's roads and bridges must be fixed but Proposal 1 was not the solutio

Source: *Small Business Association of Michigan* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935950_smbus.pd*

Strategic Plans for Bicycling To Be Presented May 13

"A public meeting to discuss how bike-friendly facilities tie into lifting the region's stature as a great place to live, work and play."

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935909_bike.pdf*

Statement from Citizens for Modernizing East Lansing's Charter on election win

"

*EAST LANSING– The following is a statement from **Citizens for Modernizing East Lansing's Charter** (CMELC) on yesterday's election wi*

"

Source: *Byrum Fisk* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935867_citi.pdf*

Governor Proclaims May as Building Safety Month

*"**May 6, 2015.** Governor Rick Snyder today issued a proclamation declaring May as Building Safety Month to highlight the importance of buil*

"

Source: *LARA* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935817_lar.pdf*

DNR creel clerks to collect angler information

"As this year's open-water fishing season gets under way, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that fisheries pers

Source: *MDNR* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935762_mdn.pdf*

US-31 bridge repairs over Washington Avenue in Holland start Monday

"The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be repairing the US-31 bridge over Washington Avenue in Holland."

Source: *MDOT* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935723_closu.pdf*

Peters Cosponsors Bill Supporting Veteran Entrepreneurs, Observes National Small Business We

*"**WASHINGTON, DC** – U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI), a member of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, today ann*
Administration (SBA)'s Express loans for veterans and would require the SBA to review existing programs that support veterans before and a

Source: *Senator Peters* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935512_pet.pdf*

SECOND HEARING COVERING MEDICAL MARIJUANA BILLS TO TAKE PLACE IN LANSING PUBL

"LANSING, MI: The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee will be holding an additional hearing May 7th with public testimony with
m around the state will also testify. The NPRA's goal is to make safe access to medical marijuana a reality in Michigan. With so many chil
"

Source: *Mort Meisner Associates* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **Link:** *http://mirsnews.com/pdfs/Press_Releases/1430935475_mary.pdf*

Marriage Freedom Advocate Rev. Neil Carrick to Speak at Libertarian Convention in Kalamazoo

"

Kalamazoo MI – Rev. Neil Carrick will be the featured luncheon speaker at the Libertarian Party of Michigan (LPM) State Convention on Satu

"

Source: *Reverend Neil Patrick Carrick* **Date:** *05-07-2015* **L**

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	EntityTypeName	EntityId	EntityOfficialName	OriginalEntityCode	EntityAddressId	EntityId2	AddressTypeId
2	LEA School	10600	Academy West Alternative Education	01915	74425	10600	1
3	LEA School	10600	Academy West Alternative Education	01915	74426	10600	2
4	LEA School	1616	Accelerated Learning Academy	05950	51234	1616	1
5	LEA School	1616	Accelerated Learning Academy	05950	51235	1616	2
6	LEA School	1704	Armstrong Middle School	06282	51651	1704	1
7	LEA School	1704	Armstrong Middle School	06282	51652	1704	2
8	LEA School	1674	Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth Alternative Education	07710	51359	1674	1
9	LEA School	1674	Bendle/Carman-Ainsworth Alternative Education	07710	51360	1674	2
10	LEA School	10601	Brownell STEM Academy	01916	74427	10601	1
11	LEA School	10601	Brownell STEM Academy	01916	74428	10601	2
12	LEA School	11194	Carman Park-Baker Career Academy	02790	75766	11194	1
13	LEA School	11194	Carman Park-Baker Career Academy	02790	75765	11194	2
14	LEA School	1688	Carman-Ainsworth High School	05009	51373	1688	1
15	LEA School	1688	Carman-Ainsworth High School	05009	51374	1688	2
16	LEA School	1684	Carman-Ainsworth Middle School	00031	51303	1684	1
17	LEA School	1684	Carman-Ainsworth Middle School	00031	51304	1684	2
18	LEA School	1743	Colonel Donald McMonagle Elementary School	05928	51616	1743	1
19	LEA School	1743	Colonel Donald McMonagle Elementary School	05928	51617	1743	2
20	LEA School	1630	Doyle/Ryder School	03129	51246	1630	1
21	LEA School	1630	Doyle/Ryder School	03129	51247	1630	2
22	LEA School	1651	Durant Tuuri Mott School	00974	51267	1651	1
23	LEA School	1651	Durant Tuuri Mott School	00974	51268	1651	2
24	LEA School	1682	Dye Elementary School	00980	51369	1682	1
25	LEA School	1682	Dye Elementary School	00980	51370	1682	2
26	LEA School	1648	Eisenhower School	01098	51264	1648	1
27	LEA School	1648	Eisenhower School	01098	51265	1648	2
28	LEA School	1646	Freeman School	01320	51197	1646	1
29	LEA School	1646	Freeman School	01320	51198	1646	2
30	LEA School	10531	Gateway to College-Mott Community College	01795	74278	10531	1
31	LEA School	10531	Gateway to College-Mott Community College	01795	74279	10531	2
32	LEA School	7913	Genesee Early College	09774	65104	7913	1
33	LEA School	7913	Genesee Early College	09774	65061	7913	2
34	LEA School	1742	Hamady Community High School	06235	51469	1742	1
35	LEA School	1742	Hamady Community High School	06235	51470	1742	2
36	LEA School	1741	Hamady Middle School	01543	51467	1741	1
37	LEA School	1741	Hamady Middle School	01543	51468	1741	2
38	LEA School	10602	Holmes STEM Academy	01917	74430	10602	1
39	LEA School	10602	Holmes STEM Academy	01917	74429	10602	2
40	LEA School	1698	Kate Dowdall Elementary School	00949	51387	1698	1
41	LEA School	1698	Kate Dowdall Elementary School	00949	51388	1698	2
42	LEA School	1701	Kearsley High School	01993	51645	1701	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
1	AddressTypeCode	Street	AddressLine2	City	State	Zip4	EffDate	MapURL
2	Mailing	3223 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485041247	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
3	Physical	3400 N Jennings Rd		Flint	MI	485041757	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
4	Mailing	G2138 W. Carpenter Road		FLINT	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
5	Physical	G2138 W. Carpenter Road		Flint	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
6	Mailing	G-6161 HOPKINS RD		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
7	Physical	6161 HOPKINS RD # G		FLINT	MI	485061657	5/19/2011 11:51:33 AM	No Map Found
8	Mailing	G-3493 BEVERIDGE RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
9	Physical	3493 Beveridge Rd # G		Flint	MI	48532	10/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
10	Mailing	6302 OXLEY DR		FLINT	MI	485041698	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
11	Physical	6302 Oxley Dr		Flint	MI	485041698	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
12	Mailing	3375 Van Campen Rd		Flint	MI	48507	6/25/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
13	Physical	3375 Van Campen Rd		Flint	MI	48507	6/25/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
14	Mailing	1300 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485322366	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
15	Physical	1300 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485322341	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
16	Mailing	1409 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075699	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
17	Physical	1409 WEST MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485075613	5/19/2011 11:53:45 AM	No Map Found
18	Mailing	3484 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
19	Physical	3484 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	5/19/2011 11:51:47 AM	No Map Found
20	Mailing	1040 NORTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485031736	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
21	Physical	1040 NORTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485031736	5/19/2011 11:54:06 AM	No Map Found
22	Mailing	1518 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
23	Physical	1518 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046208	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
24	Mailing	1174 SOUTH GRAHAM RD		FLINT	MI	485323562	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
25	Physical	1174 SOUTH GRAHAM RD		FLINT	MI	485323533	5/19/2011 11:53:18 AM	No Map Found
26	Mailing	1235 PERSHING ST		FLINT	MI	485033533	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
27	Physical	1235 PERSHING ST		FLINT	MI	485033533	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
28	Mailing	4001 OGEMA AVE		FLINT	MI	485072887	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
29	Physical	4001 OGEMA AVE		FLINT	MI	485072887	5/19/2011 11:54:24 AM	No Map Found
30	Mailing	923 E KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031974	2/5/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
31	Physical	1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089	2/5/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
32	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
33	Physical	2413 W Maple Ave		Flint	MI	48507	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
34	Mailing	G-3223 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	48504	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
35	Physical	3223 WEST CARPENTER RD # G		FLINT	MI	485041247	5/19/2011 11:52:39 AM	No Map Found
36	Mailing	G-3223 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	48504	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
37	Physical	3223 WEST CARPENTER RD # G		FLINT	MI	485041247	5/19/2011 11:52:40 AM	No Map Found
38	Mailing	6602 OXLEY DR		FLINT	MI	485041674	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
39	Physical	6602 Oxley Dr		Flint	MI	485041674	5/15/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
40	Mailing	3333 SHILLELAGH DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
41	Physical	3333 SHILLELAGH DR		FLINT	MI	485062246	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
42	Mailing	G-4302 UNDERHILL DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
1	AddressTypeName	XLocation	YLocation	Latitude	Longitude	USCongressionalDistrict	MISenateDistrict	MIHouseDistrict	CGIStatusDate
2	Mailing								
3	Physical	682847.8683	280645.7794	43.05429601	-83.75283278	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
4	Mailing								
5	Physical	685485.0809	283059.2749	43.07537287	-83.71964447	5	27	34	2/16/2015 12:42:41 PM
6	Mailing								
7	Physical	695951.4996	283828.1288	43.07963205	-83.59087384	5	27	48	5/19/2011 11:51:33 AM
8	Mailing								
9	Physical	683206.8885	274037.4649	42.99472586	-83.75062424	5	27	49	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
10	Mailing								
11	Physical	684757.797	282346.7266	43.06913831	-83.72881883	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
12	Mailing								
13	Physical	687355.7367	272274.3877	42.97783367	-83.70034397	5	27	49	6/25/2015 2:08:53 PM
14	Mailing								
15	Physical	681274.409	277335.634	43.02464487	-83.7730952	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
16	Mailing								
17	Physical	686841.6851	269757.4285	42.95530569	-83.70750238	5	14	50	5/19/2011 11:53:45 AM
18	Mailing								
19	Physical	682839	281045.1	43.05516364	-83.75284113	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:51:47 AM
20	Mailing								
21	Physical	687789.9	277474.6	43.02552676	-83.6933395	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:06 AM
22	Mailing								
23	Physical	686397.4514	276338.7424	43.014655	-83.71072298	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
24	Mailing								
25	Physical	682529.0348	276096.7463	43.01342699	-83.75825441	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:18 AM
26	Mailing								
27	Physical	686559.0213	275144.9047	43.00386911	-83.70914516	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
28	Mailing								
29	Physical	690548.8	273387.2	42.98741964	-83.66088539	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:24 AM
30	Mailing								
31	Physical	689637.4845	276839.188	43.018348	-83.670809	5	27	49	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
32	Mailing								
33	Physical	685162.28	270103.8	42.958839	-83.727966	5	14	50	6/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
34	Mailing								
35	Physical	683677.2	282991.7	43.07525532	-83.74195061	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:52:39 AM
36	Mailing								
37	Physical	683657.025	282723.5105	43.07280012	-83.74220722	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:52:40 AM
38	Mailing								
39	Physical	684753.6416	282513.0083	43.07063603	-83.72881398	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
40	Mailing								
41	Physical	695085.4057	281263.6304	43.05677608	-83.602417	5	27	48	7/26/2011 10:33:59 AM
42	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
1	CGIStatusId	CGIStatus	BlockGroup	CivilDivision	FIPSCounty	County	DistCode	CGIData	EEMEndTime
2									8:59:42 AM
3	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
4									8:59:42 AM
5	2	Validated by CGI	0001003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
6									8:59:42 AM
7	2	Validated by CGI	0120091	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
8									8:59:42 AM
9	2	Validated by CGI	0109101	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
10									8:59:42 AM
11	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
12									8:59:42 AM
13	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
14									8:59:42 AM
15	2	Validated by CGI	0108112	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
16									8:59:42 AM
17	2	Validated by CGI	0129052	56160	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
18									8:59:42 AM
19	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
20									8:59:42 AM
21	2	Validated by CGI	0136001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
22									8:59:42 AM
23	2	Validated by CGI	0015003		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
24									8:59:42 AM
25	2	Validated by CGI	0109102	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
26									8:59:42 AM
27	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
28									8:59:42 AM
29	2	Validated by CGI	0035003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
30									8:59:42 AM
31	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
32									8:59:42 AM
33	2	Validated by CGI	0129041	56160	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
34									8:59:42 AM
35	2	Validated by CGI	0105012	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
36									8:59:42 AM
37	2	Validated by CGI	0105012	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
38									8:59:42 AM
39	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
40									8:59:42 AM
41	2	Validated by CGI	0120082	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
42									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
43	LEA School	1701	Kearsley High School	01993	51646	1701	2
44	LEA School	1699	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	01230	51389	1699	1
45	LEA School	1699	Leota Fiedler Elementary School	01230	51390	1699	2
46	LEA School	11161	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	02745	75700	11161	1
47	LEA School	11161	Milton E. Tucker Middle School	02745	75699	11161	2
48	LEA School	1611	Mott Middle College High School	07576	51155	1611	1
49	LEA School	1611	Mott Middle College High School	07576	51156	1611	2
50	LEA School	1632	Neithercut Elementary School	02670	51250	1632	1
51	LEA School	1632	Neithercut Elementary School	02670	51251	1632	2
52	LEA School	1628	Northwestern High School	02777	51173	1628	1
53	LEA School	1628	Northwestern High School	02777	51174	1628	2
54	LEA School	1629	Pierce School	03033	51175	1629	1
55	LEA School	1629	Pierce School	03033	51176	1629	2
56	LEA School	1631	Potter School	03108	51248	1631	1
57	LEA School	1631	Potter School	03108	51249	1631	2
58	LEA School	1686	Randels Elementary School	03147	51307	1686	1
59	LEA School	1686	Randels Elementary School	03147	51308	1686	2
60	LEA School	1624	Southwestern Classical Academy	03554	51242	1624	1
61	LEA School	1624	Southwestern Classical Academy	03554	51243	1624	2
62	Other Non-School Recipient	10501	Alpha Montessori School	990002480	74218	10501	1
63	Other Non-School Recipient	10501	Alpha Montessori School	990002480	74219	10501	2
64	Other Non-School Recipient	9639	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	990000250	72194	9639	1
65	Other Non-School Recipient	9639	Alutiiq Professional Services, LLC	990000250	72195	9639	2
66	Other Non-School Recipient	8175	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	250000041	66053	8175	1
67	Other Non-School Recipient	8175	BERRY CHILD CARE CENTER	250000041	69911	8175	2
68	Other Non-School Recipient	9420	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	25SPX0025	71682	9420	1
69	Other Non-School Recipient	9420	BRIDONS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER I	25SPX0025	71616	9420	2
70	Other Non-School Recipient	8233	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	250000072	66111	8233	1
71	Other Non-School Recipient	8233	CASTILLO ENTERPRISE LLC	250000072	69964	8233	2
72	Other Non-School Recipient	9469	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	990000160	71808	9469	1
73	Other Non-School Recipient	9469	Children First Child Care Center Corp.	990000160	71809	9469	2
74	Other Non-School Recipient	9083	Connexion, Incorporated	990000070	70790	9083	1
75	Other Non-School Recipient	9083	Connexion, Incorporated	990000070	70791	9083	2
76	Other Non-School Recipient	10861	Eagles Nest Academy	990004408	75056	10861	1
77	Other Non-School Recipient	10861	Eagles Nest Academy	990004408	75057	10861	2
78	Other Non-School Recipient	9010	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	25SPX0022	66888	9010	1
79	Other Non-School Recipient	9010	Eagle's Nest Child Care Center	25SPX0022	70692	9010	2
80	Other Non-School Recipient	10356	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	990001945	73852	10356	1
81	Other Non-School Recipient	10356	Flint Boy's and Girl's Preparatory Academy	990001945	73853	10356	2
82	Other Non-School Recipient	9511	Flint Institute of Music	250005113	71893	9511	1
83	Other Non-School Recipient	9511	Flint Institute of Music	250005113	71894	9511	2
84	Other Non-School Recipient	8357	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	250000066	66235	8357	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
43	Physical	4302 UNDERHILL DR # G		FLINT	MI	485061534	5/19/2011 11:51:35 AM	No Map Found
44	Mailing	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	48506	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
45	Physical	6317 NIGHTINGALE DR		FLINT	MI	485061714	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
46	Mailing	1020 W COLDWATER RD		FLINT	MI	485054831	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
47	Physical	G5159 Summit Street		Flint	MI	485051429	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
48	Mailing	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
49	Physical	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	5/19/2011 11:54:31 AM	No Map Found
50	Mailing	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
51	Physical	2010 CRESTBROOK LN		FLINT	MI	48507	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
52	Mailing	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
53	Physical	G2138 WEST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051977	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
54	Mailing	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
55	Physical	1101 WEST VERNON DR		FLINT	MI	485032840	5/19/2011 11:54:28 AM	No Map Found
56	Mailing	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
57	Physical	2500 NORTH AVERILL AVE		FLINT	MI	485063010	5/19/2011 11:54:05 AM	No Map Found
58	Mailing	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
59	Physical	6022 BROBECK ST		FLINT	MI	485324006	5/19/2011 11:53:44 AM	No Map Found
60	Mailing	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
61	Physical	1420 WEST 12TH ST		FLINT	MI	485071425	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM	No Map Found
62	Mailing	310 E 3RD ST		FLINT	MI	485021711	1/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
63	Physical	310 E 3rd St		Flint	MI	485021711	1/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
64	Mailing	2400 N SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485054442	9/21/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
65	Physical	2400 N. Saginaw St.		Flint	MI	48505	5/19/2011 10:22:08 AM	No Map Found
66	Mailing	KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
67	Physical	KATHRYN BERRY	617 HEMPHILL RD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:20:32 AM	No Map Found
68	Mailing	817 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485032076	5/27/2009 8:25:38 AM	No Map Found
69	Physical	817 EAST KEARSLEY ST	SUITE 3C	FLINT	MI	485032076	5/19/2011 10:26:05 AM	No Map Found
70	Mailing	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
71	Physical	BRIGHT BEGINNINGS LEARNING	G3393 CLIO RD	FLINT	MI	48504	5/19/2011 10:20:24 AM	No Map Found
72	Mailing	1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630	6/1/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
73	Physical	1081 HOURAN ST		FLINT	MI	485323630	5/19/2011 10:24:29 AM	No Map Found
74	Mailing	1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923	5/4/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
75	Physical	1110 ELDON BAKER DR		FLINT	MI	485071923	5/19/2011 10:28:10 AM	No Map Found
76	Mailing	5005 CLOVERLAWN DR		FLINT	MI	485042084	3/5/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
77	Physical	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084	3/5/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
78	Mailing	6103 EAGLE RIDGE LN		FLINT	MI	485056740	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
79	Physical	6103 Eagle Ridge Ln		Flint	MI	485056740	6/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
80	Mailing	1185 E FOSS AVE		FLINT	MI	485052324	8/15/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
81	Physical	1185 E Foss Ave		Flint	MI	485052324	8/15/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
82	Mailing	1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
83	Physical	1025 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485031922	5/19/2011 10:23:33 AM	No Map Found
84	Mailing	2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
43	Physical	694434.2697	282794.6681	43.07072504	-83.60986815	5	27	48	5/19/2011 11:51:35 AM
44	Mailing								
45	Physical	696471.2827	282691.0537	43.06926211	-83.58489777	5	27	48	7/26/2011 10:35:53 AM
46	Mailing								
47	Physical	687140.024	283641.0423	43.08019817	-83.69912691	5	27	49	5/28/2015 11:48:54 AM
48	Mailing								
49	Physical	689490.4744	277010.6758	43.01992912	-83.67255326	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:54:31 AM
50	Mailing								
51	Physical	687060.552	273155.262	42.98235234	-83.70771607	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
52	Mailing								
53	Physical	685592.729	283061.47	43.07524397	-83.72973579	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
54	Mailing								
55	Physical	690402.6894	276614.9196	43.01613634	-83.66149993	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:28 AM
56	Mailing								
57	Physical	691687.2203	279250.26	43.03952969	-83.64482724	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:54:05 AM
58	Mailing								
59	Physical	679573.7	274200.8	42.99703451	-83.79488844	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:44 AM
60	Mailing								
61	Physical	687519.771	274505.155	42.99665372	-83.69971783	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:55 PM
62	Mailing								
63	Physical	688389.0765	276453.4879	43.015191	-83.686255	5	27	49	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
64	Mailing								
65	Physical	687718.9	279023.5	43.0380872	-83.6936355	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:22:08 AM
66	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
67	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.9819543	-83.6628483	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:20:32 AM
68	Mailing								
69	Physical	688709.8	277146.1	43.02100791	-83.6826803	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:26:05 AM
70	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
71	Physical	683045.9	280981.8	43.05727	-83.75028	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:20:24 AM
72	Mailing								
73	Physical	684105.6	276145.8	43.01338639	-83.73902163	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:24:29 AM
74	Mailing								
75	Physical	690918.9	274058.5	42.99302258	-83.6569739	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:28:10 AM
76	Mailing								
77	Physical	684714.2577	281267.5119	43.05943503	-83.72971581	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
78	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
79	Physical	688306.6	282323.3	43.0678255	-83.6854165	5	27	34	6/14/2010 7:57:25 AM
80	Mailing								
81	Physical	688626.2342	282762.6813	43.0719195	-83.68118426	5	27	34	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
82	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
83	Physical	689032.4	277364.2	43.02208689	-83.68036121	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:23:33 AM
84	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
43	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
44									8:59:42 AM
45	2	Validated by CGI	0120091	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
46									8:59:42 AM
47	2	Validated by CGI	0103044	55980	049	Genesee	04500		8:59:42 AM
48									8:59:42 AM
49	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
50									8:59:42 AM
51	2	Validated by CGI	0135005		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
52									8:59:42 AM
53	2	Validated by CGI	0103043		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
54									8:59:42 AM
55	2	Validated by CGI	0030003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
56									8:59:42 AM
57	2	Validated by CGI	0027002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
58									8:59:42 AM
59	2	Validated by CGI	0108134	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
60									8:59:42 AM
61	2	Validated by CGI	0135002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
62									8:59:42 AM
63	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
64									8:59:42 AM
65	2	Validated by CGI	0136001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
66	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
67	2	Validated by CGI	0035002		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
68									8:59:42 AM
69	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
70	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
71	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
72									8:59:42 AM
73	2	Validated by CGI	0109112	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
74									8:59:42 AM
75	2	Validated by CGI	0033002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
76									8:59:42 AM
77	2	Validated by CGI	0005001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
78	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
79	2	Validated by CGI	0017002		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
80									8:59:42 AM
81	2	Validated by CGI	0017002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
82	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
83	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
84	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
85	Other Non-School Recipient	8357	FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN INC	250000066	70086	8357	2
86	Other Non-School Recipient	10918	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	990004592	75169	10918	1
87	Other Non-School Recipient	10918	Genesee Area Focus Fund, Inc.	990004592	75170	10918	2
88	Other Non-School Recipient	8418	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	250000018	66296	8418	1
89	Other Non-School Recipient	8418	GENESEE CHRISTIAN DAY CARE	250000018	70146	8418	2
90	Other Non-School Recipient	8603	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	250000016	66481	8603	1
91	Other Non-School Recipient	8603	Genesee County Community Action Resource Department	250000016	70326	8603	2
92	Other Non-School Recipient	11125	Genesee ISD Head Start	990005280	75627	11125	1
93	Other Non-School Recipient	11125	Genesee ISD Head Start	990005280	75628	11125	2
94	Other Non-School Recipient	9120	Genesee Valley Regional Center	250008005	70972	9120	1
95	Other Non-School Recipient	9120	Genesee Valley Regional Center	250008005	70898	9120	2
96	Other Non-School Recipient	8386	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	25SPX0011	66264	8386	1
97	Other Non-School Recipient	8386	GLORIAS LITTLE ANGELS INC	25SPX0011	70114	8386	2
98	Other Non-School Recipient	8317	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	82SC07500	66195	8317	1
99	Other Non-School Recipient	8317	GREAT LAKES FIELD SERVICES-DAUCH SCOUT CENTER	82SC07500	70046	8317	2
100	Other Non-School Recipient	9903	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	990001001	72846	9903	1
101	Other Non-School Recipient	9903	HJ&G LLC, Bright Begnnings	990001001	72847	9903	2
102	Other Non-School Recipient	9750	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	990000662	72484	9750	1
103	Other Non-School Recipient	9750	Honey Bee Palace Child Care Center, Inc.	990000662	72485	9750	2
104	Other Non-School Recipient	9190	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	990000089	70997	9190	1
105	Other Non-School Recipient	9190	Jireh Outreach Ministries Int	990000089	70998	9190	2
106	Other Non-School Recipient	8462	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	25SPX0006	66340	8462	1
107	Other Non-School Recipient	8462	KIDDIE KAT CHILDRENS CENTER LLC	25SPX0006	70190	8462	2
108	Other Non-School Recipient	11039	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	990004905	75431	11039	1
109	Other Non-School Recipient	11039	KIDDIE TIME CHILDCARE CENTER	990004905	75432	11039	2
110	Other Non-School Recipient	8503	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	250000001	66381	8503	1
111	Other Non-School Recipient	8503	LAZY LEOPARD-FLINT DAY CARE CENTER	250000001	70229	8503	2
112	Other Non-School Recipient	10559	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	990002690	74337	10559	1
113	Other Non-School Recipient	10559	Lifetime Learning Incorporated	990002690	74338	10559	2
114	Other Non-School Recipient	9739	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	990000653	72458	9739	1
115	Other Non-School Recipient	9739	Living Word Ministry Enrichment	990000653	72459	9739	2
116	Other Non-School Recipient	8542	MARY MCGEE	250000038	66420	8542	1
117	Other Non-School Recipient	8542	MARY MCGEE	250000038	70267	8542	2
118	Other Non-School Recipient	11150	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	990005379	75677	11150	1
119	Other Non-School Recipient	11150	Michigan Crossroads Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America	990005379	75678	11150	2
120	Other Non-School Recipient	9547	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	990000208	71960	9547	1
121	Other Non-School Recipient	9547	Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health	990000208	75347	9547	2
122	Other Non-School Recipient	8596	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	253300000	66474	8596	1
123	Other Non-School Recipient	8596	Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind	253300000	70319	8596	2
124	Other Non-School Recipient	8562	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	250000060	66440	8562	1
125	Other Non-School Recipient	8562	MIRIAM D CLEMONS/SAND CASTLES	250000060	70286	8562	2
126	Other Non-School Recipient	9857	Motherly Intercession	990000918	72754	9857	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
85	Physical	2312 LAPEER RD		FLINT	MI	485034221	5/19/2011 10:34:23 AM	No Map Found
86	Mailing	519 S SAGINAW ST STE 200	Ste 200	FLINT	MI	485021815	5/16/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
87	Physical	519 S Saginaw St		Flint	MI	485021815	5/16/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
88	Mailing	MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
89	Physical	MAIN OFFICE	G-3237 BEECHER ROAD	FLINT	MI	48532	5/19/2011 10:19:40 AM	No Map Found
90	Mailing	719 Harrison Street		Flint	MI	485021613	9/26/2008 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
91	Physical	719 HARRISON ST		FLINT	MI	485021613	5/19/2011 10:32:24 AM	No Map Found
92	Mailing	5075 PILGRIM RD		FLINT	MI	485073909	3/3/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
93	Physical	5075 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	3/3/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
94	Mailing	4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342	5/13/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
95	Physical	4287 WEST PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042342	5/19/2011 10:27:02 AM	No Map Found
96	Mailing	ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
97	Physical	ATTN VENITA HILER	2440 LIPPINCOTT BLVD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:19:46 AM	No Map Found
98	Mailing	1776 WEST WARREN AVE		DETROIT	MI	482082215	5/13/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
99	Physical	507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	485072404	4/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
100	Mailing	G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	48504	11/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
101	Physical	G3393 Clio Rd		Flint	MI	485041894	11/3/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
102	Mailing	642 E PIERSON RD		FLINT	MI	485053395	5/7/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
103	Physical	642 E Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	51900	5/19/2011 9:30:47 AM	No Map Found
104	Mailing	925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701	5/16/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
105	Physical	925 AVON ST		FLINT	MI	485032701	5/19/2011 10:26:50 AM	No Map Found
106	Mailing	5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
107	Physical	5003 EAST CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485064521	5/19/2011 10:33:32 AM	No Map Found
108	Mailing	915 S DORT HWY STE H		FLINT	MI	485032800	9/22/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
109	Physical	915 S Dort Hwy		Flint	MI	485032800	9/22/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
110	Mailing	930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
111	Physical	930 EAST MYRTLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485055519	5/19/2011 10:33:09 AM	No Map Found
112	Mailing	1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	48507	3/4/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
113	Physical	1726 Laurel Oak		Flint	MI	485072211	3/4/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
114	Mailing	2001 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	48505	4/30/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
115	Physical	2001 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	50479	5/19/2011 9:30:41 AM	No Map Found
116	Mailing	MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
117	Physical	MS MARYS ECCC	G-5248 N SAGINAW	FLINT	MI	48505	5/19/2011 10:19:12 AM	No Map Found
118	Mailing	507 West Atherton Road		Flint	MI	48507-2404	5/2/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
119	Physical	507 W Atherton Rd		Flint	MI	48507	5/2/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
120	Mailing	PO Box 25023		Lansing	MI	489095023	7/10/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
121	Physical	2015 Gold Ave		Flint	MI	485032133	8/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
122	Mailing	1235 WEST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485035015	2/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
123	Physical	1235 W Court St		Flint	MI	485035015	2/12/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
124	Mailing	3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
125	Physical	3129 CLIO RD		FLINT	MI	485047184	5/19/2011 10:32:43 AM	No Map Found
126	Mailing	817 E KEARSLEY ST	Suite #B	FLINT	MI	485032076	9/11/2010 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
85	Physical	690348.5	275849	43.00923933	-83.66508447	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:34:23 AM
86	Mailing								
87	Physical	688057.0838	276508.8792	43.01577271	-83.69030789	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
88	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
89	Physical	680063.7	275936.1	43.01258	-83.78854	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:19:40 AM
90	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
91	Physical	688297.4	276383.4	43.01454305	-83.68743705	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:32:24 AM
92	Mailing								
93	Physical	685653.0333	269833.2597	42.95628262	-83.72204312	5	14	50	3/1/2015 12:00:00 AM
94	Mailing								
95	Physical	682279.2	279691.2	43.04588466	-83.76010635	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:27:02 AM
96	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
97	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	43.0036284	-83.6521503	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:19:46 AM
98	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
99	Physical	688927.9349	273530.94	42.98874997	-83.68064597	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
100	Mailing								
101	Physical	684503.4622	279790.4107	43.046191	-83.732799	5	27	34	9/1/2010 12:00:00 AM
102	Mailing								
103	Physical	687572.5	281497.6	43.06084342	-83.69563539	5	27	34	5/19/2011 9:30:47 AM
104	Mailing								
105	Physical	689138.6	276568.4	43.01599595	-83.67705509	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:26:50 AM
106	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
107	Physical	694320	284318.2	43.08434795	-83.61669073	5	27	48	5/19/2011 10:33:32 AM
108	Mailing								
109	Physical	690973.0485	276838.8328	43.01800697	-83.65442631	5	27	34	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
110	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
111	Physical	688020.9	280466.8	43.05146936	-83.68843922	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:33:09 AM
112	Mailing								
113	Physical	686849.1431	272837.0035	42.98302345	-83.70636886	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
114	Mailing								
115	Physical	684775.2	282991.3	43.07497851	-83.72841952	5	27	34	5/19/2011 9:30:41 AM
116	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
117	Physical	687671.2	282234.9	43.06741	-83.69308	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:19:12 AM
118	Mailing								
119	Physical	688927.9349	273530.94	42.98874997	-83.68064597	5	27	34	6/1/2015 12:00:00 AM
120	Mailing								
121	Physical	690182.6395	277503.0049	43.02418556	-83.66389268	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
122	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
123	Physical	687300.4209	275504.2638	43.00691923	-83.69993064	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
124	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
125	Physical	684513.1	279487.4	43.04469901	-83.73275911	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:32:43 AM
126	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
85	2	Validated by CGI	0032002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
86									8:59:42 AM
87	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
88	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
89	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
90	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
91	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
92									8:59:42 AM
93	2	Validated by CGI	0129052	56160	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
94									8:59:42 AM
95	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	GENESEE	14550		8:59:42 AM
96	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
97	2	Validated by CGI	0034001		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
98	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
99	2	Validated by CGI	0035001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
100									8:59:42 AM
101	2	Validated by CGI	0009001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
102									8:59:42 AM
103	2	Validated by CGI	0006004	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
104									8:59:42 AM
105	2	Validated by CGI	0029002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
106	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
107	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
108									8:59:42 AM
109	2	Validated by CGI	0031002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
110	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
111	2	Validated by CGI	0020002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
112									8:59:42 AM
113	2	Validated by CGI	0135005	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
114									8:59:42 AM
115	2	Validated by CGI	0001001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
116	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
117	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
118									8:59:42 AM
119	2	Validated by CGI	0035001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
120									8:59:42 AM
121	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
122	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
123	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
124	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
125	2	Validated by CGI	0009001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
126									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
127	Other Non-School Recipient	9857	Motherly Intercession	990000918	72755	9857	2
128	Other Non-School Recipient	9986	Mott Community College	990001218	73041	9986	1
129	Other Non-School Recipient	9986	Mott Community College	990001218	73042	9986	2
130	Other Non-School Recipient	9936	Positive Start Child and Development Center	990001106	72937	9936	1
131	Other Non-School Recipient	9936	Positive Start Child and Development Center	990001106	72938	9936	2
132	Other Non-School Recipient	8794	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	25SPX0003	66672	8794	1
133	Other Non-School Recipient	8794	SHELTER OF FLINT INC	25SPX0003	70495	8794	2
134	Other Non-School Recipient	8803	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	250000058	66681	8803	1
135	Other Non-School Recipient	8803	SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE INC	250000058	70503	8803	2
136	Other Non-School Recipient	9538	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	990000204	71943	9538	1
137	Other Non-School Recipient	9538	SUNNY PATCH LEARNING CENTER, LLC	990000204	71944	9538	2
138	Other Non-School Recipient	8845	TALL PINE COUNCIL	25SC04500	66723	8845	1
139	Other Non-School Recipient	8845	TALL PINE COUNCIL	25SC04500	70543	8845	2
140	Other Non-School Recipient	9978	T-Care's Daycare	990001202	73024	9978	1
141	Other Non-School Recipient	9978	T-Care's Daycare	990001202	73025	9978	2
142	Other Non-School Recipient	8882	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	810000039	66760	8882	1
143	Other Non-School Recipient	8882	U OF M EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CENTER	810000039	70580	8882	2
144	Other Non-School Recipient	11104	uniquely created children's center Llc	990005147	75564	11104	1
145	Other Non-School Recipient	11104	uniquely created children's center Llc	990005147	75565	11104	2
146	Other Non-School Recipient	10151	village childcare Academy	990001417	73411	10151	1
147	Other Non-School Recipient	10151	village childcare Academy	990001417	73412	10151	2
148	Other Non-School Recipient	10352	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	990001939	73844	10352	1
149	Other Non-School Recipient	10352	Wayne L. Rankins Preschool	990001939	73845	10352	2
150	Other Non-School Recipient	8908	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	25SPX0014	66786	8908	1
151	Other Non-School Recipient	8908	WEE LITTLE QUACKERS CHILD CARE CTR	25SPX0014	70606	8908	2
152	Other Non-School Recipient	9176	Whaley Children's Center	250008002	70962	9176	1
153	Other Non-School Recipient	9176	Whaley Children's Center	250008002	70887	9176	2
154	Higher Education College/University	5061	Baker College Center f/Graduate Studies	08272	58755	5061	1
155	Higher Education College/University	5061	Baker College Center f/Graduate Studies	08272	58756	5061	2
156	Higher Education College/University	5060	Baker College Corporate Services	08271	58753	5060	1
157	Higher Education College/University	5060	Baker College Corporate Services	08271	58754	5060	2
158	Higher Education College/University	5029	Baker College of Flint	06551	58721	5029	1
159	Higher Education College/University	5029	Baker College of Flint	06551	58722	5029	2
160	Higher Education College/University	8008	Baker College Online	09862	65426	8008	1
161	Higher Education College/University	8008	Baker College Online	09862	65427	8008	2
162	Higher Education College/University	8007	Baker College System Office	09861	65424	8007	1
163	Higher Education College/University	8007	Baker College System Office	09861	65425	8007	2
164	Higher Education College/University	8017	Davenport University - Flint	09871	65436	8017	1
165	Higher Education College/University	8017	Davenport University - Flint	09871	65437	8017	2
166	Higher Education College/University	4952	Detroit College of Business-Flint	04776	58629	4952	1
167	Higher Education College/University	4952	Detroit College of Business-Flint	04776	58630	4952	2
168	Higher Education College/University	4976	Kettering University	05114	58600	4976	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
127	Physical	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076	5/19/2011 9:26:46 AM	No Map Found
128	Mailing	1401 E COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485032089	5/11/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
129	Physical	1401 E Court St		Flint	MI	485032089	7/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
130	Mailing	3500 W PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042353	2/15/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
131	Physical	3500 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042353	5/19/2011 9:23:22 AM	No Map Found
132	Mailing	924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	48503	9/4/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
133	Physical	924 Cedar Street		Flint	MI	485033620	9/4/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
134	Mailing	DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
135	Physical	DAYSTAR CHILDCARE CENTER	PO BOX 7008	FLINT	MI	485070008	5/19/2011 10:18:37 AM	No Map Found
136	Mailing	1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217	7/6/2009 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
137	Physical	1160 DONALDSON BLVD		FLINT	MI	485043217	5/19/2011 10:23:15 AM	No Map Found
138	Mailing	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
139	Physical	BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	507 W ATHERTON ROAD	FLINT	MI	48507	5/19/2011 10:18:24 AM	No Map Found
140	Mailing	5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	48504	4/29/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
141	Physical	5711 Fleming Rd		Flint	MI	485045002	7/17/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
142	Mailing	303 EAST KEARSLEY 1313 WSW		FLINT	MI	485020000	9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM	No Map Found
143	Physical	509 Harrison St		Flint	MI	485021715	5/19/2011 9:29:52 AM	No Map Found
144	Mailing	2040 W CARPENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485051908	11/26/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
145	Physical	2040 w carpenter rd		flint	MI	485051908	11/26/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
146	Mailing	G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/9/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
147	Physical	G4544 BEECHER RD		FLINT	MI	48532	10/9/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
148	Mailing	6436 BRAY RD		FLINT	MI	485051813	8/14/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
149	Physical	6436 Bray Rd		Flint	MI	485051813	8/14/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
150	Mailing	4406 LENNON RD		FLINT	MI	48507	10/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
151	Physical	4406 Lennon Rd		Flint	MI	485071029	10/18/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
152	Mailing	1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312	5/13/2009 9:11:38 AM	No Map Found
153	Physical	1201 NORTH GRAND TRAVERSE ST		FLINT	MI	485031312	5/19/2011 10:27:10 AM	No Map Found
154	Mailing	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
155	Physical	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM	No Map Found
156	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
157	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM	No Map Found
158	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
159	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 11:08:15 AM	No Map Found
160	Mailing	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
161	Physical	1116 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075518	5/19/2011 10:40:57 AM	No Map Found
162	Mailing	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
163	Physical	1050 WEST BRISTOL RD		FLINT	MI	485075516	5/19/2011 10:40:58 AM	No Map Found
164	Mailing	4318 MILLER RD STE A		FLINT	MI	485071267	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
165	Physical	4318 MILLER RD STE A		FLINT	MI	485071267	5/19/2011 10:40:54 AM	No Map Found
166	Mailing	3488 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
167	Physical	3488 NORTH JENNINGS RD		FLINT	MI	485041757	5/19/2011 11:08:50 AM	No Map Found
168	Mailing	1700 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046214	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
127	Physical	688709.8	277146.1	43.021008	-83.68268	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:26:46 AM
128	Mailing								
129	Physical	689637.4845	276839.188	43.01834848	-83.6708089	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
130	Mailing								
131	Physical	683591.4	279781.1	43.04628852	-83.74400614	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:23:22 AM
132	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
133	Physical	687438.9474	275569.8441	43.00747544	-83.69820423	5	27	49	9/4/2014 2:34:33 PM
134	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
135	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.96466	-83.71872	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:18:37 AM
136	Mailing								
137	Physical	684574.5	277603.4	43.02623129	-83.73295366	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:23:15 AM
138	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
139	Physical	685898.2	270770.6	42.98875	-83.680646	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:18:24 AM
140	Mailing								
141	Physical	685166.4677	281884.5932	43.06487788	-83.72395718	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
142	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
143	Physical	688153.5	276594.5	43.01647344	-83.68912579	5	27	49	5/19/2011 9:29:52 AM
144	Mailing								
145	Physical	684740.3528	283025.1642	43.07524921	-83.72880504	5	27	49	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
146	Mailing								
147	Physical	681937.7488	277941.1174	43.03017212	-83.76489796	5	27	49	12/1/2014 12:00:00 AM
148	Mailing								
149	Physical	690539.7186	286074.0701	43.10124061	-83.65654448	5	27	48	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
150	Mailing								9/26/2008 10:30:31 AM
151	Physical	681822.0186	273192.514	42.987457	-83.767885	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
152	Mailing								
153	Physical	686838.1	277483.8	43.02444284	-83.70452604	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:27:10 AM
154	Mailing								
155	Physical	687610.6	271629.1	42.97412109	-83.69694496	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM
156	Mailing								
157	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:01 AM
158	Mailing								
159	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:15 AM
160	Mailing								
161	Physical	687610.6	271629.1	42.97412109	-83.69694496	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:57 AM
162	Mailing								
163	Physical	687872.8	271637.5	42.97416176	-83.6945084	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:58 AM
164	Mailing								
165	Physical	682167.1	272284.2	42.97915519	-83.76393644	5	27	49	5/19/2011 10:40:54 AM
166	Mailing								
167	Physical	682839.1	281040.2	43.05520496	-83.75284154	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:08:50 AM
168	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
127	2	Validated by CGI	0029001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
128									8:59:42 AM
129	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
130									8:59:42 AM
131	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
132	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
133	2	Validated by CGI	0037003	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
134	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
135	2	Validated by CGI							8:59:42 AM
136									8:59:42 AM
137	2	Validated by CGI	0013001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
138	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
139	2	Validated by CGI	0035001		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
140									8:59:42 AM
141	2	Validated by CGI	0003001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
142	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
143	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
144									8:59:42 AM
145	2	Validated by CGI	0103043	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
146									8:59:42 AM
147	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	Genesee	07890		8:59:42 AM
148									8:59:42 AM
149	2	Validated by CGI	0121001	31800	049	Genesee	20070		8:59:42 AM
150	1	Not Called							8:59:42 AM
151	2	Validated by CGI	0109101	29020	049	Genesee	33420		8:59:42 AM
152									8:59:42 AM
153	2	Validated by CGI	0015002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
154									8:59:42 AM
155	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
156									8:59:42 AM
157	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
158									8:59:42 AM
159	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
160									8:59:42 AM
161	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
162									8:59:42 AM
163	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
164									8:59:42 AM
165	2	Validated by CGI	0109121	29020	049	GENESEE	33420		8:59:42 AM
166									8:59:42 AM
167	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
168									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
169	Higher Education College/University	4976	Kettering University	05114	58601	4976	2
170	Higher Education College/University	4959	Mott Community College	04863	58578	4959	1
171	Higher Education College/University	4959	Mott Community College	04863	58579	4959	2
172	Higher Education College/University	5023	University of Michigan - Flint	05684	58838	5023	1
173	Higher Education College/University	5023	University of Michigan - Flint	05684	58839	5023	2
174	LEA Unique Education Provider	11162	Beecher Adult Education Center	02746	75702	11162	1
175	LEA Unique Education Provider	11162	Beecher Adult Education Center	02746	75701	11162	2
176	LEA Unique Education Provider	11028	Genesee County Jail	02564	75405	11028	1
177	LEA Unique Education Provider	11028	Genesee County Jail	02564	75406	11028	2
178	LEA Unique Education Provider	11029	Genesee Valley Regional Center	02565	75408	11029	1
179	LEA Unique Education Provider	11029	Genesee Valley Regional Center	02565	75407	11029	2
180	LEA Unique Education Provider	7449	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	09347	63960	7449	1
181	LEA Unique Education Provider	7449	Northwestern Early Childhood Education Center	09347	63961	7449	2
182	LEA Unique Education Provider	1690	Stalker Elementary	09054	51379	1690	1
183	LEA Unique Education Provider	1690	Stalker Elementary	09054	51380	1690	2
184	LEA Unique Education Provider	1683	The Learning Community	01220	51371	1683	1
185	LEA Unique Education Provider	1683	The Learning Community	01220	51372	1683	2
186	LEA Unique Education Provider	6561	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	08935	62414	6561	1
187	LEA Unique Education Provider	6561	Thelma Buffey Early Childhood Center	08935	62415	6561	2
188	PSA School	10944	Eagle's Nest Academy	02434	75226	10944	1
189	PSA School	10944	Eagle's Nest Academy	02434	75225	10944	2
190	PSA School	10699	Genesee STEM Academy	02031	74635	10699	1
191	PSA School	10699	Genesee STEM Academy	02031	74634	10699	2
192	PSA School	10573	Greater Heights Academy	01751	74368	10573	1
193	PSA School	10573	Greater Heights Academy	01751	74367	10573	2
194	PSA School	268	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	08732	53646	268	1
195	PSA School	268	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	08732	53647	268	2
196	PSA School	271	Linden Charter Academy	08739	53682	271	1
197	PSA School	271	Linden Charter Academy	08739	53683	271	2
198	PSA School	7561	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	09450	64244	7561	1
199	PSA School	7561	Madison Academy Elementary/Middle School	09450	64245	7561	2
200	PSA School	267	Northridge Academy	08721	53510	267	1
201	PSA School	267	Northridge Academy	08721	53511	267	2
202	PSA School	7403	Richfield Public School Academy	09305	64076	7403	1
203	PSA School	7403	Richfield Public School Academy	09305	64077	7403	2
204	PSA School	9580	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	09947	72056	9580	1
205	PSA School	9580	Richfield Public School Academy K-2	09947	72057	9580	2
206	PSA School	10369	The New Standard Academy	01402	73879	10369	1
207	PSA School	10369	The New Standard Academy	01402	73878	10369	2
208	PSA School	10626	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	01882	74478	10626	1
209	PSA School	10626	WAY Academy - Flint, Flint Campus	01882	74477	10626	2
210	ISD Unique Education Provider	10548	Early On	01804	74312	10548	1

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
169	Physical	1700 UNIVERSITY AVE		FLINT	MI	485046214	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM	No Map Found
170	Mailing	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
171	Physical	1401 EAST COURT ST		FLINT	MI	485036208	5/19/2011 11:09:13 AM	No Map Found
172	Mailing	303 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485021950	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
173	Physical	303 EAST KEARSLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485021907	5/19/2011 11:07:19 AM	No Map Found
174	Mailing	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485058505	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
175	Physical	1020 W. Coldwater Road		Flint	MI	485054831	5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
176	Mailing	1000 E MOUNT MORRIS ST		MOUNT MORRIS	MI	484582074	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
177	Physical	1002 S. Saginaw		Flint	MI	485021499	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
178	Mailing	1000 E MOUNT MORRIS ST		MOUNT MORRIS	MI	484582074	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
179	Physical	4287 W. Pasadena Ave.		Flint	MI	485042342	9/11/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
180	Mailing	G3284 MACKIN RD		FLINT	MI	485043285	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
181	Physical	G2138 W Carpenter Rd		Flint	MI	485051977	7/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
182	Mailing	3329 Burnell Ave		Flint	MI	485044303	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
183	Physical	3329 BURNELL AVE		FLINT	MI	485044303	5/19/2011 11:53:15 AM	No Map Found
184	Mailing	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
185	Physical	1181 WEST SCOTTWOOD AVE		FLINT	MI	485073615	5/19/2011 11:53:17 AM	No Map Found
186	Mailing	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
187	Physical	4235 Crosby Rd		FLINT	MI	485061530	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
188	Mailing	5005 CLOVERLAWN DR		FLINT	MI	485042084	6/23/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
189	Physical	5005 Cloverlawn Dr		Flint	MI	485042084	6/23/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
190	Mailing	310 W OAKLEY ST		FLINT	MI	485033915	7/11/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
191	Physical	310 W Oakley St		Flint	MI	485033915	7/11/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
192	Mailing	3196 W PASADENA AVE		FLINT	MI	485042330	4/2/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
193	Physical	3196 W Pasadena Ave		Flint	MI	485042330	4/2/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
194	Mailing	2820 SOUTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485035708	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
195	Physical	2820 SOUTH SAGINAW ST		FLINT	MI	485035708	5/19/2011 11:39:06 AM	No Map Found
196	Mailing	3244 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485041753	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
197	Physical	3244 NORTH LINDEN RD		FLINT	MI	485041753	5/19/2011 11:38:52 AM	No Map Found
198	Mailing	6170 TORREY RD		FLINT	MI	485075954	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
199	Physical	6170 Torrey Rd		Flint	MI	485075954	5/19/2011 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
200	Mailing	530 W PIERSON RD		FLINT	MI	485053114	8/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
201	Physical	530 W Pierson Rd		Flint	MI	485053114	8/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
202	Mailing	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642	1/1/1900 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
203	Physical	3807 NORTH CENTER RD		FLINT	MI	485062642	5/19/2011 10:49:14 AM	No Map Found
204	Mailing	6103 EAGLE RIDGE LN		FLINT	MI	485056740	10/1/2014 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
205	Physical	4358 Richfield Rd		Flint	MI	485062016	7/1/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
206	Mailing	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505	8/22/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
207	Physical	2040 W. Carpenter		Flint	MI	48505	8/22/2012 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
208	Mailing	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	48503	9/11/2015 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
209	Physical	817 E Kearsley St		Flint	MI	485032076	10/8/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
210	Mailing	2413 W MAPLE AVE		FLINT	MI	485073429	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found

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169	Physical	686260.878	276199.831	43.01247634	-83.71490246	5	27	49	6/7/2010 1:48:59 PM
170	Mailing								
171	Physical	689654.1	276845.3	43.01834844	-83.67080891	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:09:13 AM
172	Mailing								
173	Physical	688132.4	276760.9	43.01769618	-83.68989349	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:07:19 AM
174	Mailing								
175	Physical	687468.7029	284736.6313	43.08997726	-83.69471741	5	27	49	5/28/2015 1:25:37 PM
176	Mailing								
177	Physical	688346.6246	276039.7424	43.01147796	-83.68691146	5	27	49	9/11/2014 12:38:39 PM
178	Mailing								
179	Physical	681992.7163	279696.2722	43.04595776	-83.76363806	5	27	49	9/11/2014 12:10:19 PM
180	Mailing								
181	Physical	684660.1336	283022.1077	43.07524145	-83.72979101	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
182	Mailing								
183	Physical	683713.4	277467.4	43.02549671	-83.74318147	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:15 AM
184	Mailing								
185	Physical	687568.8	271428.8	42.97021233	-83.69798023	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:53:17 AM
186	Mailing								
187	Physical	693813.6	282661.2	43.06968	-83.61753	5	27	48	7/20/2011 3:17:04 PM
188	Mailing								
189	Physical	684714.2577	281267.5119	43.05943503	-83.72971581	5	27	34	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
190	Mailing								
191	Physical	688891.5758	274464.0866	42.99715832	-83.6807723	5	27	34	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
192	Mailing								
193	Physical	683893.084	279786.4296	43.04630546	-83.74029085	5	27	49	6/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
194	Mailing								
195	Physical	689099.5	274448.2	42.99696003	-83.67816847	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:39:06 AM
196	Mailing								
197	Physical	681228.4	280877.2	43.04976933	-83.77253416	5	27	49	5/19/2011 11:38:52 AM
198	Mailing								
199	Physical	684914.7643	267914.3537	42.93919194	-83.73173258	5	14	50	12/1/2012 12:00:00 AM
200	Mailing								
201	Physical	686273.1374	281493.6301	43.061085	-83.710504	5	27	34	3/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
202	Mailing								
203	Physical	692381.9	280269.8	43.04989069	-83.63593213	5	27	34	5/19/2011 10:49:14 AM
204	Mailing								
205	Physical	693474.7349	280581.0491	43.051049	-83.622426	5	27	48	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
206	Mailing								
207	Physical	685949.737	283092.1695	43.07555389	-83.71392822	5	27	48	8/22/2012 9:56:02 AM
208	Mailing								
209	Physical	688662.2166	277107.3733	43.021008	-83.68268	5	27	49	9/1/2013 12:00:00 AM
210	Mailing								

	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
169	2	Validated by CGI	0016003		049	GENESEE			8:59:42 AM
170									8:59:42 AM
171	2	Validated by CGI	0030001	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
172									8:59:42 AM
173	2	Validated by CGI	0028002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
174									8:59:42 AM
175	2	Validated by CGI	0103041	55980	049	Genesee	04500		8:59:42 AM
176									8:59:42 AM
177	2	Validated by CGI	0028001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
178									8:59:42 AM
179	2	Validated by CGI	0108111	29020	049	Genesee	14550		8:59:42 AM
180									8:59:42 AM
181	2	Validated by CGI	0103043	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
182									8:59:42 AM
183	2	Validated by CGI	0108123	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
184									8:59:42 AM
185	2	Validated by CGI	0110103	29020	049	GENESEE	07890		8:59:42 AM
186									8:59:42 AM
187	2	Validated by CGI	0120081	31800	049	GENESEE	20070		8:59:42 AM
188									8:59:42 AM
189	2	Validated by CGI	0005001	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
190									8:59:42 AM
191	2	Validated by CGI	0038002	29000	049	Genesee	14520		8:59:42 AM
192									8:59:42 AM
193	2	Validated by CGI	0105011	55980	049	Genesee	35970		8:59:42 AM
194									8:59:42 AM
195	2	Validated by CGI	0038002	29000	049	GENESEE	14520		8:59:42 AM
196									8:59:42 AM
197	2	Validated by CGI	0105022	55980	049	GENESEE	35970		8:59:42 AM
198									8:59:42 AM
199	2	Validated by CGI	0129041	56160	049	Genesee	33420		8:59:42 AM
200									8:59:42 AM
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210									8:59:42 AM

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
211	ISD Unique Education Provider	10548	Early On	01804	74311	10548	2
212	ISD Unique Education Provider	10549	Early On / Special Education	01810	74314	10549	1
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214	ISD Unique Education Provider	10770	Genesee Career Institute	02258	74785	10770	1
215	ISD Unique Education Provider	10770	Genesee Career Institute	02258	74784	10770	2
216	ISD Unique Education Provider	7904	Genesee ISD Transition Center	09765	65094	7904	1
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218	ISD Unique Education Provider	9582	Health, Safety and Nutrition Services	00055	72318	9582	1
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220	ISD Unique Education Provider	1605	Special Education Services-South	02658	51218	1605	1
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223	ISD School	1607	Elmer A. Knopf Learning Center	06156	51223	1607	2
224	ISD School	7865	Special Services - North	09725	64849	7865	1
225	ISD School	7865	Special Services - North	09725	64850	7865	2
226	Nonpublic School	5309	Fairhaven SDA School	05098	59672	5309	1
227	Nonpublic School	5309	Fairhaven SDA School	05098	59673	5309	2
228	Nonpublic School	5289	First Flint SDA School	06603	59399	5289	1
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230	Nonpublic School	5280	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	06022	59389	5280	1
231	Nonpublic School	5280	Fr. Luke M. Powers High School	06022	59390	5280	2
232	Nonpublic School	5296	Holy Rosary School	01737	59405	5296	1
233	Nonpublic School	5296	Holy Rosary School	01737	59406	5296	2
234	Nonpublic School	5283	St. John Vianney School	06217	59129	5283	1
235	Nonpublic School	5283	St. John Vianney School	06217	59130	5283	2
236	Nonpublic School	5278	St. Paul Lutheran School	03956	59385	5278	1
237	Nonpublic School	5278	St. Paul Lutheran School	03956	59386	5278	2
238	Nonpublic School	5291	St. Pius X School	03991	59139	5291	1
239	Nonpublic School	5291	St. Pius X School	03991	59140	5291	2
240	State School	6333	Michigan School for the Deaf	02548	61517	6333	1
241	State School	6333	Michigan School for the Deaf	02548	61518	6333	2
242	PSA Unique Education Provider	11209	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	02801	75796	11209	1
243	PSA Unique Education Provider	11209	Richfield Public School Academy Pre-K	02801	75795	11209	2

	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
211	Physical	5089 Pilgrim Rd		Flint	MI	485073909	2/12/2013 12:00:00 AM	No Map Found
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237	Physical	684478.2	276449.9	43.01605809	-83.73411109	5	27	34	5/19/2011 11:03:59 AM
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	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG
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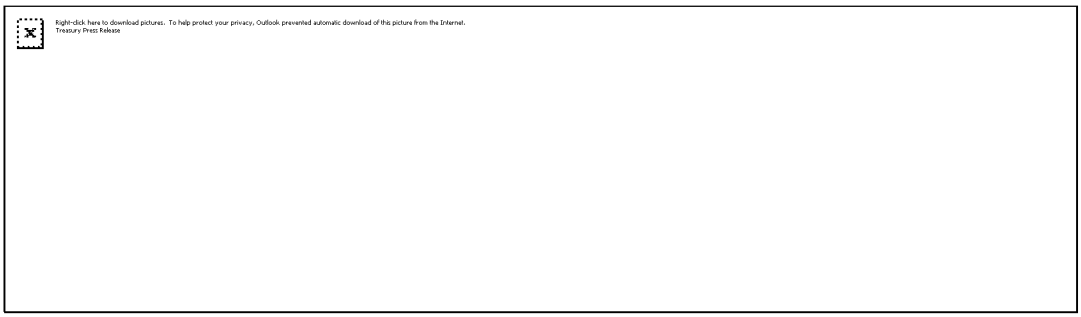
From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 1:31 PM
To: McIntire, Ben (DTMB)
Subject: Media Advisory

--- PRESS RELEASE ---

For Immediate Release



April 28, 2015 **Contact: Terry Stanton, (517) 335-2167**

Media Advisory

for

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The Local Emergency Financial Assistance Loan Board (Emergency Loan Board) is scheduled to meet at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 29th in the State Treasurers' Board Room in the Richard H. Austin Building, located at 430 W. Allegan in Lansing.

The Emergency Loan Board will consider an emergency loan application from the City of Flint, pursuant to Public Act 243 of 1980, the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.

Individuals planning to attend the meeting must obtain a visitor's pass from security representatives in the Austin Building lobby. The meeting site is accessible for disabled persons. Individuals who may need assistance should call (517) 373-3223.

All Emergency Loan Board meetings are special or called meetings and are not regularly-scheduled.

# # # #

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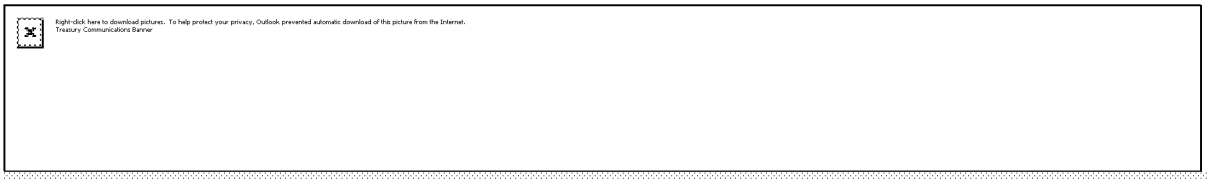
From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 1:56 PM
To: McIntire, Ben (DTMB)
Subject: CORRECTED MEDIA ADVISORY



April 28, 2015

Contact: Terry Stanton (517) 335-2167

CORRECTED

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All Emergency Loan Board meetings are special or called meetings and are not regularly-scheduled.

Previous advisory erroneously used old template.

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From: Michigan Department of Treasury <MITreasury@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 11:08 AM
To: McIntire, Ben (DTMB)
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contacts: Terry Stanton, Treasury (517) 335-2167

Media Advisory for Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Deputy State Treasurer Wayne Workman, Flint Emergency Manager Jerry Ambrose, and City officials will host a press conference regarding the City of Flint at 1:30 this afternoon, at Flint City Hall, located at 1101 South Saginaw Street.

The press conference will be in the Mayor's Conference Room. Media is asked to check-in at the Mayor's Office.

####

If you know of an employee who isn't receiving these emails, they can sign-up here to be added to our lists.

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From: McIntire, Ben (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2015 10:34 AM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB);Weiss, Kurt (DTMB);Roberts, John (DTMB);Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Cc: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB);Clark, April (DTMB);Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: Legislative Report: Senate Appropriations: General Government - March 3rd, 2016

MEMBERS	**Senators Stamas (C), Nofs, Booher, Young**
Analysts Attending	**April Clark, Tyler Tulloch, Ben McIntire**
BUDGETS	**Auditor General**
MEETING DATE AND TIME	**Thursday, March 3, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.**
ACTION	**Presentation by Auditor General**

Auditor General presentation:
Doug Ringler, Auditor General
Laura Hirst, Deputy Auditor General

Doug and Laura made the following points:

- Auditor General is a Constitutional officer and principal executive of the Office of the Auditor General, established in the Legislature.
- Appointed for an 8-year term; most recent appointment effective 6/9/2014.
- Responsibility: conduct financial and performance audits of state operations
- Mission: improve accountability for public funds and improve state government operations

ONGOING INITIATIVES:

Improved Communications

- **New audit report summary table**
- **Notice of audit findings in certain situations**

New Report Format

- **Call-out of key information**

Enhanced Transparency

- **Provide 6-month audit plan to legislative leadership and departments**
- **Email monthly status report to legislators**
- **List work in process on the OAG website**

Question (Nofs): I am concerned about your audit of Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Do you get back quicker when humans are at risk?
Answer (Ringler): We need to give agencies time to implement their plan.

Question (Nofs): What are your needs?
Answer (Ringler): We are OK, for now, with the Executive Recommendation.

Question (Booher): We have issues with HB 5220 ($28M Flint supplemental). What happens if this work doesn't get done?
Answer (Ringler): We will monitor how the $28m is spent, and we will monitor future expenditures. I don't know what our future needs will be regarding Flint.

Adjourn (10:00)

From: McIntire, Ben (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 2:03 PM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB);Weiss, Kurt (DTMB);Roberts, John (DTMB)
Cc: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB);Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Subject: Legislative Report; House Appropriations: General Government - February 24, 2016

MEMBERS	**Reps Cox (C), Poleski, Afendoulis, Inman, Durhal III, Singh**
Analysts Attending	**April Clark; Ben McIntire**
BUDGET	**Attorney General; PACC; Auditor General**
MEETING DATE AND TIME	**Wednesday, February 24, 2016 - 10:30 a.m.**
ACTION	**Presentation on FY 2017 Executive Budget:** **Attorney General** **Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council (PACC)** **Office of Auditor General**
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	**Routine presentation regarding Attorney General, PACC, Auditor General executive recommendations**

PLEASE NOTE: I talked briefly with Attorney General budget director before the meeting. He will be submitting a supplemental request shortly related to Flint lawsuits for (he anticipates) $5M GFGP. There may be ongoing needs beyond the initial $5M request; there are already 12 lawsuits pending.

Attorney General presentation:
Carol Isaacs, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Carol made the following points:

- Attorney General won **$392 million** in awards payable to the State in FY 2015.
- 3 Bureaus, 20 divisions, 40,000 cases per year.

Top Attorney General Initiatives:

- **Student Safety**

  OK2SAY was launched in September, 2014. 1,700 seminars have been conducted. Several potentially violent incidents have already been averted, and mental health assistance is being provided.

- **Sexual Assault Enforcement**

  $1.7 million in ongoing funding is provided to expand testing of backlogged sexual assault kits across the state, assist local prosecutors with investigations and prosecutions, and provide victim services.

  Question (Cox): Is this ongoing?
  Answer (Isaacs): Yes, for now. It will take 3-5 years to investigate, prosecute based on results of sexual assault kit testing.

- **Public Safety**

  Public Safety Initiative funds Special Assistant Attorney Generals embedded with county prosecuting attorneys offices. Currently, fifteen Special Assistant Attorney Generals are reducing crime in Wayne County, Saginaw County, Genesee County and Flint.

- **Public Integrity**

The core mission of the Public Integrity Unit is the reduction in the rate of public corruption in state and local government. AG has prosecuted city, state, and school employees who have violated the public trust.

- **Human Trafficking**

  On March 18, 2013, Attorney General Schuette and the Legislature convened Michigan's first ever Commission on Human Trafficking. The Human Trafficking Unit has trained local, county, and state law enforcement units in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

- **Prescription Drug Abuse**

  Prescription Drug Abuse Unit established as a result of governor's Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Task Force recommendations. Exec Rec provides $700,000 (one-time) funds for this unit.

  Question (Cox): What is timeline for Prescription Drug Abuse?
  Answer (Isaacs): Task force produced report with recommendations – these cases will not be resolved quickly.

- **Child Support Enforcement**

  The Attorney General's Child Support Division was created in 2003 to combat the problem of unpaid child support. Since 2003, the Child Support Division has collected more than $198 million, directly impacting the lives of 15,074 children.

- **Consumer Protection**

  - ✓ Enforcement of over 35 state statutes
  - ✓ Consumer recoveries of nearly $4.43 million and State recoveries of $6.48 million in 2015.
  - ✓ Antitrust recoveries of $2.3 million in fiscal year 2015.

- **Mortgage Foreclosure Fraud**

  Attorney General has convicted 37 individuals and companies with foreclosure fraud, and 13 cases are pending. Exec Rec provides $600,000 to continue mortgage foreclosure fraud activities.

  Question (Cox): Is this short-term or long-term?
  Answer (Isaacs): We probably need 3-4 more years to resolve all cases.

Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council (PACC):

Cheri Bruinsma, Assistant Executive Director

PACC is an autonomous agency in the Department of Attorney General, governed by a 5-person council, including the Attorney General.

Primary Services:

- Information Technology – software package used by 79 out of 83 counties, and the Attorney General, specifically designed for Michigan's legal system.
  - Generates all documents, warrants, subpoenas, court notices
  - Links county prosecutors with state police, corrections, DHS, and DCH
- Continuing Professional Education
- Administration of grant-funded services
- Coordination of statewide prosecution activities

  Question (Poleski): What about your IT issues?
  Answer (Bruinsma): Our case management system doesn't interact with other systems, including MICourt. It is antiquated, and soon will be unsupportable.

Auditor General presentation:

Doug Ringler, Auditor General
Laura Hirst, Deputy Auditor General

Doug and Laura made the following points:

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- **Email monthly status report to legislators**
- **List work in process on the OAG website**

Question (Cox): Caseload increase or decrease over last year?
Answer (Ringler): Financials are mandated. Non-mandated audits are done based on risk assessment. If something comes up that is urgent, something else (non-mandated) may be postponed.

Question (Durhal III): What is timeline for Prescription Drug Abuse?
Answer (Isaacs): Task force produced report with recommendations – these cases will not be resolved quickly.

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:47 AM
To: mclarenc@gmail.com
Subject: Google Alert - michigan budget state

michigan budget state

As-it-happens update - February 4, 2015

NEWS

Obama's budget snub, Flint water relief and a new adoption bill

Michigan Radio

President Obama rolled out his **budget** proposal this week. There's a few things missing when it comes to a certain mitten-shaped **state**. ... his $4 trillion **budget** proposal this week, but it doesn't look like **Michigan** will be getting much ...

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To: mclarenc@gmail.com
Subject: Google Alert - michigan budget state

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As-it-happens update - October 1, 2015

NEWS

Budget bill add-on awaits future state funds for Flint water

MLive.com

FLINT, MI -- A funding mechanism aimed at the **state** paying for measures to reduce lead levels in Flint's drinking water has been added to a **budget** ...

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Michigan road trips: fall travel savings

WDIV Detroit

"What I like about **Michigan** is it is more **budget**-friendly than some of the ... Finally, you can use a **state** website to find where the best fall colors are ...

Flag as irrelevant

Purdue-Michigan State Preview Capsule

abc27

Michigan State's offense line vs. Purdue's defensive front. The Spartans came into the season believing their offensive line would be a strength, and ...

Flag as irrelevant

'Looming budgetary pressures' add difficulty to Michigan road funding plan

Greenville Daily News

'Looming budgetary pressures' add difficulty to **Michigan** road funding plan ... an effective roads funding plan within the means of the **state budget**.

Flag as irrelevant

Michigan Senate approves $7.7 million for settlement after fatal crash involving **state** trooper

The Republic

The Senate voted 30-5 Thursday to amend the **budget** to authorize the ... **State** police spokeswoman Shanon Banner says while the settlement doesn't ...

Flag as irrelevant

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Send Feedback

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:08 PM
To: mclarenc@gmail.com
Subject: Google Alert - "Michigan Department of Education" -swespetrodropro

"Michigan Department of Education" -swespetrodropro

As-it-happens update - October 14, 2015

NEWS

Count Day helps state with funding

Livingston Daily

Each district has 30 days to compile official numbers to submit to the **Michigan Department of Education**. The significance of Count Day stems from ...

Flag as irrelevant

State to launch statewide lead education campaign

Detroit Free Press

The state — in the wake of the Flint water crisis — is launching an education campaign soon to help schools statewide learn how to get their water ...

Flag as irrelevant

Education chief unveils teacher evaluation system ahead of possible state House vote

Michigan Radio

He says the **Michigan Department of Education** will help schools develop testing schemes that take both into account. "Some tests aren't designed to ...

Flag as irrelevant

Vassar joins Ithaca: Fights state tab, suspends boss

The Morning Sun

... Thomas Palmer on non-disciplinary leave pending an investigation into a **Michigan Department of Education** audit of an online alternative education ...

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From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2015 11:26 AM
To: mclarenc@gmail.com
Subject: Google Alert - "Michigan Department of Education" -swespetrodropro

"Michigan Department of Education" -swespetrodropro

As-it-happens update - November 15, 2015

NEWS

If you want to boost school achievement, tackle the effects of poverty

MLive.com

In fact, the Middle Cities Education Association enthusiastically supports the **Michigan Department of Education** in its recent efforts to raise proficiency ...

Flag as irrelevant

Fired-up Chestnut Hill students celebrate Blue Ribbon honor

Midland Daily News

Renfro said the school was nominated by the **Michigan Department of Education** early this year, followed by an application process that took several ...

Flag as irrelevant

State recommends all schools test water for lead ---- but no system exists to do so

HollandSentinel.com

The **Michigan Department of Education** (MDE) agreed. "Based on serious health concerns with Flint's water and the possibility of a similar problem ...

Flag as irrelevant

When a 4-year-degree isn't always the best option

Lansing State Journal

... of Career and Technical Education at the **Michigan Department of Education**. And all 28 community colleges in the state have career tech programs.

Flag as irrelevant

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Send Feedback

From: Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 3:52 PM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Water
Attachments: HB 4102 Flint amdts.pdf

Here's the document with the amendment proposal that Sen. Ananich gave to Sen. Hildenbrand.

2 amendments for the supplemental.

1. $1.5 million to help get water filters in the homes of Flint residents. This amount will help 30,000 Flint residents get filters.

2. $12 million to help expedite the goal of sourcing the public water supply from Lake Huron.

*Switching back to the City of Detroit will cost the City of Flint $1.5 million monthly. This money will be used to switch back to that source and/or expedite the construction of the KWA pipeline.

We are asking for money out of the Cleanup and Redevelopment fund. Bottle Deposit escheats (unclaimed deposits that revert to the state) are deposited into the Clean-up and Redevelopment Fund every year. Statute mandates that 80% of this revenue be deposited into the Cleanup and Redevelopment fund.

Fy 14'	$13.6 million revenue
	$16.1 Spent
	$18.1 Balance
Fy 15'	$13.6 million revenue
	$16.6 Spent
	$15.1 estimated balance

The fund will only continue to bring in more money. The percentage of bottles returned has dropped every year since 2007, meaning more money each year in the fund.

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 7:52 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

Will do what we can. I think 10am is not likely feasible.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 6:43 PM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Water - - Possible CDBG Resources

Lisa,

Nancy caught me as I was attempting to leave the building this evening, and noted that John is looking to receive detail on the Flint water issue funding solution by 10 am tomorrow, Wednesday, 7 Oct 2015.

Mind you, my 3 pm phone call to DEQ's budget staff this afternoon has remained unanswered, and Chris Harkins has yet to hear from DCH. Our commitment is $6 million, and I was hoping our CDBG folks could revisit a strategy utilized last year towards a UP freeze, whereby, an obscure rule in the federal CDBG regulations allowed for funding support to assist a municipality in repair of frozen underground piping for their water system, to the tune of > $7 million if I recall correctly.

We are only seeking a million (or more) towards the Flint water reconnect effort, and asking for a Steve Arwood commitment by 10 am is certainly ridiculous. . . Nevertheless, I am indeed asking Madame for any assistance you can provide towards accomplishing such.

John, Harkins, and myself will be attending an 8 a.m. meeting of Dir. Wyant on this matter in Constitution Hall, and I will have my pad with me if we need to dialog. Thanks !

Jacques

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 10:33 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water - LARA Contribution

Not yet.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 10:29 AM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: Flint Water - LARA Contribution

Thanks. Any word on the TED/MSF; Detroit HUD possibility?

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 10:27 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB)
Cc: Kennedy, Brian (DTMB); Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: Flint Water - LARA Contribution

LARA is prepared to send in 5-7 plumbing inspectors to do schools (public and parochial) and health facilities (hospitals, LTC, etc.) in Flint. They believe they can manage this within existing budgetary authorization and state restricted resources; however, they also request an additional budgetary "cushion" be provided of approximately $200.0 through a FY 16 contingency transfer utilizing the construction code fund.

From: Weiss, Kurt (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:02 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: FW: FINAL Flint water press release with edits incorporated
Attachments: 151008 Flint water release_FINAL.docx

Looks like Mott ended up at $4 million: "The Flint city government will provide $2 million and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has committed $4 million"

Kurt Weiss
State Budget Office
517-335-0050

From: Biehl, Laura (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 9:18 AM
To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV); Murray, David (GOV); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ); Lasher, Geralyn (DHHS); Eisner, Jennifer (DHHS); Minicuci, Angela (DHHS); Weiss, Kurt (DTMB); Agen, Jarrod (GOV); Paciorek, Josh (GOV)
Subject: FINAL Flint water press release with edits incorporated

See attached.

Laura Biehl
Communications Manager
Executive Office of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder
George W. Romney Building
111 S. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
Office: (517) 335-6397
Cell: (517) 388-0293 *new number
BiehlL@Michigan.gov

STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN CALLEY
LT. GOVERNOR

CONTACTS:	FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray Governor's Office: 517-335-6397 Brad Wurfel, 517-284-6713 Department of Environmental Quality Jennifer Eisner, 517-230-9804 Department of Health and Human Services Kathryn Thomas, 810-766-1734 Mott Foundation Jason Lorenz, 810-237-2039 City of Flint	Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder: Move back to Detroit water provides best protection for public health in Flint

State, city, Mott Foundation, join to fund switch until KWA is ready

FLINT, Mich. – Flint families and children will be better protected by reconnecting with the Great Lakes Water Authority as the source of the city's drinking water until the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is completed, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

Snyder said Thursday that he will request the state Legislature to provide half, or $6 million, of the $12 million needed to reconnect with the authority through next summer, when the KWA is expected to be completed. The Flint city government will provide $2 million and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has committed $4 million.

"All Flint residents need clean, safe drinking water," Snyder said. "The technical experts helping the city on its water advisory all agree this move back to the Great Lakes Water Authority provides the best public health protection for children and families. This effort today is the result of people coming together to solve a problem. I appreciate Detroit's willingness to reconnect with Flint, the Mott Foundation's generous commitment, and the dedication of all parties to come together to protect Flint families and children."

Flint city leaders requested the state's help to fund the reconnection and to assist with health and infrastructure issues. Flint's move to the Great Lakes Water Authority is expected to cost about $1.3 million per month until the Karegnondi Water Authority is completed next summer.

"It's heartening to know so many people are working at so many levels to bring safe, clean water back to Flint," Mott Foundation President Ridgway White said. "We believe this transitional solution is the right and necessary thing to do, and we're glad we could help the state and the city make it happen."

The move to Detroit water, which is expected to carry, carries many public health benefits. As large bodies of water, the Great Lakes are naturally prone to fewer problems from large rain events and other runoff issues that can sometimes be present in shallower rivers. Additionally, the Great Lakes Water Authority water already has additional corrosion control, using phosphates to help coat the insides of pipes and limit lead from leaching into the water.

However, reconnecting with the authority will not completely resolve the city's problem with lead service lines or aging infrastructure. It will take time for pipes in Flint to become coated with the phosphate corrosion control. Additionally, some households in the city could experience lead in their drinking water until all lead pipes and plumbing are replaced.

"Reconnecting to Detroit is the fastest way to deliver clean, safe water to Flint and stabilize the infrastructure system," Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said. "I appreciate the state, the Mott Foundation, Detroit, and the county's participation in a solution for Flint's water problems. The health and safety of Flint's families, children and seniors is my top priority, and reconnecting to Detroit is a major step that the city could not take alone given budget constraints."

To best protect public health, Snyder said state and local authorities will continue to carry out steps outlined on Oct. 2 in a comprehensive action plan, including continued testing, the use of faucet filters and providing residents with accurate information about steps to eliminate lead exposure. The Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services today also committed an additional $3.5 million for water filters, free lead testing through the state laboratory for Flint water customers, and hiring additional staff to conduct health exposure monitoring for lead in drinking water.

Free filters are available for current MDHHS clients at the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office locations. For residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs, free filters are available at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation. At the Lippincott location only, extended hours will be offered this weekend, including until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Other good practices for residents concerned about lead include turning on the cold water tap and running the water until it's as cold as it will go. Additionally, only use cold water for cooking, drinking and especially mixing baby formula.

School test results released; more investigation planned

The state today also released the first results from its lead screening program in schools and homes. Of 37 total samples taken at 13 buildings, four samples spread over three buildings exceeded the federal action level of 15 parts per billion.

However, this sampling provides only an initial screen, and the state is committing to further testing water and inspecting plumbing at these schools. Until testing is complete, schools are advised to continue using bottled water and filtration as a precaution to protect children.

In addition, free testing is still available for any other Flint school, including daycares and Head Starts. Free testing is also available for any Flint resident.

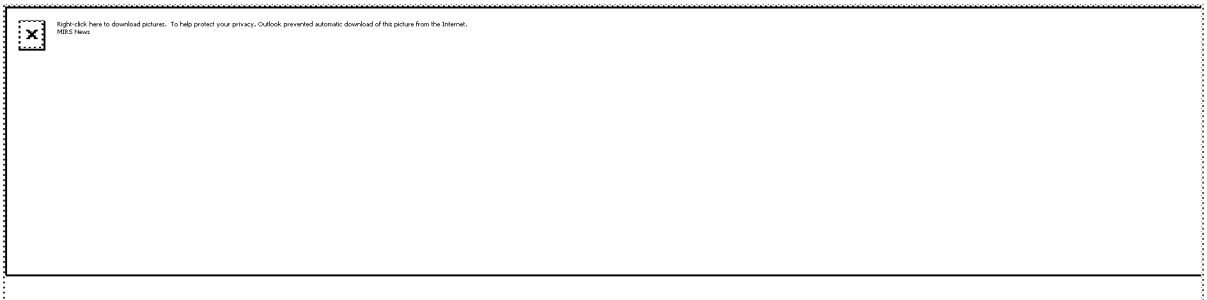
Additional information, including more detailed lead screening results, is available at www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

###

From: Sydnor, Brian (LARA)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:29 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

Great news.

From: MIRS Delivery [mailto:mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Sydnor, Brian (LARA)
Subject: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.



MIRS BREAKING NEWS: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2106

(FLINT) -- The city of Flint will transition back to getting its water from Detroit within weeks, and Gov. Rick **SNYDER** said today he is in "full support" of the move.

In addition to that, Snyder said he would be asking the Legislature for $6 million to assist with the move, which will make up half of the estimated $12 million it will cost Flint to go back to its old water supply, as estimated through next summer.

The other $6 million will be divided up between Flint itself ($2 million) and from a donation from the Mott Foundation ($4 million).

The cost estimate is based on the time it will take to complete the connection to Flint's new permanent water supply, the Karegnondi Water Authority. That's expected to go live in June 2016.

Snyder said the decision to support the move back to Detroit water -- something he said the city is ultimately in charge of deciding -- was based in part by a recommendation made by a meeting of technical experts Wednesday.

Joining Snyder at the press conference today were some of his cabinet officials and Flint leaders, as well as Senate Minority Leader Jim **ANANICH** (D-Flint), who described today's actions as a step in the right direction, but going forward, he said there must be more transparency and that the state's action plan be implemented fully.

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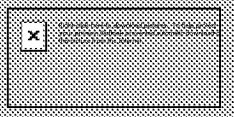

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Lansing, MI 48915
Phone 517-482-2125 Fax 517-374-0949
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From: MI-PHA-BULLETIN-BOARD@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, October 09, 2015 5:47 AM
To: MI-PHA-BULLETIN-BOARD@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [MI-PHA-BULLETIN-BOARD] Digest Number 4725

Michigan Mason & Eastern Star Bulletins Group

5 Messages

Digest #4725

1a

"""Bus to Grand Rapids for OES Fall School of Instruction""" by

2

The Tax Experts- NOW HIRING by greg_glenn79

3

The Tax Experts- NOW HIRING!!!!!!! by greg_glenn79

4

CALL TO PRINCE HALL (URGENT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN FLINT MICHIGAN) by "Bernt C Walker" on_the_square2005

5

Passing of family member GAM Sis. Banks by wstan@prodigy.net

Messages

1a

"""Bus to Grand Rapids for OES Fall School of Instruction""""

Thu Oct 8, 2015 9:59 am (PDT) . Posted by:

Greetings,

On Saturday, November 7, 2015 the Fall School of Instruction will be held in Grand Rapids at the Masonic Temple - 233 East Fulton Street at 10 a.m., hosted by Martha Chapter #1. Prince Hall Grand Chapter will be sponsoring a bus. The cost to ride will be $30 per person and we need a minimum of 40 people. We will have pick-up/drop-off sites in Southfield and Ann Arbor

If you are interested in riding on the bus, please submit your payment to the Grand Chapter office. Please make all checks payable to Prince Hall Grand Chapter. Payments are due by Tuesday, October 20 th . If you have any questions, please give me a call at (313) 525-1864.

Fraternally Yours,
Bernice Brenda Brown #50
Grand Lecturer

Reply to sender . Reply to group . Reply via Web Post . All Messages (2) . Top ^

2

The Tax Experts- NOW HIRING

Thu Oct 8, 2015 1:15 pm (PDT) . Posted by:

greg_glenn79

Looking for a new career? To Earn extra money?

Tax professionals at The Tax Experts establish relationships with clients to look at their lives through tax and find ways to help. We offer tax courses to assist you with the skills you need to become a tax professional. If you are an experienced tax professional, there are abundant opportunities for you to further advance your tax knowledge. Tax Experts training is available, it. Scrolls to bottom of page. is recognized as one of the industry's elite tax training program.

Our service tax professional's roles is to assist our tax offices to run smoothly by supporting the daily operations.

. Scrolls to bottom of page.is recognized as the industry's leading tax-training program.
We have a part-time/full-time opening for a Tax Preparer.
Must be able to work various shifts per week and be available weekdays and weekends.
No experience required. Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Be authorized to work in the United States.

Additional Info

Minimum Age 18+ years old

Tax Training Starts In November. We Open December 26, 2015 (See Attached Flyer).

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3

The Tax Experts- NOW HIRING!!!!!!!

Thu Oct 8, 2015 1:33 pm (PDT) . Posted by:

greg_glenn79

NOW HIRING!!!!!!
[2900 West Davison]
[15226 East 7 Mile Road]
[15045 Joy Road]
Looking for a new career? To Earn extra money?
Tax professionals at The Tax Experts establish relationships with clients to look at their lives through tax and find

ways to help. We offer tax courses to assist you with the skills you need to become a tax professional. If you are an experienced tax professional, there are abundant opportunities for you to further advance your tax knowledge. Tax Experts training is available, it is recognized as one of the industry's elite tax training program.
Our service tax professional's roles is to assist our tax offices to run smoothly by supporting the daily operations.
We have a part-time/full-time opening for a Tax Preparer.
Must be able to work various shifts per week and be available weekdays and weekends. AND WORK IN A FUN ENVIRONMENT
No experience required.
Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
Be authorized to work in the United States.
Additional Info
Minimum Age
18+ years old
Tax Training Starts In November. We Open December 26, 2015 (See Attached Flyer).

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4

CALL TO PRINCE HALL (URGENT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN FLINT MICHIGAN)

Thu Oct 8, 2015 4:47 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
"Bernt C Walker" on_the_square2005

Brethren & Sisters of the Prince Hall Family,

Greetings, As I am sure most of you have seen or heard on the news the tragic situation with the city of Flint, Michigan's water system. Please let us not forget we have Brothers and Sisters in the city of Flint but more especially our youth. I am looking for volunteers and donations of cases of bottled water or cash donations to purchase cases of water. listed below is further detail of the water situation in Flint, MI. I will be personally working on this initiative all weekend going into next week. I want to personally thank and commend Brother Raymond Carr who has personally taken an early lead on serving this community in a big way. You can contact me direct by voice or text message (313) 350-5317 also you can drop your donations off at 3500 McDougall Detroit, MI 48207

SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO

Three Flint elementary schools have water with lead levels more than 15 parts per billion, which is the limit according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. At one school, Freeman Elementary, water tests found lead levels of 101 ppb. Add this to months of data showing elevated lead levels in homes across Flint, and a higher percentage of children with elevated blood-lead levels.

Lead poisoning causes behavioral and developmental problems in children. It is irreversible. Pregnant women and children are most vulnerable. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say there is no acceptable level of lead exposure.

And in at least three Flint schools, children have been drinking lead-contaminated water for up to 16 months.

WSGD Bernt C. Walker (Ben)
Chairman Masons Assisting People

MWPHGL of Michigan
Jimmie Lunceford Lodge No. 45

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5

Passing of family member GAM Sis. Banks

Thu Oct 8, 2015 6:52 pm (PDT) . Posted by:
wstan@prodigy.net

Greetings,

To the Prince Hall Family,

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Cynthia Davis, sister of the Grand Associate Matron, Sister Roslyn Banks. Please keep her and the family in prayer. Arrangements will be posted as soon as received.

Fraternally,
Sis. Willie L. Stanley
Grand Secretary

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From: MI-PHA-BULLETIN-BOARD@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2015 5:49 AM
To: MI-PHA-BULLETIN-BOARD@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [MI-PHA-BULLETIN-BOARD] Digest Number 4732

Michigan Mason & Eastern Star Bulletins Group

2 Messages

Digest #4732

1

10/16/15 Detroit Chapter No.1 HRAM PM & MEM Degree **by "DeAngelo Hayes" deehayes0628**

2a

CALL TO PRINCE HALL (URGENT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN FLINT MICHIGAN) **by "Personal" on_the_square2005**

Messages

1

10/16/15 Detroit Chapter No.1 HRAM PM & MEM Degree

Fri Oct 16, 2015 7:59 am (PDT) . Posted by:
"DeAngelo Hayes" deehayes0628

To all Elected and Appointed Chapter Officers, Past High Priests, and Companions of Detroit Chapter No.1 HRAM:

Greetings Companions,

This notice is a reminder that Detroit Chapter No.1 HRAM will be conferring the Past Master and Most Excellent Master Degrees this evening at 7:00pm at 3500 McDougall. All available Companions with the proper pass are welcomed to attend. Candidates receiving the degrees should arrive no later than 6:45pm. If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact Excellent High Priest Stephen Copher Sr at 313-505-1233.

Yours in the bond of 3 x 3,

Comp.DeAngelo Hayes

Excellent Secretary

Detroit Chapter No.1 HRAM

Cc: Comp.Stephen Copher Sr., Excellent High Priest

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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CALL TO PRINCE HALL (URGENT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN FLINT MICHIGAN)

Fri Oct 16, 2015 2:35 pm (PDT) . Posted by:

"Personal" on_the_square2005

> Brothers & Sisters of the Prince Hall Family, we are still collecting donations for this worthy cause.
>
> Greetings, As I am sure most of you have seen or heard on the news the tragic situation with the city of Flint, Michiganâ€™s water system. Please let us not forget we have Brothers and Sisters in the city of Flint but more especially our youth. I am looking for volunteers and donations of cases of bottled water or cash donations to purchase cases of water. listed below is further detail of the water situation in Flint, MI. I will be personally working on this initiative all weekend going into next week. I want to personally thank and commend Brother Raymond Carr who has personally taken an early lead on serving this community in a big way. You can contact me direct by voice or text message (313) 350-5317 also you can drop your donations off at 3500 McDougall Detroit, MI 48207
>
> SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO
>
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> Three Flint elementary schools have water with lead levels more than 15 parts per billion, which is the limit according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. At one school, Freeman Elementary, water tests found lead levels of 101 ppb. Add this to months of data showing elevated lead levels in homes across Flint, and a higher percentage of children with elevated blood-lead levels.
>
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>
> And in at least three Flint schools, children have been drinking lead-contaminated water for up to 16 months.
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>
>
> WSGD Bernt C. Walker (Ben)
> Chairman Masons Assisting People
>
> MWPHGL of Michigan
> Jimmie Lunceford Lodge No. 45
>
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From: Hollins, Harvey (GOV)
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 9:48 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: Fwd: Tap Filters

Fyi

Best,
Harvey

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wurfel, Brad (DEQ)" <WurfelB@michigan.gov>
Date: March 5, 2015 at 4:26:25 PM EST
To: "Hollins, Harvey (GOV)" <hollinsh@michigan.gov>, "Wyant, Dan (DEQ)" <WyantD@michigan.gov>, "Agen, Jarrod (GOV)" <AgenJ@michigan.gov>
Cc: "Baird, Richard (GOV)" <bairdr@michigan.gov>, "Wurfel, Sara (GOV)" <WurfelS@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: Tap Filters

Harvey,
Since group call Tuesday I have been working out how the filter idea might take shape.

To reiterate some key points so we're all clear:

1. DEQ does not inspect individuals' homes in a situation like this. It's the city's system, their operators handle all complaints and maintenance. In fact, our folks alerted me that the city's got union rules in place forbidding any contractor from touching the system.
2. DEQ's role is limited to ensuring the plant is operating to state standards and the water it produces meets potability standards. The aesthetic issues drawing concern from residents -- color, odor, taste -- stem from a variety of things. Age of the system and prolonged lack of upkeep is the leading factor. But in some areas, another contributing factor is changes in water flow -- source used to come from the south, now comes from the north, so some pipes are flowing in reverse, stirring up whatever was settled for a long time. In some sections, large pipes that historically served large communities are now serving a much smaller customer base, contributing to water stagnating in the system. In some areas, household connections are old and worn, so two neighbors may be having dramatically different experiences. My point is, the challenge takes many forms and there's no single solution that will bring sweeping change. The two consultants hired by the city have, as I understand it, both reinforced this idea in their assessments, so that's good.

3. The fix for this will be years in the making, truly. Even if full funding were available, 'big dig' projects can't all happen at once. The city needs to get an assessment of its infrastructure so it can prioritize its needs, and I understand they're working on that. In the near term, maintenance this spring / summer -- things like cleaning the pipes in key sections and flushing the system via the

hydrants – could offer some short term results. I know nobody wants to just wait for spring, but that is something important to keep in mind.

4. In the meantime, the group discussed possibly making home water filters available somehow. The National Safety Foundation is a Michigan company, headquartered and founded in Ann Arbor, that develops standards for all kinds of infrastructure. They're a globally recognized source for standard setting. A look at their site reveals there are myriad filtration options on the market and within each type (faucet mounted, whole house line filters, etc) there are filters that focus on different aspects of purification.

   If this idea begins to get legs, I'd suggest testing some different models on the local water at the customer level to see if they work. I'd also suggest the idea be focused on tap-mounted models to promote clean, appealing drinking water. And I'd suggest this program could be funded in whole or in part by the state, but would need to be administered by the city (reinforcing the fact that they own, operate and service the system). I've got some information on filter models below.

   Two more considerations: One, while the state has provided residents in some communities with bottled water in the past, it always has to do with their water being somehow contaminated – as in, some kind of chemical plume that impaired local drinking water sources. This would be the first time the state took steps to deal with what is an aesthetic issue on a system where the water is meeting state drinking water standards.

Water filter info:
ANSI NSF Standard 42 Covers bacteriostasis, taste and odor (associated only with chlorine removal), and other aesthetic conditions
http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19895/NSF_42-11%20-%20watermarked.pdf

ANSI NSF Standard 53 Covers health effects removal
http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19896/NSF_53-11a%20-%20watermarked.pdf

It is important to note that the filters are not required to meet all aspects of the standard, only the portions they want to make claims for. So product information for each filter must be reviewed to determine its applicability.

Most of these point of use filters are basic activated carbon filters that simply remove taste and odor specifically associated with chlorine, not other things like iron, manganese, hydrogen sulfide, etc. that can also impact taste and odor as well as color.

It is important to recognize that taste and odor is generally an individual preference and such standards have for the most part not been developed because groups of individuals may still consider taste and odor issues to exist even after levels for such a standard have been met.

Other considerations are that the test water for such filters attempting to meet the standard uses hardness levels of 170 mg/L or less. Flint's water at times may be above this level, which could then impact filter performance and longevity.

Most of these filters are designed to be replaced after 100 gallons or less of use, a period of about 3 months for most households. In addition the tests allow for initial pressure drops of up to 15 psi. This may limit use in households that already rely on minimum pressure within their household plumbing.

Regarding the health effects standards, as the Flint water system already meets such requirements, with the exception of the current TTHM locational running annual average, there is little point to the use of these filters for such a purpose.

To the point you'd asked about the other day, while Flint and Detroit are leading examples of unmaintained infrastructure, Flint is not alone by any means.

This recent infrastructure report card
http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/michigan/michigan-overview/
Lists Michigan with a $13.8 Billion need over the next 20 years.

http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/#p/state-facts/michigan

Here's a link to the 2009 Report Card for Michigan Infrastructure
http://www.michiganreportcard.com/

From the report:

"A significant portion of the state's primary distribution system is nearing 100 years old. CWS are facing a significant challenge to maintain the vast network of aging, underground infrastructure. Within the city of Detroit alone, approximately 80% of its distribution piping was installed prior to 1940, which is not unusual for CWS in Michigan."

"The age of the majority of the state's distribution system is the primary contributor to normal decay and failure. In many cases, pipe life has far exceeded useful service life. Much of the older water systems consist of undersized mains constructed of materials such as unlined cast iron pipe. Minor fluctuations in system flows or pressure may cause red water complaints and even result in pipe failure. All CWS should have routine flushing and valve maintenance programs; however many are hesitant due to the time and cost."

"Under the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule, all CWS that disinfect are required to provide increased trihalomethane (THHM) and haloacetic acid (HAA5) monitoring due to the potential byproducts of chlorine reactions within the pipe system. Corrosion, scale, solid suspension on the interior sidewall of pipe, in addition to the age and condition of the system will require diligent rehabilitation investment to maintain system integrity."

"While better materials and advanced technology is available to replace the aging distribution system, resources remain scarce when compared with the magnitude of the rehabilitation task at hand. Too often, distribution system replacement costs are underfunded and the first item to be slashed when budget problems arise. Overall, distribution system maintenance is reactionary in much of the older systems. Since the majority of the antiquated system will require removal and replacement beyond the

CWS funding resources for systematic upgrade, a reactionary rehabilitation program is inevitable and must be funded accordingly."

Call or email me if you need anything further.
b

Brad Wurfel
Communications Director
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-284-6713
517-230-8006 cell

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 4:54 PM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Subject: Karegnondi Water Authority
Attachments: Karegnondi Water Authority.docx

Suggested language for your use as requested.

Beginning in October 2015, the City of Flint shall deposit $145,000 monthly into an escrow account through the month ending June of 2016. These resources will serve as contingency in the event the Karegnondi Water Authority is not available for use by the City of Flint due to construction delay, and the city must extend its contract with Detroit Sewage and Water beyond June 2016. Should the Karegnondi project meet the anticipated timeline for operation of June 2016, the balance of the aforementioned escrow resources will remain intact with the City of Flint.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 4:11 PM
To: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: RE: City of Flint

Thanks.

From: Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 4:09 PM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB); Harkins, Chris (DTMB); Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Cc: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB)
Subject: FW: City of Flint

Note, the number appears to be $249,900 from MSHDA, and it must be related to housing which they are confident the nexus can be established.

From: Beth Colosimo (MEDC) [mailto:colosimob1@michigan.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 3:56 PM
To: Tulloch, Tyler (DTMB); Shoemaker, Lisa (DTMB)
Subject: FW: City of Flint

Information from MSHDA. Hope this helps.

Beth

From: Sykes, Jeffrey (MSHDA) [mailto:sykesj@michigan.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 11:24 AM
To: Janell Thelen (MSHDA); Michele Wildman (MSHDA); Beth Colosimo (MEDC)
Subject: RE: City of Flint

I just spoke with Kevin. MSHDA is in fact making a $249,900 grant available to deal with Flint's water issue. We do have to make sure that the request or uses are related to housing. Given that this water issue will have a direct impact on Flint housing and housing values, it shouldn't be too difficult to make the connection. We don't know yet what the grant will be used for, but are happy to help by looking at Flints request and identify where the MSHDA grant can be used.

Jeffrey J Sykes
Director of Finance
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
735 East Michigan Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909
517/335-4893
sykesj@michigan.gov

From: Thelen, Janell (MSHDA)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 11:00 AM
To: Sykes, Jeffrey (MSHDA) <sykesj@michigan.gov>; Wildman, Michele (MSHDA) <WildmanM@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: City of Flint

Can either of assist with the question below?

Janell M. Thelen, CPA
Chief Accountant, Finance
Michigan State Housing Development Authority
ph. 517.335.2040 • fx. 517.373 2450

For information about MSHDA and social networking, visit http://www.michigan.gov/mshdasocialnetwork

---

From: Beth Colosimo (MEDC) [mailto:colosimob1@michigan.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:49 AM
To: Thelen, Janell (MSHDA)
Subject: City of Flint

Janell:

Can you check to see what kind of support and dollars are being offered by your agency for the Flint water issue? SBO just said something about $250,000 coming from your funds but we don't know what is being used. They are trying to clarify this for the Governor.

Thanks,
Beth

Beth D. Colosimo, CGFM
Budget Director
Michigan Economic Development Corporation/Department of Talent and Economic Development
300 N. Washington Square | Lansing, MI 48913
Office: 517.241.1725 | Mobile: 517.574.8571
colosimob1@michigan.org

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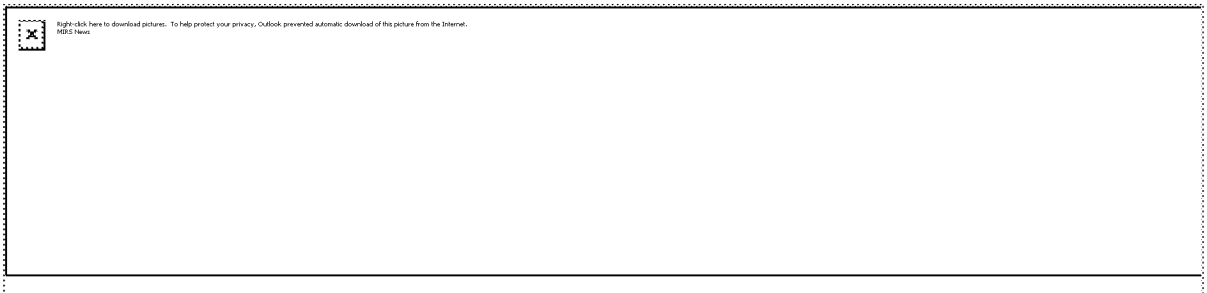
From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Sydnor, Brian (LARA)
Subject: RE: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

Well, that was the press conference. Now we have to get actually get dollars appropriated which, as you know, is a different story . . .

From: Sydnor, Brian (LARA)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:29 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

Great news.

From: MIRS Delivery [mailto:mirsdelivery@mirsnews.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Sydnor, Brian (LARA)
Subject: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.



MIRS BREAKING NEWS: Flint To Return To Detroit Water, Gov Asks Lawmakers To Help Cover Costs -- 11:18 a.m.

http://www.mirsnews.com/alert.php?alert_id=2106

(FLINT) -- The city of Flint will transition back to getting its water from Detroit within weeks, and Gov. Rick **SNYDER** said today he is in "full support" of the move.

In addition to that, Snyder said he would be asking the Legislature for $6 million to assist with the move, which will make up half of the estimated $12 million it will cost Flint to go back to its old water supply, as estimated through next summer.

The other $6 million will be divided up between Flint itself ($2 million) and from a donation from the Mott Foundation ($4 million).

The cost estimate is based on the time it will take to complete the connection to Flint's

new permanent water supply, the Karegnondi Water Authority. That's expected to go live in June 2016.

Snyder said the decision to support the move back to Detroit water -- something he said the city is ultimately in charge of deciding -- was based in part by a recommendation made by a meeting of technical experts Wednesday.

Joining Snyder at the press conference today were some of his cabinet officials and Flint leaders, as well as Senate Minority Leader Jim **ANANICH** (D-Flint), who described today's actions as a step in the right direction, but going forward, he said there must be more transparency and that the state's action plan be implemented fully.

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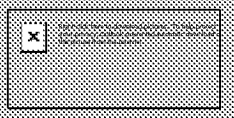

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www.mirsnews.com

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 2:14 PM
To: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Subject: RE: City of Flint Water Funding Solution

Thank you sir!

-----Original Message-----
From: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:41 PM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: RE: City of Flint Water Funding Solution

We won't know for sure until the sampling protocol is prepared. Generally drinking water samples are paid for by the public submitting them. In the short term the Governor's plan calls for free analysis by the state. We believe we have the capacity for the sample volume and should be able to scrape up the money for cost of the lab analysis. Your right in that we may need to use money in the Settlement Fund to meet those costs.

If we don't have the capacity, EPA has offered to take some of the overflow, but we should not need them.

-----Original Message-----
From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 2:32 PM
To: Sygo, Jim (DEQ)
Subject: City of Flint Water Funding Solution
Importance: High

Jim,

Following up from this morning's meeting on Flint. Wondering if you can clarify for us here in SBO, the State Lab need for testing faucet samples. Is this an expense the EPA can pick up?

If not, are we able to utilize fund balance within the Environmental Protection Fund to cover? If I'm not mistaken, this fund is comprised of settlement resources and by statute, can essentially be utilized to cover the universe of environmental matters.

Jacques

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 1:50 PM
To: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: RE: OPPR Flash Report 25 December 2015

Thank you Jenny !

From: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Subject: RE: OPPR Flash Report 25 December 2015

See responses in red below.

Also, Amy asked if she could get numbers for you both in case of after-hours emergencies (similar to the Flint water emergency).

From: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB)
Sent: Saturday, January 02, 2016 10:11 AM
To: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Cc: Harrison, Jennifer (DTMB)
Subject: RE: OPPR Flash Report 25 December 2015

Re: FY'16 Flint water supplemental requests:

- Can some/all of the water system $3.9M request be handled as one-time FY17 funding? Yes but only if the locals agree to pay for the 1st half first (locals would pay for July, Aug, & Sept and State would pay for Oct, Nov and Dec). However, DEQ needs to verify that the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline will be completed by December 2016. And, as a point of clarification, is the money needed to keep them on the Detroit system until the new system is ready? Yes, it is to keep them on the Detroit system. Or to hook them up to the new system? Also, we're there some on conditions on the first Flint water supplemental? Yes. Have those conditions been met? Yes, Amy will send copies of the agreement required by boilerplate.

- The $3M ongoing funding request for testing, expertise, etc needs to get on the FY17 investment list.

From: McNeely, Jacques (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, December 28, 2015 9:16 AM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB)
Cc: Duncan, Nancy (DTMB); Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: OPPR Flash Report 25 December 2015

Please see attached - - FYI

From: Grayson, Tanya <tgrayson@nasact.org>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Mikula, Lora (DTMB)
Subject: Weekly News

NASACT National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

WASHINGTON UPDATE & WEEKLY NEWS

There will be no Washington Update this week as Congress is on their Winter Recess.

Thanks and have a wonderful week.

Tanya Grayson
NASACT Washington Office

If you would like to have an article/issue highlighted for the membership, please send it to NASACT Policy Analyst Neal Hutchko at [redacted]. Please include the web link to your article for formatting purposes and for proper source citation.

CALIFORNIA

Treasurer's Office releases green bonds funding report
The Orange County Breeze

State Treasurer John Chiang on Monday released an initial report on the state's spending of nearly $300 million in proceeds for environmental purposes, financed by a first-ever sale of "green bonds." The 2014 general obligation bonds, tax-exempt securities backed by the full faith and credit of the state of California, completely or partially pay for a series of beneficial projects. More analysis, fine-tuning and market research needs to be done before a green bond market can really take off, said Chiang. "Greater use of green bonds could provide a secure and growing funding stream for governments and private industries to meet the challenge of curbing climate pollution," he said…

DELAWARE

Delaware CAFR released
Press Release

The State of Delaware's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 has been released. The CAFR includes a report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance, with associated audit findings…

HAWAII

Audit alleges $155M investment in Hawaii Medicaid enrollment system failed to meet goal
Pacific Business News

A state audit released Wednesday alleges a federal and state $155 million investment into Hawaii's Medicaid enrollment system does not meet federal goals of the Affordable Care Act…

IOWA

State audit finds more than $134,000 misspent by Hornick, Iowa, city officials
The Sioux City Journal

City officials in Hornick did not properly account for more than $134,000 they spent between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2014, according to a report released by the state auditor Tuesday. State Auditor Mary Mosiman said at least two former city clerks, Janet Ronfeldt and Rebecca Chan-Nelson, are connected to the improper and unsupported disbursements, which included payments to former mayors and City Council members…

State investigation of Garwin Ambulance Service checking account
Radio Iowa

The state auditor's office has reviewed the checking account for the ambulance service in a small eastern Iowa town and is raising questions about more than $13,550 worth of spending and undeposited cash…

KENTUCKY

State audit of Morgan Fiscal Court finds 'abuse of power'
WKYT – West Liberty

A state audit has concluded that hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal disaster aid are unaccounted for in Morgan County. Outgoing state Auditor Adam Edelen's report, released Monday, found evidence of "waste, fraud and abuse" in the aftermath of a 2012 tornado that devastated West Liberty. The audit found the possibility of abuse was so high it couldn't rely on the county's financial records…

LOUISIANA

Legislative Auditor claims economic development district overpaid Algiers district by millions
The Advocate

The state Department of Revenue incorrectly applied a formula and as a result overpaid the Algiers Economic Development District by $6.9 million since 2004, according to a report released Monday by Legislative Auditor Daryl Purpera…

Louisiana OMV audit: Two employees allegedly steal $200,000-plus from customers in 3 years
The Advocate

Two employees at the state's Office of Motor Vehicles allegedly stole more than $200,000 over three years in customer payments before being arrested and fired, according to a new audit of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections…

Audit: South Louisiana Community College's inadequate collection procedures leaves $2.9 million debt from students
The Advocate

Students owe South Louisiana Community College $2.9 million as a result of the college's inadequate collection procedures, a recent Louisiana Legislative Auditor's report says…

MASSACHUSETTS

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg announces pilot program for college savings accounts
The Metro West Daily News

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, alongside legislators, business executives and community leaders, announced her office's new, first-of-its-kind pilot program for college savings accounts. Events were held at the Jacob Hiatt Magnet School and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce on the college savings program named "$eedMA." "Access to an affordable higher education is imperative to strengthening Massachusetts' economy," said Goldberg. "I cannot think of a city more uniquely positioned to take on the leadership role of this college savings pilot program than Worcester. In the upcoming months, we will develop a standard that we hope can be implemented across the state."...

MICHIGAN

Independent report confirms state made mistakes, but not "intentional" ones in Flint water crisis
Michigan Radio

Preliminary findings from Michigan's independent Auditor General give more details about the Flint water crisis. In a letter to State Senator Jim Ananich, Auditor General Doug Ringler answers several key questions about the state's role in the decision to switch to the Flint River and how Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality dealt with those decisions. Ringler's review confirms it was the state appointed emergency manager who made the decision to switch to the Flint River, not city leaders. It also confirmed that Detroit's water system made offers to keep Flint as a water customer, but that a different emergency manager rejected those offers...

MISSOURI

Auditor Galloway releases Joplin municipal court audit, calls for improved data security, case tracking
Press Release

State Auditor Nicole Galloway today released an audit of the Joplin municipal court, highlighting the need for stronger oversight of clerks' actions and increased measures to ensure the security of the court's electronic data. The audit identified 120 users that had improper access to the court's electronic data. Eighty-nine of those users were former employees who no longer worked for the city or the court. The report also found the court fails to comply with state law or Joplin's city code in assessing fees totaling approximately $145,000...

NEW JERSEY

Audit Finds State Failed to Post Unclaimed Assets
NJTV News

A state audit has found New Jersey's Unclaimed Property Administration – or the UPA – failed to put more than a quarter-billion dollars in properties on its site. It's an amount that rivals the current Powerball jackpot. "They're not going to see that in the online system for whatever reason. When it was transferred over in the mid 2000s those items were improperly coded to only be part of the newsprint that was put out and not be part of the constant online system," Stephen Eells, NJ state auditor, said...

DOT Audit released
Press Release

An audit of the Department of Transportation's Maintenance and Operations program has found a potential opportunity for increasing reimbursements involving damage to state property by motor vehicle accidents…

Court Information Technology Funds audited
Press Release

An audit has found that internal controls over the expenditure process could be improved…

OREGON

Oregon Employment Department Audit: Computer Programs for Unemployment Tax Returns and Claims Need Attention
Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department computer programs correctly process most individual unemployment insurance claims and associated employer tax returns, but these outdated computer programs should be replaced. Additional work is also needed to improve security, processes for changing computer code, and disaster recovery capability…

TENNESSEE

Comptroller's Hotline Helps Protect Taxpayers
Press Release

The Tennessee Comptroller's Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline is marking a record achievement in its effort to help uncover the misuse of government funds and property.

Confidential tips to the hotline helped to identify a record $1,112,500 in confirmed thefts, shortages and questioned costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. These tips were reported through telephone calls and online submissions to t

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From: MIRS Delivery <info=mirsnews.com@mail74.suw13.rsgsv.net> on behalf of MIRS Delivery <info@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 1:51 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS Monday Podcast, October 5, 2015

View this email in your browser

This week on MIRS Monday

If the same municipal water problems Flint residents are experiencing were happening in West Bloomfield or Birmingham would they have been taken care of long ago? Senate Minority Leader Jim Ananich answers that question and shares his thoughts that he's getting the feeling from the state that, "These are poor folks, well, we'll get to it when we get to it."

MIRS Editor Kyle Melinn shares his takeaways from Friday's Lapeer Tea Party debate of 82nd House District candidates, the Michigan Freedom Fund hits Rep. Alberta Tinsley-Talabi and how is an empty bowl of stew analogous to the state's road funding talks? This and much more in this week's edition.

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State Budget Office
Legislative Update Meeting
October 8, 2015
9:00 a.m.

AGENDA – Sen. Hildenbrand's Office

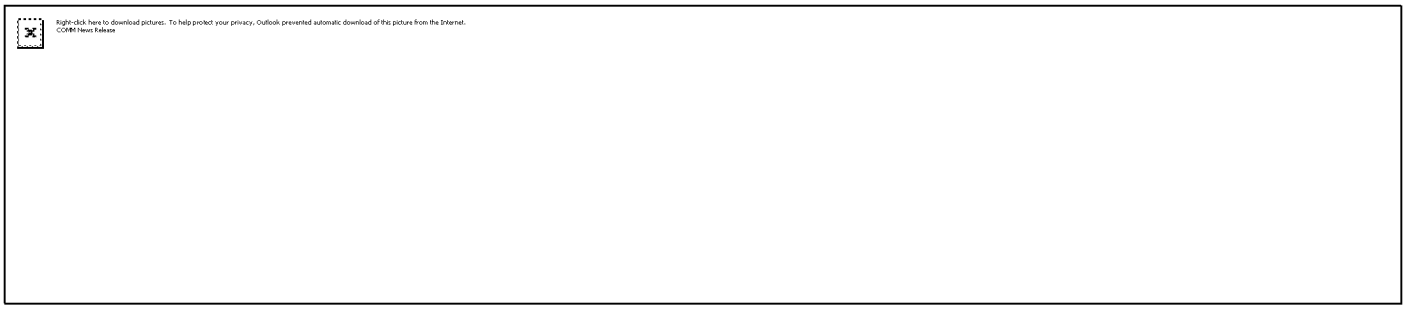
---

1. Supplementals
2. Flint Water
3. Risk List
4. Bills with Revenue Impact
5. Miscellaneous

From: Stoddard, Janine (DTMB)
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 1:20 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: PDF
Attachments: Memorandum - Enrolled House Bill 4102.pdf

Janine Stoddard
Student Assistant
State Budget Office
Romney Building, 6th floor
(517)-373-3057
Stoddardj3@michigan.gov

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 4:55 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill authorizing funding for Flint to move back to Detroit water system

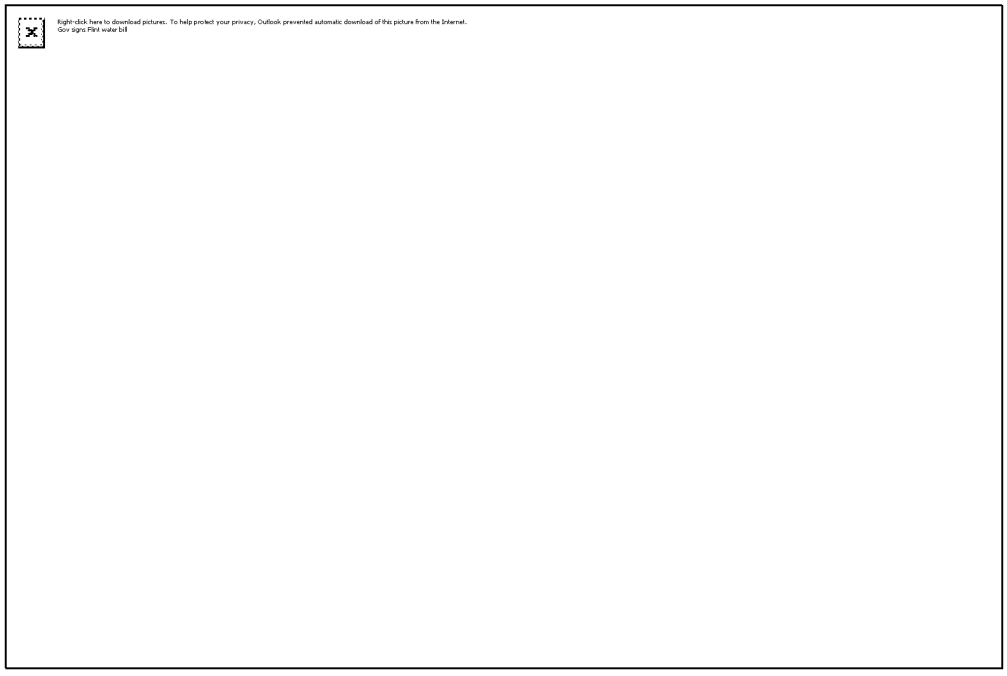


Contacts: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder signs bill authorizing funding for Flint to move back to Detroit water system

Temporary reconnection provides best protection for public health



LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder has signed bipartisan legislation that will direct funding to the City of Flint's emergency water services to reconnect the city's water supply to the Great Lakes

Water Authority until the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is completed.

"This funding is a coordinated response to a serious problem and I'm pleased so many parties came together to help deliver safe drinking water to the city of Flint," Snyder said. "Reconnecting to the Great Lakes Water Authority is only the first step, as the state will continue testing and inspections to ensure Flint families and children have clean water in their homes and schools."

House Bill 4102, sponsored by state Rep. Al Pscholka, authorizes $6 million to move the city back to Detroit's water system until the new pipeline is finished.

In addition to the $6 million:

- $300,000 goes to the Department of Environmental Quality's drinking water and environmental health services;
- $1 million will provide for DEQ to test drinking water samples;
- $1 million allows the Department of Health and Human Services to purchase and distribute water filters to Flint residents;
- $850,000 will aid in follow-up services for children, including testing, investigations, and case management for those with elevated blood lead levels;
- $200,000 will fund state plumbing inspections for schools and health facilities.
- The City of Flint city government will provide $2 million toward reconnecting the water supply and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has committed $4 million.

The bill was approved unanimously in both the House and Senate and is now Public Act 143 of 2015.

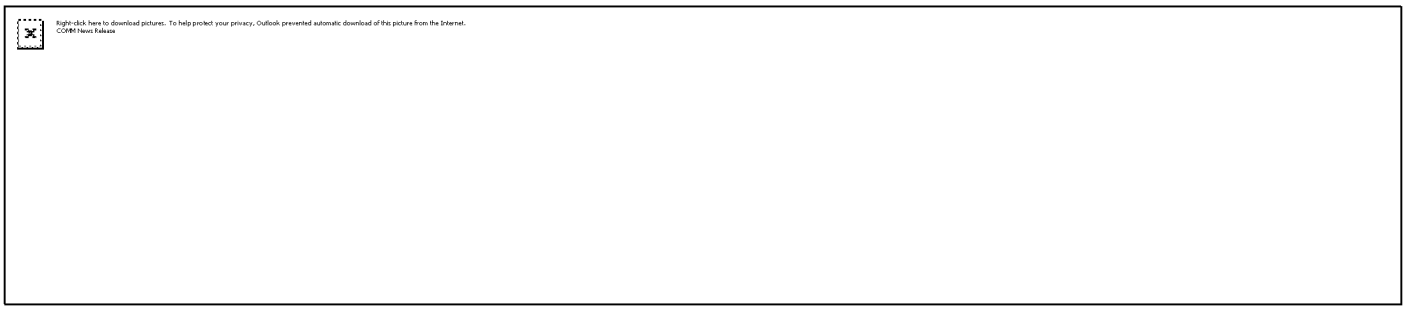
For more information on this and other legislation, please visit www.legislature.mi.gov.

####

STAY CONNECTED:

This email was sent to minixc@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 2:07 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder announces Flint Water Task Force to review state, federal and municipal actions, offer recommendations



Contacts: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder announces Flint Water Task Force to review state, federal and municipal actions, offer recommendations

Experts in public health, water management, environmental protection to focus on steps to protect residents

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced the creation of an independent advisory task force charged with reviewing actions regarding water use and testing in Flint and offer recommendations for future guidelines to protect the health and safety of all state residents.

Task force members include experts in public health and medicine, water management, and environmental protection from both sides of the aisle, and will be co-chaired by Ken Sikkema of Public Sector Consultants and Chris Kolb, of the Michigan Environmental Council. Also serving will be Dr. Matthew Davis of the University of Michigan Health System, Eric Rothstein, of the Galardi Rothstein Group and Dr. Lawrence Reynolds of Mott Children's Health Center in Flint.

"Transitioning back to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department-Great Lakes Water Authority is a good first step to protecting public health in Flint, but it's not the last step," Snyder said. "Bringing in outside experts to evaluate our actions and help monitor and advise on potential changes to law, procedures and practices will be key to continuing work on the comprehensive action plan and ensuring safe drinking water for all the residents in Flint and all of Michigan."

Snyder said the administration will fully cooperate with task force members, saying he wants an unbiased report focusing on steps taken in the past and recommendations that could improve practices to ensure all residents have access to safe, clean water.

Ken Sikkema is a senior policy fellow at Public Sector Consultants, where he specializes in public finance, environment, and energy policy. Prior to joining the firm, Sikkema served in both the Michigan House and Senate, culminating with four years as Senate majority leader. He has also served as both an adjunct and visiting professor at Grand Valley State University.

Chris Kolb is president of the Michigan Environmental Council, a statewide coalition of 70 environmental, public health and faith-based nonprofit groups. Before joining the MEC, Kolb represented Ann Arbor in the state House for six years and served six years on the Ann Arbor City Council. He has been president of the MEC for six years.

Matthew Davis, M.D., M.A.P.P., is professor of pediatrics and internal medicine at the University of Michigan Health System and professor of public policy at the Gerald R. Ford School at the University of Michigan, having joined the faculty in 2000. Davis also is a professor of health management and policy at the School of Public Health. He previously served as the chief medical executive of the Michigan Department of Community Health/Department of Health and Human Services.

Eric Rothstein is a national water issues consultant and principal at the Galardi Rothstein Group. He served as an independent advisor on the creation of the Great Lakes Water Authority. Rothstein also has served as Jefferson County, Alabama's rate consultant and municipal adviser for litigation related to the county's bankruptcy and issuance of $1.7 billion in sewer warrants and led strategic financial planning for the City of Atlanta's Department of Watershed Management. He has more than 30 years of experience in water, wastewater and stormwater utility finance and rate-making assessments.

Lawrence Reynolds, M.D., is a pediatrician in Flint who serves as president of the Mott Children's Health Center. He received his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and has been in practice for 36 years. He has served as president of the Genesee County Medical Society and the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has been honored for his humanitarian and advocacy efforts on behalf of children from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint.

Snyder has said reconnecting with the authority is a critical step to resolving water quality issues and addressing related health concerns. It will not immediately resolve the city's problem with lead service lines or aging infrastructure. It will take time for pipes in Flint to become coated with the phosphate corrosion control.

To best protect public health, state and local authorities will continue to carry out steps outlined on Oct. 2 in a comprehensive action plan, including continued testing, the use of faucet filters and providing residents with accurate information about steps to eliminate lead exposure. The Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services are continuing to provide free water filters, free lead testing through the state laboratory for Flint water customers, and hiring additional staff to conduct health exposure monitoring for lead in drinking water.

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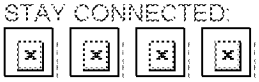

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From: MIRS Delivery <info=mirsnews.com@mail179.suw14.mcdlv.net> on behalf of MIRS Delivery <info@mirsnews.com>
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 1:19 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS Monday Podcast, December 7, 2015

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This week on MIRS Monday

Rep. Sheldon Neeley (D-Flint) sat on the Flint City Council when the city's future water needs were debated. He shares his reflections on what happened during those discussions and why the former emergency manager is responsible for connecting the city to flawed Flint River water.

Also why has the data center tax break legislation split the Republican and Democratic caucuses? One major legislative issue gets kicked into 2016 as another one gets brought back up again with only two weeks left. This and more in this week's edition.

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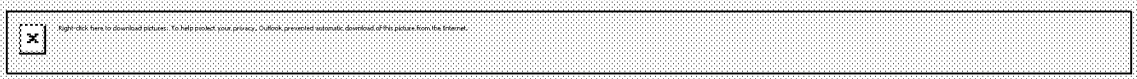

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Sent: Wednesday, December 09, 2015 3:05 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: Poll: Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

PRESS RELEASE
December 9, 2015

For Immediate Release
Contact: Selma Tucker
Director of Marketing & Communications
(517) 484-4954, stucker@pscinc.com
Public Sector Consultants Inc.

Split over guns and prison reform, voters unite over water quality

LANSING, Mich. -- In the wake of the Flint water crisis, how concerned are voters about the safety of the water in their home? Enough to agree with each other, according to the latest Michigan's Pulse poll, a partnership of Public Sector Consultants and Michigan Radio.

From November 3 to November 5, 2015, Denno Research surveyed 600 likely voters on a range of topics, including water quality, concealed pistols, prison reform and autonomous vehicles. Beyond increased attention to urban water quality, these highly politicized topics yielded little agreement, with stark differences by political affiliation, race and age.

Water Safety

Ninety-one percent of respondents agree that the State of Michigan should examine the water systems in densely populated areas for signs of failing infrastructure. The vast majority (84 percent) also feel that water should be tested in Michigan's K-12 school buildings at least once a year.

About half of respondents (46 percent) are concerned about the safety of their water, but there are clear differences by subgroups:

- African-American voters (71 percent) are more concerned than white voters (40 percent).
- Democrats (52 percent) are more concerned than Republicans (36 percent).
- Wayne County respondents (61 percent) have higher concerns than those in other parts of the state, with 81 percent of voters in Detroit expressing concern about the safety of their water.

Concealed Pistols and Prison Reform

With the recent coverage of high-profile shootings on college and K-12 school campuses, allowing concealed pistols in these places has become a major topic for the upcoming presidential election. Under state law, those licensed to carry concealed pistols still cannot carry their weapons at schools; at day care centers, sports arenas or stadiums; at entertainment facilities that seat 2,500 or more; at bars, churches, hospitals, casinos and dormitories or classrooms of colleges or universities.

About half of voters (46 percent) support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, while (49 percent) oppose that.

- Of the Republicans polled, 65 percent support lifting the ban in some or all of these places, compared to Democrats, at 33 percent.

Less than half of respondents (40 percent) support lifting the ban in day care centers, K-12 schools and college dormitories and classrooms, with a little over half (55 percent) opposed.

- Almost half of all men polled (47 percent) and almost two-thirds of Republicans polled (62 percent) support lifting the ban; while women (34 percent), Democrats (27 percent) and Independents (34 percent) oppose doing so.

Slightly more than half of Michigan voters (53 percent) support presumptive parole, legislation recently passed by the Michigan House that automatically paroles low-risk felons after they serve their minimum sentence.

- African-Americans (74 percent) and Democrats (67 percent) are more supportive than whites (49 percent) and Republicans (40 percent).

Finally, we asked voters if they think offenders who were convicted of violent crimes under the age of 18 should be eligible for parole. The jury is clearly still out on this issue, with opinion split between yes (41 percent) and no (39 percent), with nearly a quarter (20 percent) saying they don't know or are unsure.

Robot Cars

Autonomous vehicles are currently being developed in Michigan, and some (like the Google Self-Driving Car) are already being road tested in other states. We wondered if people were comfortable with the idea of robots driving cars on Michigan's roads, and more to the point, if people thought they would make our roads safer.

- A solid majority (68 percent) are not comfortable with the idea of having driverless cars on Michigan's roads, with half (51 percent) saying they were very uncomfortable.
- A little more than half of voters (56 percent) feel that driverless cars would be more dangerous than the humans currently driving on Michigan's roads.

Despite this opposition, voters accept that this will be how people get around in the near future. Most respondents (57 percent) think that driverless cars will be common in Michigan sometime in the next five to 20 years. That buys humanity at least a few years to figure out how to prevent the cyborg invasion that is sure to follow.

Legislative Reform

In a previous PSC poll after the failure of Proposal 1, road funding was identified as a critical priority, with voters saying the legislature should work over the summer to resolve the issue. While the poll did not specifically address the merits of the $1.2 billion package recently signed by Gov.

Rick Snyder, voters clearly do not approve of the way this issue was handled, with the vast majority rating the legislature as bad (21 percent) or terrible (58 percent).

We followed this question with a couple of options on how to improve the effectiveness of the Michigan Legislature. All of the ideas appear to have similar appeal, which seems to indicate that voters are ready for a change -- even if they don't know exactly what the change should look like:

- Stricter campaign finance and/or ethics laws (25 percent)
- Switch to a part-time legislature (21 percent)
- Do nothing because legislators can always be voted out of office if they are doing a poor job (21 percent)
- Change the length of term limits by allowing members to serve up to 12 years in either chamber (18 percent)
- Don't know/unsure (15 percent)

Goodbye Halloween

On the heels of the Halloween season, we wondered what had scared voters the most so far in 2015. While a quarter (25 percent) were not willing to express their fears out loud, those that did were scared most by the presidential debates (42 percent), followed by the Detroit Lions (22 percent).

About the Survey

Michigan Radio, an NPR News Station and the state's most listened-to public radio service, and Public Sector Consultants (PSC), the state's premier nonpartisan think tank, are partnering on a yearlong initiative studying Michiganders' attitudes toward policy issues affecting their lives in a series called Michigan's Pulse. Michigan's Pulse will release quarterly in weeklong segments on Michigan Radio's Stateside with Cynthia Canty with in-depth analysis by PSC researchers and other thought leaders.

The Michigan Radio/PSC survey of the Michigan electorate was conducted by Lansing-based Denno Research. Six-hundred respondents, 450 by landline and 150 by cell phone, in the state of Michigan were surveyed from November 3 to 5, 2015, with a margin of error of plus/minus 4 percent. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they would vote, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2016 general election.

Full survey results are available here.

Public Sector Consultants is Michigan's most respected, connected, and dedicated research and program management firm, with specialties in governance and regulation, health care, education, energy, and environmental policy. PSC is committed to providing objective research and sound solutions to the public and private sector.

Michigan Radio is an NPR News Station, and the state's most listened-to public radio service, attracting more than 500,000 listeners each week across Michigan. Licensed to the University of Michigan, Michigan Radio broadcasts at 91.7 FM in southeastern Michigan, 91.1 FM in Flint, and 104.1 in western Michigan, and is available online at michiganradio.org.

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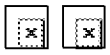

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From: Wisniewski, Wendy (GOV) on behalf of Agen, Jarrod (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:06 PM
To: Abednego, Jaime (DTMB);Allan, Jon (DEQ);Arbulu, Agustin (MDCR);Arwood, Steve (MEDC);Barnes, Jeff (DMVA);Behen, David (DTMB);Bowen, Scott (MSL);Brader, Valerie (LARA);Brown, Diane (MGCB);Burton, Diane (LARA);Carefoot, Karen (MDE);Clover Adams, Jamie (MDARD);Comai, Stephanie (TIA);Creagh, Keith (DNR);Crockett, Tracy (MSHDA);Deloney, Andrew (LARA);Donnan, Chanda (DTMB);Doyle, Maureen (Treasury);Dungey, Cecilia (TIA);Elsenheimer, Kevin (MSHDA);Etue, Kriste (MSP);Evans, Amiee (MEDC);General Gregory J. Vadnais (gregory.j.vadnais.mil@mail.mil);Grijalva, Nancy (DHHS);Hill, Nancy (DIFS);Isaacs, Carol (AG);Kalm, Rick (MGCB);Khouri, Nick (TREASURY);King, Rebecca (MCSC);Klotz, Josephine (MSP);Lyon, Nick (DHHS);'Mason, Dace (DMVA)';McDermott, Cristina (MSL);McPharlin, Pat (DIFS);Minix, Connie (DTMB);Quackenbush, John (LARA);Roberts, John (DTMB);Sanford, Shawn (MDCR);Sebenick, Pam (MDOT);Sederburg, Kari (DHHS);Senyko, Mike (MDOS);Simon, Sandy C. (MDOC);Smith, Brenda (MDARD);Steudle, Kirk (MDOT);Sworden, Julie (DMVA);Teszlewicz, Barbara (AG);Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ);Tkaczyk, Judy (DNR);Vaughn, Kari (DEQ);Waalkes, Marie (DTMB);Washington, Heidi E. (MDOC);West, Samantha (LARA);Whiston, Brian (MDE);Winters, Jan (MCSC);Zimmer, Mike (LARA)
Cc: Agen, Jarrod (GOV);Clement, Elizabeth (GOV);Murray, David (GOV);Holland, Meegan (GOV);Wisniewski, Wendy (GOV)
Subject: Changes in Administration

Team,

As you are aware, we have been working closely with the independent task force that has been reviewing state, local and federal actions regarding the serious health issues related to water in Flint.

Although the task force's final report is not yet complete, members have made the Governor aware of some interim findings, and there are interim steps the Governor has decided to take immediately in order to restore trust in how we in state government keep residents safe and informed.

As part of this process, Dan Wyant, director of the Department of Environmental Quality, has offered his resignation, and Governor has reluctantly decided to accept it. There are likely to be other personnel changes in MDEQ as well.

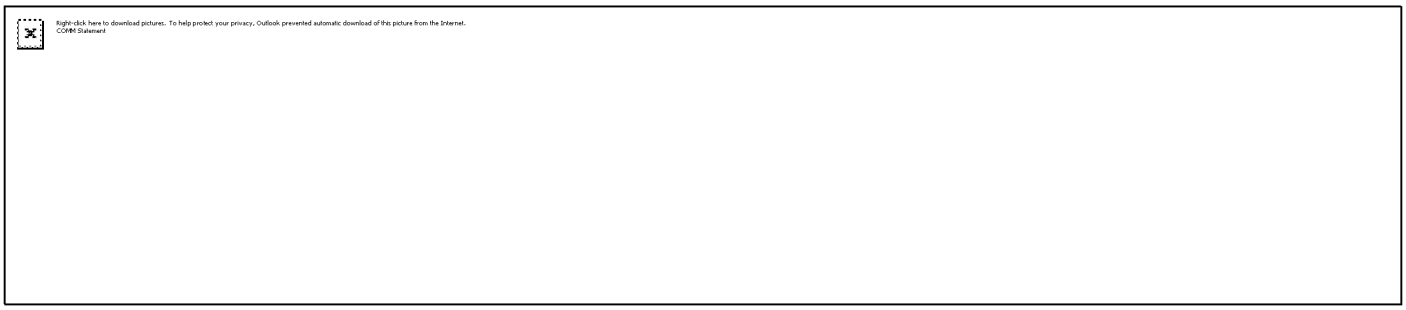
I want to thank Dan for his service. He has been the DEQ director since the start of the administration, and previously headed the Agriculture Department under both Gov. Engler and Gov. Granholm. He is passionate about public service and protecting our state's environment.

The situation in Flint is serious and challenging. We will continue to work closely with the task force and city leaders as we move forward, committed to protecting the health of people living in Flint and around our state.

Sincerely,

Jarrod Agen

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder takes action on initial findings from Flint Water Task Force



Contacts: Dave Murray, Anna Heaton or Laura Biehl

517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder takes action on initial findings from Flint Water Task Force

Changes to take place at DEQ, meeting planned with Mayor Karen Weaver

In response to initial findings from the Flint Water Task Force, Gov. Rick Snyder today issued the following statement:

"When I became aware that the city of Flint's water showed elevated lead levels and that the state's handling of the situation was being questioned, I requested funding to switch the source back to the Great Lakes Water Authority and appointed an independent task force to identify possible missteps and areas for improvement.

"The task force has done an exceptional job, reviewing stacks of documents and interviewing scores of Flint, Genesee County, state and federal officials. Although the task force's final report is not yet completed, members have made me aware of some interim findings and corrective steps that I have decided to take immediately in order to restore trust in how the state keeps its citizens safe and informed.

"We'll continue to work with the community members to make sure we hear and respond to their concerns.

"In addition, MDEQ Director Dan Wyant has offered his resignation, and I've determined

that it's appropriate to accept it. I'm also making other personnel changes at MDEQ to address problems cited by the task force.

"But changes in leadership and staff are not enough. I understand there can be disagreements within the scientific community. That is why I have directed both the departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services to invite every external scientist who has worked on this issue to be our partners in helping us improve Flint water. Let's share research on water and blood lead level testing so we can arrive at accurate and mutually supported conclusions. Together, we should work to affirm that we're using the very best testing protocols to ensure Flint residents have safe drinking water and that we're taking steps to protect their health over the short and long term.

"I want the Flint community to know how very sorry I am that this has happened. And I want all Michigan citizens to know that we will learn from this experience, because Flint is not the only city that has an aging infrastructure.

"I know many Flint citizens are angry and want more than an apology. That's why I'm taking the actions today to ensure a culture of openness and trust. We've already allocated $10 million to test the water, distribute water filters, and help in other ways. Last week, I called Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, and we're going to meet soon to discuss other ways the state can offer assistance.

"These are only initial steps - we fully expect to take more actions following the recommendations of our task force. When it comes to matters of health and quality of life, we're committed to doing everything we can to protect the well-being of our citizens."

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Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 2:24 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: MIRS Monday Podcast, January 4, 2016

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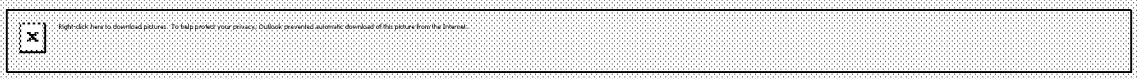
This week on MIRS Monday

The recent legislative recall movement isn't stopping with Sen. Wayne Schmidt and Senate Majority Leader Arlan Meekhof, says Kevin Heine, a board member for iCaucus, a conservative organization that is supporting the removal of legislators who voted for the gas tax and driver registration fee increases late last year. How many Senators are being discussed? How many state House members are looking at competitive primaries this fall?

MIRS handicaps its opinion on what Gov. Rick Snyder will do with SB 571, the bill that would restrict schools and local governments from sharing information with voters on millages, bonding proposals and other new money asks. Also, why the departure of former Department of Environment Quality Director Dan Wyant isn't the end of the Flint water story.

Click Here To Listen



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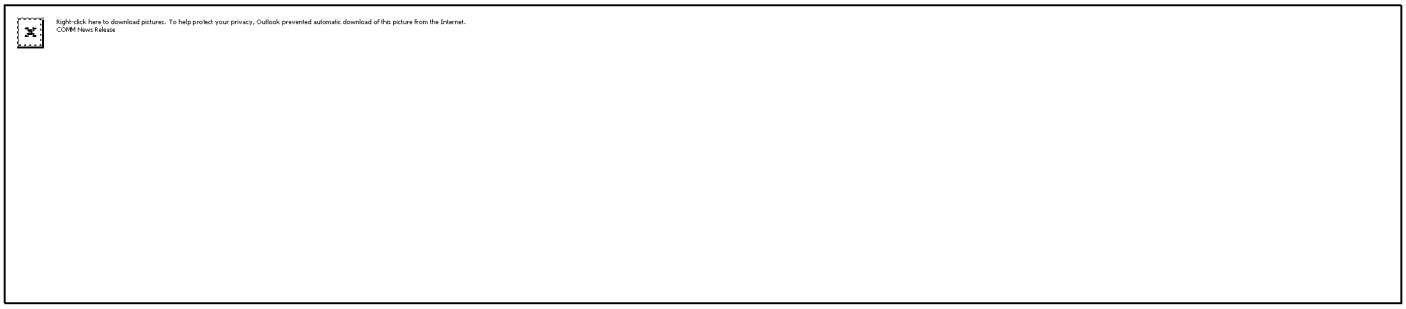
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2016 4:28 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Snyder declares emergency for Genesee County



Contacts: Dave Murray, Laura Biehl, or Anna Heaton

517-335-6397

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2016

Editor's note: A copy of the official declaration is available at the link below.

Gov. Snyder declares emergency for Genesee County

State Emergency Operations Center activated to assist with relief efforts

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today declared a state of emergency for Genesee County due to the ongoing health and safety issues caused by lead in the city of Flint's drinking water.

By declaring a state of emergency, Snyder has made available all state resources in cooperation with local response and recovery operations. The declaration authorizes the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) to coordinate state efforts.

"The health and welfare of Flint residents is a top priority and we're committed to a coordinated approach with resources from state agencies to address all aspects of this situation," Snyder said. "Working in full partnership with the Flint Water Advisory Task Force, all levels of government and water quality experts, we will find both short-term and long-term solutions to ensure the health and safety of Flint residents."

In addition to the emergency declaration, Snyder activated the State Emergency

Operations Center to coordinate state response and recovery activities. State agencies will report to the center to coordinate resources, assess the situation and begin providing assets to assist with local relief operations.

“Our staff recognizes the urgency of this situation and is already working closely with local officials,” said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. “We will continue to collaborate with state, city and county leaders to coordinate relief efforts, streamline communication and use all available resources to help residents.”

On Jan. 4, Genesee County declared a “local state of emergency,” which activated local emergency response and recovery plans. By requesting a governor’s declaration, the county has determined local resources are insufficient to address the situation and state assistance is required to protect public health, safety and property to lessen or avert the threat of a crisis.

The city of Flint has been under a local emergency declaration since Dec. 14, 2015.

The SEOC is the emergency operations center for the state of Michigan. Located in Lansing, the center is overseen by the MSP/EMHSD and coordinates response and recovery efforts by state agencies and local government. The SEOC is staffed by members of state agencies and other partners for decision making and information coordination during disasters or emergencies in the state of Michigan.

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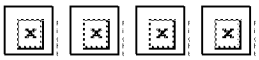

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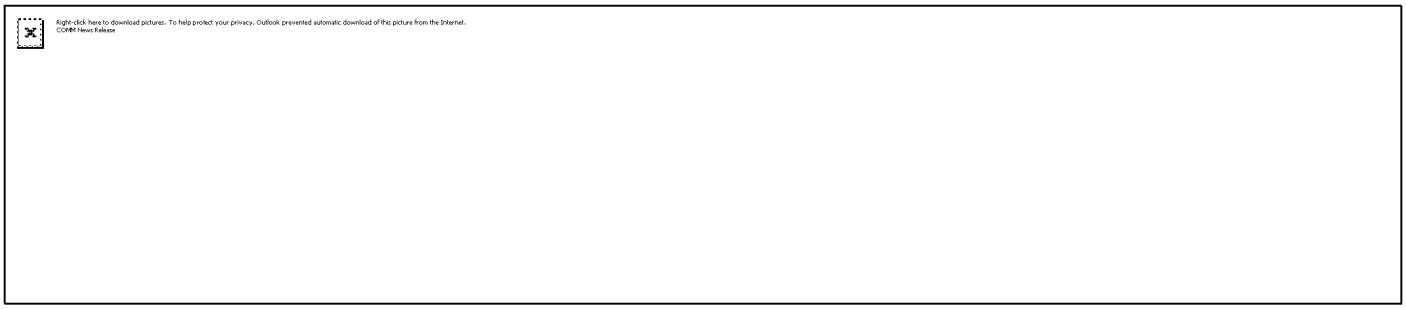
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 03, 2015 3:54 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder awards Flint $2 million in 'distressed municipalities' grants for water system infrastructure improvements



Contacts:
Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
517-335-6397

Terry Stanton, Department of Treasury
517-335-2167

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder awards Flint $2 million in 'distressed municipalities' grants for water system infrastructure improvements

Funding to be used for leak detection, waste incinerator replacement

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today awarded Flint $2 million in grants for water system infrastructure improvements, part of an overall $8 million plan to help municipalities through the Financially Distressed Cities, Villages, and Townships Grant Program.

Flint is among eleven municipalities receiving grants through the program. The city will use the funding to detect leaks in its water lines and replace its Water Pollution Control Facility Incinerator.

"There are opportunities for state government to assist Flint city leaders as they address issues related to the city's water system," Snyder said. "These grants will help recovering cities improve public services and infrastructure, improving the quality of life for all residents."

The grants to Flint were announced today at the Haskell Community Center by Harvey Hollins, director of the state's Office of Urban Initiatives, and Wayne Workman, the state's deputy treasurer. They were joined by Dan Wyant, director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Flint Emergency Manager Jerry Ambrose, Mayor Dayne Walling and state Rep. Sheldon

Neeley.

Flint was awarded $900,000 to allow the city to hire a contractor to perform a leak detection survey of the city water lines. The city will receive a map of leak locations and an assessment of leak severity, allowing the city to prioritize leak repair. The project also covers the expense of conducting a water pipe line wall thickness condition assessment on a portion of the city's pipes. The assessment will guide the city's water main replacement program.

The city also was awarded $1.1 million to shut down its current Water Pollution Control Facility incinerator and replace it with new facilities which will allow for the disposal of waste in landfills. The existing facilities are not up to federal Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said he appreciates the state support.

"This announcement comes at the perfect time for Flint as we continue with repairs and upgrades to our water service infrastructure that are in accordance with our new Capital Improvement Plan," Walling said. "This significant funding opportunity from the State will allow us to move forward with two projects that will mean long term cost savings for the City of Flint."

Municipalities are eligible for the grants if they are experiencing one or more conditions indicative of "probable financial stress," as defined by Public Act 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act.

Under the grant program, funding may be used to pay for specific projects, services, or strategies that move a city, village, or township toward financial stability. There was $8 million appropriated for the program with a $2 million cap, per local unit.

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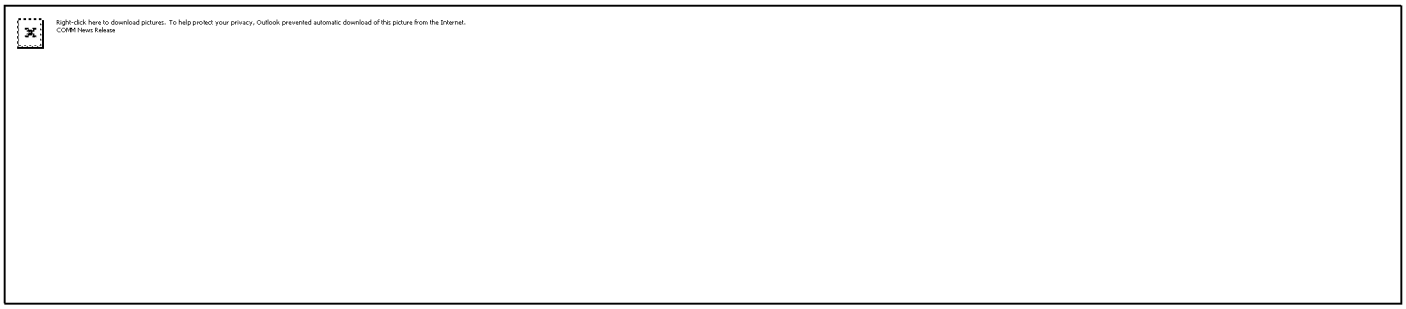
From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 1:58 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder: Comprehensive action plan will help Flint residents address water concerns



Contacts: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
517-335-6397

Brad Wurfel, 517-284-6713
Department of Environmental Quality

Jennifer Eisner, 517-230-9804
Department of Health and Human Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 2, 2015

Editor's Note: Click here for infographic and action plan.

Gov. Rick Snyder: Comprehensive action plan will help Flint residents address water concerns

Collaborative effort with state, federal and city leaders focuses on testing, assistance

FLINT, Mich. – Flint residents need to have access to safe, clean, water now and long into the future, Gov. Rick Snyder said, announcing a comprehensive action plan created with state, federal and city leaders to address concerns about drinking water.

The water leaving Flint's drinking water system is safe to drink, but some families with lead plumbing in their homes or service connections could experience higher levels of lead in the water that comes out of their faucets.

The action plan focuses on increasing water testing, offering additional precautions for families with lead plumbing in their homes, and providing long-term solutions to address the city's water infrastructure challenges. The plan was created at Snyder's direction by the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Health and Human Services (DHHS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the city of Flint.

"We are focused on helping ensure safe, clean, accessible drinking water and addressing and mitigating concerns and protecting public health," Snyder said. "Today's action plan builds upon ongoing work with local, state and federal agencies and our partnership with city and community leaders. Together, we are working to ensure that all Flint residents have accurate information and know that help is available to address potential problems."

The city and the state also are working together to gather more data to ensure the water that leaves the treatment plant as well as the water that arrives in Flint homes is safe for all residents. The plan includes:

- Testing in Flint public schools immediately to ensure that drinking water is safe, with testing also available at no cost to any other school in Flint.
- Offering free water testing to Flint residents to assure their drinking water is safe.
- Providing free water filters to residents.
- Expanding health exposure testing of individual homes.
- Accelerating corrosion controls in the Flint drinking water system.
- Accelerating water system improvements to address replacing lead service lines.
- Expediting the completion of the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline.
- Expanding a Safe Drinking Water Technical Advisory Committee to ensure the best technology, practices and science are being followed by adding an expert from the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development to the group.
- Naming Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as the Flint drinking water public health adviser.
- Boosting a comprehensive lead education program to make sure residents have detailed information about how to protect themselves and their homes.

Residents can have their water tested by calling 810-787-6537 and pressing 1, or emailing flintwater@cityofflint.com. The DEQ is covering the cost of this testing.

State leaders have been working closely with state and federal lawmakers to tap resources at all levels of government to address concerns.

State health experts said there has been an increase in elevated childhood blood lead levels in some specific communities. Initial analysis of MDHHS data found that blood lead levels of children in Flint have followed an expected seasonal trend. While this analysis for Flint as a whole remains true, a comprehensive and detailed review breaking down data by ZIP codes with the city revealed that MDHHS data is consistent with a study presented recently by Hurley Children's Hospital.

"While we cannot conclusively say that the water source change is the sole cause of the increase, this analysis supports our efforts as we take active steps to reduce all potential lead exposures in Flint," MDHHS Director Nick Lyon said. "As part of this, we are working closely with our public and private partners to provide Flint residents on MDHHS assistance programs with free water filters and inform families about the steps they can take to reduce all lead exposures in their home."

As a part of the action plan, National Sanitation Foundation certified water filters will be made available to Flint residents through emergency state funds and coordinated efforts with local community agencies and donors. Information about how to obtain the filters will soon be available.

"This action plan offers concrete steps we will take in a local, state and federal partnership to ensure all Flint residents have safe water to drink," DEQ Director Dan Wyant said. "The DEQ will work closely with the city to gather further data to ensure the water that leaves Flint's system as

well as the water that arrives in Flint homes is safe to drink."

Additional information is available at www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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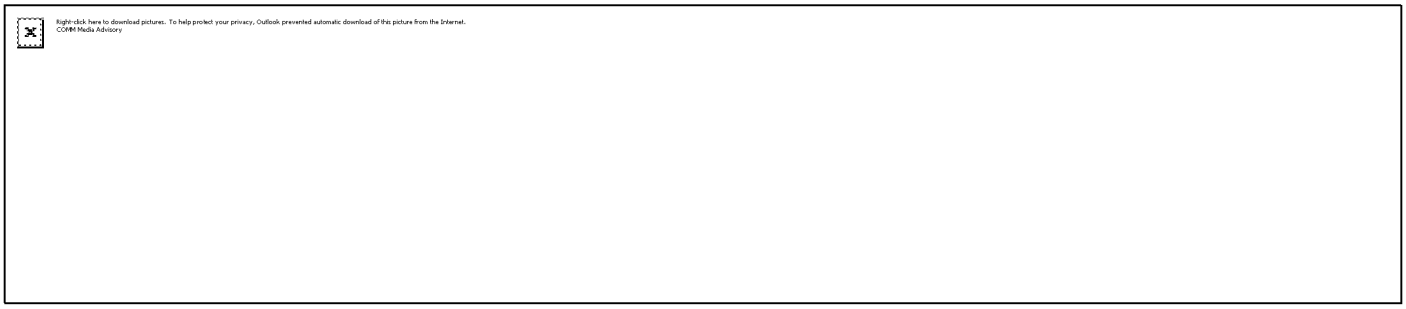
STAY CONNECTED:

This email was sent to minixc@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2015 6:13 PM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: Snyder Media Advisory for Thursday, Oct. 8



Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2015
Contact: Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray
Office: 517-335-6397

Editor's Note: This advisory is for media planning purposes only and not for publication.

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 10 a.m.
Gov. Rick Snyder will make an announcement regarding the Flint water system. He will be joined by Flint Mayor Dayne Walling, Director of Environmental Quality, Dan Wyant, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, Nick Lyon, Dr. Eden Wells, Chief Medical Executive at DHHS, and Ridgway White of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

A livestream option is also available at www.michigan.gov/snyderlive. If you wish to embed the event please visit http://new.livestream.com/snyderlive for more information.

Media must present valid press credentials on site.

Location:
Mott Foundation/Commerce Center Building – Conference Center, Ground Floor
519 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI

Thursday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m.
Snyder will offer remarks at the Celebration of Life Gala supporting Magen David Adom (Israel's national 911 and emergency services).

Media must present valid press credentials on site.

Location:
Adat Shalom Synagogue
29901 Middlebelt Rd.

Farmington Hills, MI

#####

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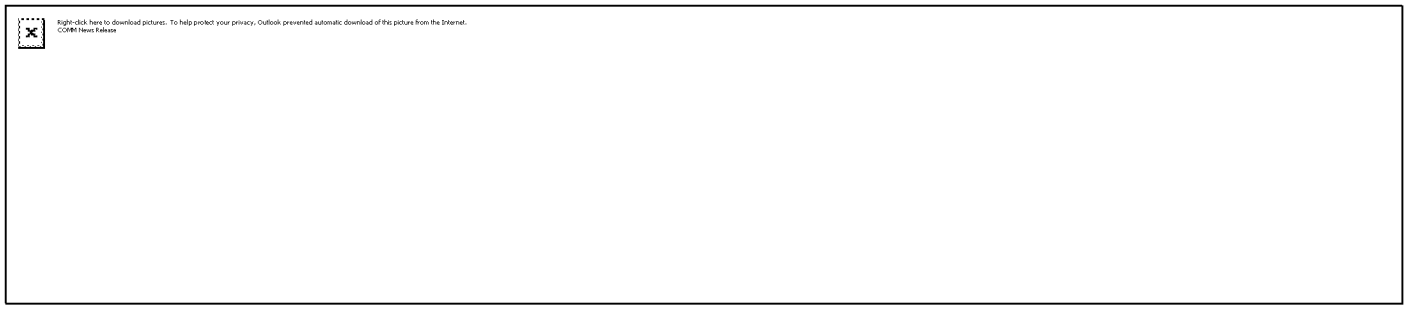
This email was sent to mirixc@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: GOV Newsroom <govnewsroom@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2015 10:23 AM
To: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Rick Snyder: Move back to Detroit water provides best protection for public health in Flint



CONTACTS:	
Sara Wurfel or Dave Murray Governor's Office: 517-335-6397 Brad Wurfel, 517-284-6713 Department of Environmental Quality Jennifer Eisner, 517-230-9804 Department of Health and Human Services Kathryn Thomas, 810-766-1734 Mott Foundation Jason Lorenz, 810-237-2039 City of Flint	**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015

Gov. Rick Snyder: Move back to Detroit water provides best protection for public health in Flint

State, city, Mott Foundation, join to fund switch until KWA is ready

FLINT, Mich. – Flint families and children will be better protected by reconnecting with the Great Lakes Water Authority as the source of the city's drinking water until the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is completed, Gov. Rick Snyder said.

Snyder said Thursday that he will request the state Legislature to provide half, or $6 million, of the $12 million needed to reconnect with the authority through next summer, when the KWA is expected to be completed. The Flint city government will provide $2 million and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has

committed $4 million.

“All Flint residents need clean, safe drinking water,” Snyder said. “The technical experts helping the city on its water advisory all agree this move back to the Great Lakes Water Authority provides the best public health protection for children and families. This effort today is the result of people coming together to solve a problem. I appreciate Detroit’s willingness to reconnect with Flint, the Mott Foundation’s generous commitment, and the dedication of all parties to come together to protect Flint families and children.”

Flint city leaders requested the state’s help to fund the reconnection and to assist with health and infrastructure issues. Flint’s move to the Great Lakes Water Authority is expected to cost about $1.3 million per month until the Karegnondi Water Authority is completed next summer.

“It’s heartening to know so many people are working at so many levels to bring safe, clean water back to Flint,” Mott Foundation President Ridgway White said. “We believe this transitional solution is the right and necessary thing to do, and we’re glad we could help the state and the city make it happen.”

The move to Detroit water, which is expected to carry, carries many public health benefits. As large bodies of water, the Great Lakes are naturally prone to fewer problems from large rain events and other runoff issues that can sometimes be present in shallower rivers. Additionally, the Great Lakes Water Authority water already has additional corrosion control, using phosphates to help coat the insides of pipes and limit lead from leaching into the water.

However, reconnecting with the authority will not completely resolve the city’s problem with lead service lines or aging infrastructure. It will take time for pipes in Flint to become coated with the phosphate corrosion control. Additionally, some households in the city could experience lead in their drinking water until all lead pipes and plumbing are replaced.

"Reconnecting to Detroit is the fastest way to deliver clean, safe water to Flint and stabilize the infrastructure system,” Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said. “I appreciate the state, the Mott Foundation, Detroit, and the county's participation in a solution for Flint's water problems. The health and safety of Flint's families, children and seniors is my top priority, and reconnecting to Detroit is a major step that the city could not take alone given budget constraints."

To best protect public health, Snyder said state and local authorities will continue to carry out steps outlined on Oct. 2 in a comprehensive action plan, including continued testing, the use of faucet filters and providing residents with accurate information about steps to eliminate lead exposure. The Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Human Services today also committed an additional $3.5 million for water filters, free lead testing through the state laboratory for Flint water customers, and hiring additional staff to conduct health exposure monitoring for lead in drinking water.

Free filters are available for current MDHHS clients at the 125 E. Union St. or 4809 Clio Road MDHHS office locations. For residents who are not currently enrolled in MDHHS assistance programs, free filters are available at the Genesee County Community Action Resource Department offices at 2727 Lippincott and 601 North Saginaw in Flint. Staff will be at all four locations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, to distribute filters and assist residents who have questions about proper installation. At the Lippincott location only, extended hours will be offered this weekend, including until 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Other good practices for residents concerned about lead include turning on the cold water tap and running the water until it’s as cold as it will go. Additionally, only use cold water for cooking, drinking and

especially mixing baby formula.

School test results released; more investigation planned

The state today also released the first results from its lead screening program in schools and homes. Of 37 total samples taken at 13 buildings, four samples spread over three buildings exceeded the federal action level of 15 parts per billion.

However, this sampling provides only an initial screen, and the state is committing to further testing water and inspecting plumbing at these schools. Until testing is complete, schools are advised to continue using bottled water and filtration as a precaution to protect children.

In addition, free testing is still available for any other Flint school, including daycares and Head Starts. Free testing is also available for any Flint resident.

Additional information, including more detailed lead screening results, is available at www.michigan.gov/flintwater.

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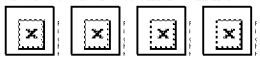
STAY CONNECTED:



This email was sent to minixc@michigan.gov on behalf of: The Executive Office of the Governor · 111 South Capitol Avenue · Lansing, MI 48909 · 517-335-7858

From: Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:22 PM
To: Roberts, John (DTMB) (RobertsJ9@michigan.gov);Duncan, Nancy (DTMB);McNeely, Jacques (DTMB);Starr, Scott (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Document for Review - Flint Water Plan Support
Attachments: Additional Support for Flint Water Improvement Plan, 9.14.15.pdf

fyi

Connie Minix
Assistant to State Budget Director John S. Roberts
111 S. Capitol Avenue, Romney Building, 6th Floor
Phone: 517.373.4978 | Cell: 517.897.3519
State Budget Office

From: Adamczyk, Lynne (GOV)
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:19 PM
To: Clayton, Stacie (GOV); Kennedy, Jordan (GOV); Rospond, Laurie (GOV); Brown, Eric (GOV); Dempkowski, Angela (Treasury); Pleyte, Beth (Treasury); Wurfel, Brad (DEQ); Pallone, Maggie (DEQ); Grijalva, Nancy (DCH); Thelen, Mary Beth (DEQ); Doyle, Maureen (Treasury); Minix, Connie (DTMB)
Subject: Document for Review - Flint Water Plan Support

Stacie, please have Harvey respond to this letter from Mayor Walling and send me a copy of the response letter.

Thanks,

Lynne

Lynne Adamczyk
Executive Assistant
Office of Governor Rick Snyder
517-373-3400 (o)
517-241-9412 (d)
adamczykl@michigan.gov

CITY OF FLINT

Dayne Walling
Mayor

September 14, 2015

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor, State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Call for Additional Support for Flint Water Improvement Plan

Dear Governor Snyder:

On behalf of the Flint community, I am writing with a renewed request for additional support to address Flint's water challenges to ensure that water is affordable and secure for everyone in Flint especially our vulnerable populations. I am asking for an additional $30 million in funds for Flint's infrastructure and a new healthy homes initiative.

Significant progress has been made throughout this year to increase water safety and quality and I thank you for the involvement of your office, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Department of Treasury. A majority of items in the Water Improvement Plan are completed or underway. Most importantly, Flint is now in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act due in large part to the installation of the new carbon filter. The infrastructure systems are being made more secure and efficient through the State grants. Now the City is committed to following the recommendation of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to optimize the treatment process, reduce corrosion and further minimize risks from lead.

The need to accelerate the City's capital improvement investments remains and has been further increased by the continued financial stress and legal issues. Previously I requested support for replacement or forgiveness of payment to the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund due to Flint's status as a distressed community and the gap in funding in the adopted capital improvement plan. I understand that the existing federal law does not allow the existing Drinking Water Revolving Loans that Flint is carrying to be forgiven in retrospect but the need still exists. Flint owes approximately $20 Million. One solution is for the State to grant a new $20 Million that is designed as forgivable from the start. Another solution is to provide

City of Flint • 1101 S. Saginaw Street • Flint, Michigan 48502
www.cityofflint.com • (810) 766 - 7346 • Fax: (810) 766 - 7218

equivalent funding through an expansion of the grant program to Michigan's Financially Distressed Cities, Villages and Townships with a supplemental budget amendment in cooperation with the State Legislature.

The community's heightened concern about lead leeching into the water from old service lines and home plumbing also needs to be addressed. We know that lead is an environmental contaminant and there have been many programs in place over the years to address sources in paint and pipes. Flint needs a new healthy homes initiative specifically focused on lead in water with $10 Million to start the process of replacing service lines for the most vulnerable households. Regardless of the source and treatment of Flint's water, this long term threat of lead in pipes needs to be removed in the interest of public health.

My approach continues to be to work with you and your appointed officials, State Senator Ananich, State Representatives Phelps and Neeley, Congressman Kildee, community groups, businesses, churches, foundations, the Flint City Council, and all of the City of Flint and State and Federal government personnel. We need every available expert and resource to address Flint's water problems.

Flint's safety is my top priority. Just as the City and State have worked together on public safety, we need additional support for fixing the water problems. We need $30 Million in new funds to repair and update the city-wide infrastructure and to assist households in becoming lead-free. The entire Flint community deserves sustainable, safe, secure and affordable water now and into the future. Thank you for the consideration Governor and I look forward to future discussions.

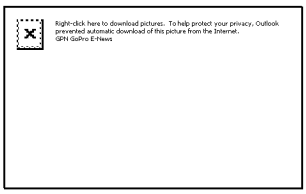
Sincerely,

Dayne Walling
Mayor, City of Flint

CC: Flint City Council President Joshua Freeman; Congressman Dan Kildee; State Senator Jim Ananich; State Representative Sheldon Neeley; State Representative Phil Phelps; EPA Regional Administrator Dr. Susan Hedman; Chief of Staff Dennis Muchmore

From: Government Product News <GovernmentProductNews@gpn.americancityandcounty.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 3:14 PM
To: Moody, Michael (DTMB)
Subject: Are nunchucks making a comeback?

[redacted] | Add to Safe Sender List



Government Weekly

December 17, 2015

California police showing interest in nunchucks as a restraint tool (with related video)

Governments are a key market for janitorial and sanitary supplies and equipment

Video interview: Andy Berke - From Chattanooga to the moon

Flint, Mich., mayor declares lead levels in water supply state of emergency

Top 20 states for speed traps

Cooperative purchasing trends in 2016 - Part 1

More vendors may rely on cooperative purchasing

Protective coating helps shield water treatment and other municipal facilities

For fleet administrators: Guide to telematics

Former NYPD assistant chief presents webinar on indoor wireless coverage

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Events

Jan 6-8, 2016
NCCAE 2016 January Meeting
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 8-10, 2016
Women in Government 22nd Annual State Directors' Conference
Tampa Bay, Fla.

More Events

Webinars

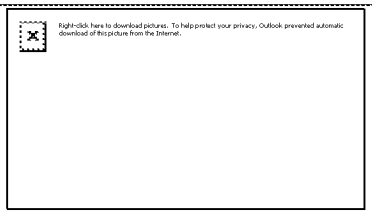
A selection of webinars produced in association with American City and County of interest to city, county and state officials.

More Webinars

News

California police showing interest in nunchucks as a restraint tool (with related video)

By Michael Keating

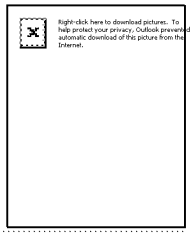


Law enforcement is taking another look at nunchucks, which were in wide use by police in the 1980s. The Anderson Police Department in rural Northern California has added nunchucks, also called nunchucku, to its arsenal of non-lethal weapons.
FULL ARTICLE

Governments are a key market for janitorial and sanitary supplies and equipment

By Michael Keating

Governments buy a lot of of janitorial, sanitation and cleaning products. Distributor sales of these products to municipal, county, state and federal government agencies totaled about $2.02 billion in the most recent year that data was available.
FULL ARTICLE



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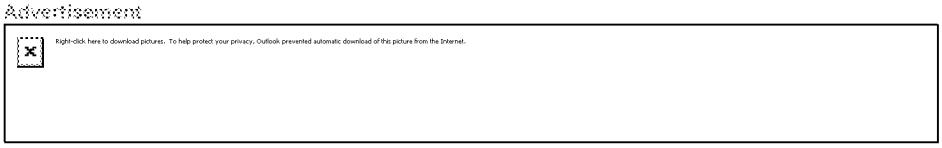
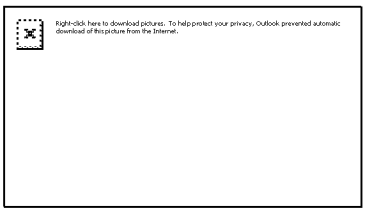


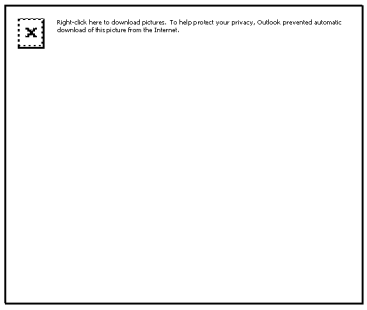
Video interview: Andy Berke - From Chattanooga to the moon

By Derek Prall



For his extraordinary leadership and dedication to innovation, Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke has been named *American City & County*'s 2015 Municipal Leader of the Year. This article and video sheds light on his accomplishments.
FULL ARTICLE

Advertisement



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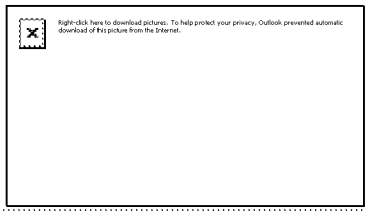
Flint, Mich., mayor declares lead levels in water supply state of emergency

By Stephanie Toone

Flint, Mich., Mayor Karen Weaver sought federal support to aid in the city's toxic water issues, which could harm residents - particularly children.

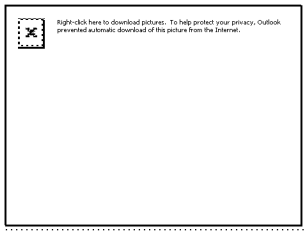
FULL ARTICLE



Gallery

Top 20 states for speed traps

By Stephanie Toone



Just in time for the holiday traveling season, the National Motorists Association (NMA) has released its report warning of 20 states notorious for speed traps.

VIEW GALLERY

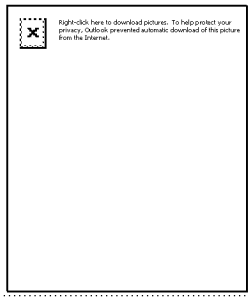
Coop Solutions

Cooperative purchasing trends in 2016 - Part 1

By Michael Keating

Marcheta Gillespie is director of procurement in Tucson, Ariz. She offers her views to GPN on cooperative purchasing trends in the coming year.

FULL ARTICLE



More vendors may rely on cooperative purchasing

By Michael Keating

Onvia predicts continued growth of cooperative purchasing through 2016. The firm has issued a report that highlights a variety of cooperative purchasing trends.

FULL ARTICLE

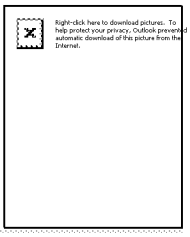
Products

Protective coating helps shield water treatment and other municipal facilities

By Government Product News staff

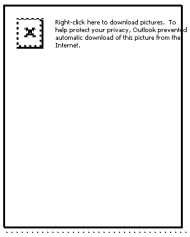
Dura-Plate 6100 is a protective coating product. It shields structures against corrosion in municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities.

FULL ARTICLE



For fleet administrators: Guide to telematics

By Government Product News staff



"Telematics for Fleet Managers" will help equipment managers find a telematics starting point and define data sources.

FULL ARTICLE

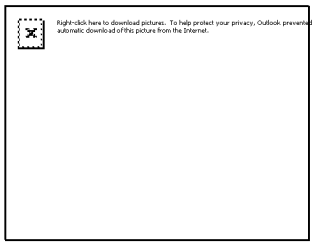
IWCE Expo

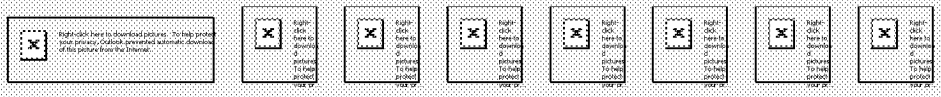
Former NYPD assistant chief presents webinar on indoor wireless coverage

By Stacey Ortick

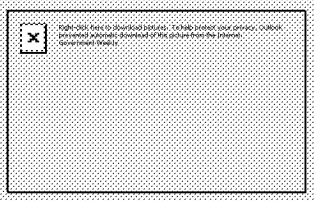
American City & County's sister brand, IWCE's online College of Technology, is offering a webinar on indoor wireless coverage on demand. The webinar features Chuck Dowd, former assistant chief at the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and former FirstNet board member.

FULL ARTICLE





ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER



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From: Grayson, Tanya <tgrayson@nasact.org>
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2016 11:04 AM
To: Moody, Michael (DTMB)
Subject: Weekly News

NASACT National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers

WASHINGTON UPDATE & WEEKLY NEWS

There will be no Washington Update this week as Congress is on their Winter Recess.

Thanks and have a wonderful week.

Tanya Grayson
NASACT Washington Office

If you would like to have an article/issue highlighted for the membership, please send it to NASACT Policy Analyst Neal Hutchko at [redacted]. Please include the web link to your article for formatting purposes and for proper source citation.

CALIFORNIA

Treasurer's Office releases green bonds funding report
The Orange County Breeze

State Treasurer John Chiang on Monday released an initial report on the state's spending of nearly $300 million in proceeds for environmental purposes, financed by a first-ever sale of "green bonds." The 2014 general obligation bonds, tax-exempt securities backed by the full faith and credit of the state of California, completely or partially pay for a series of beneficial projects. More analysis, fine-tuning and market research needs to be done before a green bond market can really take off, said Chiang. "Greater use of green bonds could provide a secure and growing funding stream for governments and private industries to meet the challenge of curbing climate pollution," he said…

DELAWARE

Delaware CAFR released
Press Release

The State of Delaware's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 has been released. The CAFR includes a report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance, with associated audit findings…

HAWAII

Audit alleges $155M investment in Hawaii Medicaid enrollment system failed to meet goal
Pacific Business News

A state audit released Wednesday alleges a federal and state $155 million investment into Hawaii's Medicaid enrollment system does not meet federal goals of the Affordable Care Act…

IOWA

State audit finds more than $134,000 misspent by Hornick, Iowa, city officials
The Sioux City Journal

City officials in Hornick did not properly account for more than $134,000 they spent between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2014, according to a report released by the state auditor Tuesday. State Auditor Mary Mosiman said at least two former city clerks, Janet Ronfeldt and Rebecca Chan-Nelson, are connected to the improper and unsupported disbursements, which included payments to former mayors and City Council members…

State investigation of Garwin Ambulance Service checking account
Radio Iowa

The state auditor's office has reviewed the checking account for the ambulance service in a small eastern Iowa town and is raising questions about more than $13,550 worth of spending and undeposited cash…

KENTUCKY

State audit of Morgan Fiscal Court finds 'abuse of power'
WKYT – West Liberty

A state audit has concluded that hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal disaster aid are unaccounted for in Morgan County. Outgoing state Auditor Adam Edelen's report, released Monday, found evidence of "waste, fraud and abuse" in the aftermath of a 2012 tornado that devastated West Liberty. The audit found the possibility of abuse was so high it couldn't rely on the county's financial records…

LOUISIANA

Legislative Auditor claims economic development district overpaid Algiers district by millions
The Advocate

The state Department of Revenue incorrectly applied a formula and as a result overpaid the Algiers Economic Development District by $6.9 million since 2004, according to a report released Monday by Legislative Auditor Daryl Purpera…

Louisiana OMV audit: Two employees allegedly steal $200,000-plus from customers in 3 years
The Advocate

Two employees at the state's Office of Motor Vehicles allegedly stole more than $200,000 over three years in customer payments before being arrested and fired, according to a new audit of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections…

Audit: South Louisiana Community College's inadequate collection procedures leaves $2.9 million debt from students
The Advocate

Students owe South Louisiana Community College $2.9 million as a result of the college's

inadequate collection procedures, a recent Louisiana Legislative Auditor's report says…

MASSACHUSETTS

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg announces pilot program for college savings accounts
The Metro West Daily News

State Treasurer Deb Goldberg, alongside legislators, business executives and community leaders, announced her office's new, first-of-its-kind pilot program for college savings accounts. Events were held at the Jacob Hiatt Magnet School and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce on the college savings program named "$eedMA." "Access to an affordable higher education is imperative to strengthening Massachusetts' economy," said Goldberg. "I cannot think of a city more uniquely positioned to take on the leadership role of this college savings pilot program than Worcester. In the upcoming months, we will develop a standard that we hope can be implemented across the state."…

MICHIGAN

Independent report confirms state made mistakes, but not "intentional" ones in Flint water crisis
Michigan Radio

Preliminary findings from Michigan's independent Auditor General give more details about the Flint water crisis. In a letter to State Senator Jim Ananich, Auditor General Doug Ringler answers several key questions about the state's role in the decision to switch to the Flint River and how Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality dealt with those decisions. Ringler's review confirms it was the state appointed emergency manager who made the decision to switch to the Flint River, not city leaders. It also confirmed that Detroit's water system made offers to keep Flint as a water customer, but that a different emergency manager rejected those offers…

MISSOURI

Auditor Galloway releases Joplin municipal court audit, calls for improved data security, case tracking
Press Release

State Auditor Nicole Galloway today released an audit of the Joplin municipal court, highlighting the need for stronger oversight of clerks' actions and increased measures to ensure the security of the court's electronic data. The audit identified 120 users that had improper access to the court's electronic data. Eighty-nine of those users were former employees who no longer worked for the city or the court. The report also found the court fails to comply with state law or Joplin's city code in assessing fees totaling approximately $145,000…

NEW JERSEY

Audit Finds State Failed to Post Unclaimed Assets
NJTV News

A state audit has found New Jersey's Unclaimed Property Administration – or the UPA – failed to put more than a quarter-billion dollars in properties on its site. It's an amount that rivals the current Powerball jackpot. "They're not going to see that in the online system for whatever reason. When it was transferred over in the mid 2000s those items were improperly coded to only be part of the newsprint that was put out and not be part of the constant online system," Stephen Eells, NJ state auditor, said…

DOT Audit released
Press Release

An audit of the Department of Transportation's Maintenance and Operations program has found a potential opportunity for increasing reimbursements involving damage to state property by motor vehicle accidents…

Court Information Technology Funds audited
Press Release

An audit has found that internal controls over the expenditure process could be improved…

OREGON

Oregon Employment Department Audit: Computer Programs for Unemployment Tax Returns and Claims Need Attention
Press Release

The Oregon Employment Department computer programs correctly process most individual unemployment insurance claims and associated employer tax returns, but these outdated computer programs should be replaced. Additional work is also needed to improve security, processes for changing computer code, and disaster recovery capability…

TENNESSEE

Comptroller's Hotline Helps Protect Taxpayers
Press Release

The Tennessee Comptroller's Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline is marking a record achievement in its effort to help uncover the misuse of government funds and property.

Confidential tips to the hotline helped to identify a record $1,112,500 in confirmed thefts, shortages and questioned costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. These tips were reported through telephone calls and online submissions to t

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Subject: MEDC Daily: GM to invest $5.4B in U.S., Michigan plants

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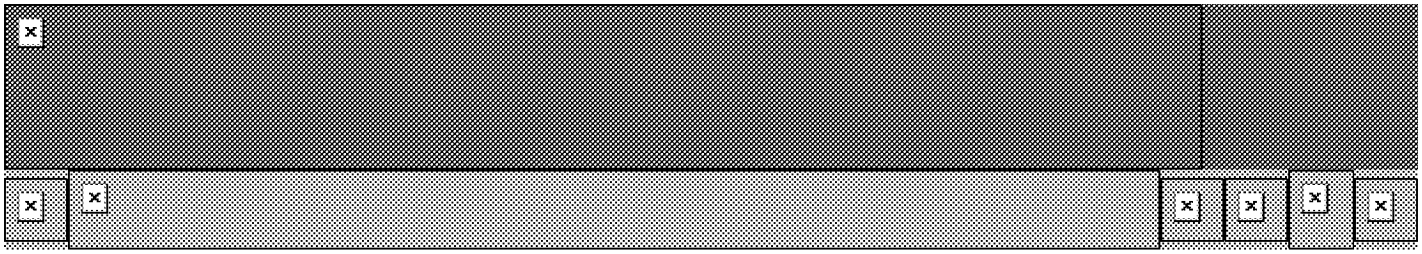

Growth Opportunities

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Talent

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Beyond Michigan

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To: Pelfery, Shelley (DTMB)
Subject: Daily Skimm: You smell like pine needles

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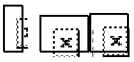
Skimm for December 16th

Skimm'd over sushi and politics

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I find you very screwable" — Barbara Walters beating around the bush with Bradley Cooper. Get it, Babs.

SKIMM THIS 

DECK THE POLLS

THE STORY

At their fifth debate last night, GOP candidates spread hope and good holiday cheer over talks about terrorism and national security crises.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

That this was the first debate since the terror attacks in Paris, and this month's shooting in San Bernardino, CA. And that it kept viewers riveted over things like "metadata." Other table topics included how much the US gov. should be able to spy on American citizens, what to do with Syrian refugees , and how to generally deal with the hot mess that is ISIS.

BREAK IT DOWN.

Gov. John Kasich (OH)…as in the one whose daughter just wants everyone to get along. He wants to know why global leaders just went to Paris to talk about climate change when they should have been figuring out how to take down ISIS.

Carly Fiorina…as in the one who's "been called every B-word in the book." She once stopped a truck full of equipment for the NSA — because why not? — and thinks Silicon Valley would help the US gov. with cyber security if the gov. says "please" and "thank you."

Sen. Marco Rubio (FL)…as in the one who thinks Americans who join ISIS don't need to be read their Miranda rights. He questioned why Cruz once voted to rein in the NSA. But he doesn't want to talk about it too much because…Shhh classified.

Dr. Ben Carson…as in the one who started with a moment of silence. And kept it going all night. After complaining about not getting enough time, he got asked whether he'd be "OK with the deaths of thousands of innocent children and civilians" in the fight against ISIS. It got awkward.

Donald Trump…as in the one who wants to peneirate…the internet. In between telling Bush that his campaign is a massive fail, Trump also had a bone to pick with CNN moderators, who he said were too busy pitting him, Bush, and everyone else against each other.

Sen. Ted Cruz (TX)…as in the one who got put in timeout after talking out of turn. He really likes calling ISIS 'the bad guys,' and says the moderate rebels the US is trying to arm in the Mideast are "purple unicorns." Which apparently don't exist. Dreams, crushed.

Fmr. Gov. Jeb Bush (FL)…as in the one who finally stood up to the Trump in the room. He says Trump can't just insult his way into the White House, and the US needs "serious" leadership.

Gov. Chris Christie (NJ)…as in the one who wants to remind you that the world is real scary right now. And he thinks President Obama is a "feckless weakling" for his strategy against ISIS. He wants a no-fly zone over Syria, and thinks the president should be someone who used to be a federal prosecutor. PS: He used to be a federal prosecutor.

Sen. Rand Paul (KY)…as in the one who thinks Trump's proposal to crush ISIS by killing their family members is a little thing called 'unconstitutional.' He also thinks Christie's proposal for a no-fly zone in Syria would create World War III. Ain't nobody got time for that.

theSKIMM

Welcome to what may be the biggest issue of this election: national security. Last night was the last GOP debate this year, and the one that felt the most like a job interview. Since 'keep me safe' is high up on the list of things everyone cares about.

SKIMM THIS

REPEAT AFTER ME…

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT…

LA. Yesterday, public schools there were closed following a "credible threat." Officials later said 'false alarm,' it appeared to be a hoax. With everyone on edge following the Paris attacks last month and the San Bernardino shootings just two weeks ago, LA officials didn't respond kindly to getting a threatening email from someone claiming to be an extremist who planned to target schools with explosives. Cue

schools closing. NYC officials said they got a similar email, but decided it was a hoax and kept schools open. There's an investigation looking into where the threat came from.

WHAT TO SAY WHEN EVERYONE'S GETTING SICK AT WORK...

Something in the water? There is in Flint, Michigan. Earlier this week, the mayor there declared a state of emergency to bring attention to the city's water problems. Last year, Flint left the Detroit water system to save some cash. The city started taking water from the Flint River, and said the move would be temporary. But people started saying their water looked and smelled weird. Not good. And then children's blood tests started showing elevated levels of lead. Really not good. Especially because lead can affect brain development and cause behavioral changes. A few months ago, the city said 'our bad,' and switched back to the Detroit water system. But some people are saying 'too late,' the damage is done. The mayor's hoping a state of emergency will mean federal help. Paging Erin Brockovich.

SKIMM THIS

WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU FINALLY DECIDE ON A PLAN IN THE GROUP TEXT...

That's my #Squad. Yesterday, Saudi Arabia announced it's forming a squad of mostly Muslim countries to fight against terrorism. The coalition includes places like Egypt, Qatar, the UAE, Turkey, Malaysia, and Pakistan. Their goal: An "Islamic military alliance" to hate on terrorists. They'd also really like to make sure everyone knows that all Muslims are not extremists, and that they want ISIS gone just as much as everyone else. Who's not part of Saudi Arabia's #squadgoals? Iran. That's because Saudi Arabia and Iran - top powers in the Mideast - like each other as much as you like getting socks for Christmas. And they have very different ideas for how things like the Syrian Civil War should end up. This new coalition is a big step in getting Arab countries more involved in the US-led fight against terror, especially ISIS. Go team.

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WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR NIECE WHO JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT SANTA...

It's OK. The Nazi gold train isn't real either. For decades, legend's had it that at the end of WWII, a Nazi train carrying stolen art and gold disappeared into a tunnel system in Poland. Then, earlier this year, two "hobbyist treasure hunters" said the Nazi train was real and that they knew where it was. After almost four months of some serious investigating, a team of scientists are saying 'yeah, no.' But the hobbyists aren't giving up. They say it's definitely there and you should believe the hype. K.

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WHAT TO SAY TO YOUR FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL...

Lily van der Woodsen is having a tough week.

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THING TO KNOW

Kristaps Porzingis: The Latvian NBA rookie who's winning over NY Knicks fans, one three-pointer at a time. Nicknames include 'Zingis Khan' and 'the Latviathan.' PS, it's pronounced kri-stops pour-zin-gas. PPS, he's taller than you.

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12 DAYS OF SKIMM'NESS

On the twelfth day of Skimm'ness..???.you remembered you need something for your boss.

- ???These blankets will get you a raise. The only question you have to ask is: to monogram, or not to monogram? ???
- Oh by the way, here are gifts for everyone else on your list.
- *PS: this is an affiliate partner, which means if you buy it, theSkimm gets some cash money. Thanks.*

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Aloha. Last day to win a trip to Hawaii. This is not a drill. The more you share, the better chance you have to win. Details on sharing here. Share using the button below.

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Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 8:16 AM
To: Howell, Thomas (CEPI)
Subject: Calley Signs EO To Aide Employment Of Those With Disabilities
Attachments: Nov18.htm; 151118dayplan.htm

EO duly noted. Includes individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

From: Gongwer News Service [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 10:07 PM
To: Purdy, Laurie (CEPI) <purdyl@michigan.gov>
Subject: Michigan Report, Wednesday, November 18, 2015

Michigan Report for Wednesday, November 18, 2015

DPS Coalition Hopeful Legislation Can Clear Senate This Year

Clinton Encourages Public Service For Good Of National, International Future

Fracking Opponents Still Way Short Of Ballot Access

AG Loses Appeal On Rate Recovery Factors Involving PSC, Utilities

Gaming Director Seeks Stronger Laws After Embezzlement Charges

Dem Forms Committee To Challenge Bizon

Kildee Pushes More Testing, Disclosure In New Federal Lead/Copper Rule

Calley Signs EO To Aide Employment Of Those With Disabilities

Schuette Calls For Halting Syrian Refugee Process Pending Review

Unemployment Remains At 5% In October

Civil Rights Commission Urges Against Backlash From Terrorist Attacks

Capital Notebook

Campaign Notes

Capital Notebook

Supplemental Event Planner

Calendars

Day Planner

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Volume #54, Report #228 -- Wednesday, November 18, 2015

DPS Coalition Hopeful Legislation Can Clear Senate This Year

Although the conversation and subsequent action has not happened as quickly as those with the Coalition for the Future of Detroit Schoolchildren had originally hoped, leaders of the group are still optimistic bills will be introduced and clear the Senate in the nine days left of session.

On Wednesday, coalition leaders held a press conference in Lansing to preview some findings from a Skillman Foundation-commissioned study looking at what it will take to advance the recommendations put together by the group last March.

Tonya Allen, a coalition co-chair and Skillman Foundation president and CEO, said the study was commissioned about three months ago.

Other coalition leaders at the press conference included John Rakolta Jr., who is also CEO of Walbridge; David Hecker, president of AFT Michigan; Clark Durant, co-founder of Cornerstone Schools; and former Rep. Thomas Stallworth, who is an advisor for the group. All said they were hopeful legislation would be introduced in the Senate on or around December 1, when the Legislature returns for its nine remaining days of session for 2015.

Mr. Stallworth said there are a variety of concerns that have led to the bills not being introduced. He said the coalition is working tirelessly with all involved with a goal to get the introduced legislation as close to the coalition's recommendations as possible.

For example, the coalition recommended Detroit Public Schools to immediately go back to a local elected school board. However, some legislators want a transition period and recommended seven years. { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } made a similar recommendation in his plan for the district.

Mr. Stallworth said that is too long and will not get support from Democratic members. So, looking for an agreeable transitioning period is one point of negotiations. He said it is important to those involved that the package be bipartisan.

Another is the Detroit Education Commission. The coalition would like the Detroit mayor to have the majority of appointees. Legislation that has been drafted grants the governor the majority of the members, in line with his recommendations.

Mr. Stallworth also said the process should not be used as a wedge against collective bargaining rights. He was not specific, but said there were some issues regarding collective bargaining that have been mostly solved.

Mr. Stallworth said he would like to see something through the Legislature by February. He said some are saying March, but that makes him "real nervous."

Mr. Rakolta acknowledged that other topics, like the DEC and transitioning periods, are being negotiated. But said the real problem legislators do not have a clear answer on is the money.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } is calling for $715 million during 10 years.

Mr. Rakolta said the state has a choice: to figure out how to make the money portion work, or allow the schools to collapse, a bankruptcy equivalent. He said the state would be on the hook for much of the debt if that happened.

He also said it's up to legislators to decide where that money comes from, School Aid Fund or otherwise.

"This is what they were elected to solve for us," he said. "They need to put their own election below this decision. They have to come to the debate with what they really believe, in their heart, and what's really right for the state of Michigan, and let the chips fall where they may."

Ms. Allen said she is optimistic legislators will "see the light of day on this." And she said she has been impressed with leadership from both parties.

Ms. Allen also said philanthropy will not be used to pay off the debt that was mismanaged by state and local government. She said it is projected to take $350 million at least during the 10 years after a fix is put in place to get schools where they need to be.

She also said students in Detroit need many wrap around services, and that is where the Skillman Foundation and others will put their money.

Mr. Stallworth said there is some pushback from legislators asking why their districts should have to pay $50 per pupil toward Detroit. Mr. Stallworth said the plan actually is a bailout for the state, which would be on the hook for hundreds of millions in DPS pension obligations if the district were to financially collapse.

"Quite frankly, this is a little like Titanic heading for the iceberg," he said.

Ms. Allen said if nothing is done, the cost will be $300 per student.

While the coalition has waited for action in the Legislature, it has also looked at what it will take to move to a more coherent system of schools. The study commissioned by the Skillman Foundation and done by a Boston based company, Parthenon EY, looks at just that.

The full study is not yet released, but will be in parts to legislators as questions come up. The full study will be released in 2016.

The study showed a need to recruit and develop 10,000 teachers and 350 principals during the next 10 years in both traditional and charter schools.

That will be a challenge because DPS is paying its teachers less than surrounding districts. The average salary for Detroit teachers is $57,800 per year, with new teachers earning about $33,000 per year.

"Ask yourself how a person lives on $33,000 a year. Being a college graduate," Mr. Rakolta said.

The average salary for Oak Park teachers is $60,900 per year, $75,500 in Allen Park and $69,100 in Dearborn Heights, according to data from the coalition.

Ms. Allen said the DPS salaries are not competitive and it is about finding and retaining talent in the district.

On how this relates to the legislation expected to help solve the DPS issue, Mr. Rakolta said the district currently does not have enough money to pay its teachers, let alone hire new teachers. He said if the debt situation is solved, the other problems can be more easily addressed.

The study also found a strong and unbiased emphasis on balancing the number of quality classroom seats in different neighborhoods with the neighborhood's population.

Data provided showed the 7th and 4th Detroit City Council districts had thousands of more children in their population than available seats.

And in the 5th and 6th city council districts, classroom capacity is significantly higher than the population.

The final finding of the study shared was a projection that the implementation of the coalition's "roadmap" would lead to "substantial" academic gains estimated at a 25 percent increase in proficiency during the next 10 years. The coalition said this would "rival the most successful education reforms."

Clinton Encourages Public Service For Good Of National, International Future

EAST LANSING - The reason you should do public service is because we're going to share the world whether we like it or not, and only we can determine the terms on which the sharing proceeds, former President Bill Clinton told a crowd of more than 500 students, faculty and state public servants prior to receiving the first ever Spartan Statesmanship Award for Distinguished Public Service.

The award was given to Mr. Clinton by his good friend and Spartan alumnus, former Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard, who also debuted the first Jim Blanchard Public Service Forum at his alma mater.

Mr. Clinton - who blended his speech with stories from his time in office with the wisdom he gained from every experience - also urged people to consider public service even if they never run for office, saying it is an integral part of being a citizen.

"I would argue that in the world we live in today, we all need to think of some way to do public service, even as private citizens, to advance the public good," he said.

But to do that, Mr. Clinton said, individuals had to conquer four basic principles. The first, he said, was to have "an almost obsessive interest in people." He said every person has a story to tell, and every person wants their story to be heard.

"A lot of the protest groups you see around the world today ... are from people who feel they are not seen, much less heard," he said.

To that end, he reminisced about his experience in parts of central and east Africa, where he learned that people do not respond to the question of how they are doing with "I'm fine," but rather what translates to "I see you," even if they have never met that person before.

"It immediately confers dignity and respect, and makes a statement not just to the person who is hearing it but who is saying it," Mr. Clinton said. "Even the people we know who are the most enlightened and most concerned about people overlook the fact that they're just people."

The second important thing to not when undertaking a career in public service, Mr. Clinton said, was to decide what your purpose is, and to remember that "the larger purpose should be you empower people to live the best story of their lives."

Similarly, the third component is to ensure the policies you adopt are adopted to meet your purpose, but to also be sure you hear out other perspectives in the process.

"Sometimes we think we know what the best thing to do is, but it's not," Mr. Clinton said, going on to quote a book that concluded diverse, big groups always make better decisions than small, homogeneous groups. "If you get into public service and decide what you want to do, you've got to come up with the right policy, and you've got to have continuous feedback."

Finally, the former president urged, is for individuals to care about politics in the broadest sense, because getting too caught up in one section of politics overlooks another side of it.

"If you get the people, purpose, policy and politics right, you can make a huge difference in the world, even if you never get elected to anything," Mr. Clinton said. "There are very few final victories or defeat (in public service, but you have to keep bending the arc of history in the right direction."

He commented briefly on current public affairs - namely the terrorist attacks in Paris. He said he wants ISIS, the terrorist group that claimed responsibility for the attacks, defeated as much as anyone else, but it is also important for public servants of any age to remember the good that his happening too.

"The job of public service, even by a private citizen ... is to pick some space, no matter how small, and do public good," he said. "What works is creative cooperation - constant conflict is a political loser."

And Mr. Blanchard agreed.

"(It's) so polarizing and difficult to run for office, to serve in office, and of course I think term limits make it even harder here because people are always thinking about what office they can run for," Mr. Blanchard said, speaking to reporters after the speech. "But the need for good people in politics has never been greater, so I'm glad and happy and proud Bill Clinton talked about that, because the need for good people in politics, in both parties, of all ideologies, has never been greater."

He said he expects to extend the award to not just those who are serving or who have served in political office, but also to journalists and authors.

"I think oftentimes people who write about politics, government, about public service, can be more instructive than those who are living the life," he said.

Mr. Blanchard said he was impressed by how worldly Mr. Clinton still is, that he's still in public service despite not holding an official title. But more than that, Mr. Blanchard said he hopes the speech energized some of the students that were in the crowd.

"I always found when I heard an interesting speaker of prominence when I was young, it would make me more interested in reading about it, following things, getting involved, and I think that's our goal here is to encourage public service in a number of fashions," he said.

Mr. Clinton concluded his roughly 45-minute speech by quoting the author of the book The Social Conquest of Earth, E.O. Wilson. In short, he said the book was about the history of all life on the planet, and how the most successful species were ants, termites and people, because they are the greatest cooperators. But while people were the greatest cooperators, they were also the greatest risk, he said, because of their consciousness and conscience.

"Wilson, who spent most of his life warning us about species destruction ... says 'On balance, I'm optimistic because of our consciousness and our conscience,'" Mr. Clinton said. "The reason you should do public service is because we're going to share the world whether we like it or not and only we can determine the terms on which the sharing proceeds. "

Fracking Opponents Still Way Short Of Ballot Access

Supporters of a measure to ban hydraulic fracturing to extract oil and natural gas in the state are still hoping to be on the ballot in 2016, but they announced at a Lansing press conference Wednesday that they have again fallen short.

With the first six months passed, and some of their signatures now expiring, the Committee to Ban Fracking in Michigan announced it had collected 150,000 signatures. The group must have signatures from at least 252,523 registered voters for the proposal to go before the Legislature.

"This is more than doubled in size from two years ago, LuAnn Kozma, campaign director, said. But she acknowledged it was still more than 100,000 signatures short of the required minimum and substantially short of the number most petition drives consider necessary to overcome invalid signatures.

The Michigan Oil and Gas Association said the announcement shows the lack of support for a ban.

"It is clear that more Michigan's citizens welcome the benefits of U.S. produced energy, including the natural gas and oil produced right here in Michigan by Michigan companies that are committed to making these energy resources available for use, while also keeping the environment and communities safe," the group said in a statement. "We are pleased that efforts to engage the public around the benefits of hydraulic fracturing have been successful in turning voters away again from signing petitions that would put a hydraulic fracturing ban on the ballot next year."

Ms. Kozma said the key hurdle the group faces is the state's stringent petition requirements. "We have enough signatures to get on the ballot in Colorado," she said.

The group is going to continue to collect signatures with hope of having enough by the June 1 filing deadline for the 2016 ballot, but is also working to attract more volunteers, Ms. Kozma said.

"If a group of 500 people can gather 150,000 signatures on a shoestring, a group of 1,500 with more financial support could get us over the top," she said.

Mr. Kozma said the group had paid for some signatures, but was working more with individual circulators than with a circulation firm.

The group also announced backing from the Michigan Nurses Association, as well as polling that showed opposition to fracking growing in the state. The Public Policy Polling survey conducted November 5-8 showed 49 percent supporting the ban and 36 percent opposed. In a May poll, 44 percent supported the ban and 39 percent opposed.

The polls did not list margins of error, but the November poll had 624 respondents and May had 855.

AG Loses Appeal On Rate Recovery Factors Involving PSC, Utilities

The attorney general failed to show clear and satisfactory evidence that the Public Service Commission, in approving three separate amended rate recovery cases, had unlawfully or

unreasonably issued its orders in each case, the Court of Appeals found in a case released Wednesday.

In a published per curiam decision by Judge Michael Gadola, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=108801&locid=1" } and { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=109001&locid=1" }, the court determined the PSC did in fact act in a lawful manner when Consumers Energy, Michigan Gas and DTE each applied in for approval of their respective recovery plans for the period ending in March 2015 (COA { HYPERLINK "http://publicdocs.courts.mi.gov:81/OPINIONS/FINAL/COA/20151117_C322031_36_322031.OPN.PDF" \t "blank" }).

In December 2013, each company had applied - in their own case - to the PSC for approval of a base recovery factor at one rate with the authority to adjust the recovery factor on the basis of a contingency mechanism that it later needed when, in March 2014, each company sought a temporary order to approve an increased recovery factor.

Recovery factors, and by extension recovery plans, are sought by a utility when they provided more energy than was originally predicted for a particular season and therefore did not charge ratepayers an adequate amount to provide such energy. In Consumers' case, for instance, it needed a higher recovery factor as a result of increases in the demand for natural gas caused in part by colder-than-normal temperatures in Michigan and other parts of the nation.

But the attorney general and Residential Ratepayers Consortium filed, and were granted, petitions to intervene in each case, arguing the Commission did not have the authority to approve the increased factor on a temporary basis and should not approve requests by each company to roll the projected under-recovery from the period covered by the 2013-2014 plan into the recovery plan for the 2014-2015 plan year.

Still, the PSC went ahead and granted the utilities' requests and issued a temporary order approving the increased recovery factor, stating the record supporting a finding that natural gas prices had risen significantly since, in the Consumers Energy case, the company filed its initial application.

And the court sided with the PSC in the joint case.

"Although the Legislature apparently contemplated that a utility might file a 'revised gas cost recovery plan' after the commission entered a final order in the contested case, it did not require the utility to wait until the commission enters a final order before submitting a revised plan or proposing changes to a plan under review," the court wrote. "In addition, the reference to a revised plan does not require the utility begin anew; a revised plan can be a previously submitted plan with specific proposed revisions.

Therefore, a utility can propose changes or revisions to an application before the commission approves, disapproves, or amends the plan in a final order," the court found.

It also determined the roll-in method used by the PSC was indeed lawful.

Gaming Director Seeks Stronger Laws After Embezzlement Charges

The state needs stricter controls over charity gaming to prevent abuse of those fundraisers, Gaming Board Director Richard Kalm said after announcing embezzlement and gaming charges against a former teacher and coach.

Timothy Phipps of Flint, former Kearsley High School physical education teacher and baseball coach, was arraigned November 13 on charges related to charity gaming events he ran or coordinated between 2009 and 2013.

Mr. Phipps allegedly ran, or paid others to run, 49 charity games on behalf of various schools in the district over that period. Investigators said 22 of those were approved based on forged signatures from school officials. And he allegedly pocketed some $17,000 of the proceeds from those games.

"He was able to get 22 millionaire party licenses by misrepresenting himself and allegedly raised thousands of dollars for his personal use," Mr. Kalm said. "We need stronger laws to make sure this doesn't happen in charity gaming. Criminal and civil penalties are necessary to weed out unscrupulous people and prevent them from tainting the good works and fundraising capabilities of legitimate charities."

Mr. Kalm said none of the school officials are implicated in the scheme, but Mr. Phipps faces up to five years in prison and fines of three times the amount he allegedly took for the embezzlement charge and up to six months in jail and $1,000 in fines for each of two charges of unlawful use of charity gaming proceeds.

Dem Forms Committee To Challenge Bizon

Democrat and Calhoun County Commissioner Jim Haadsma of Battle Creek created a campaign committee to run in the 62nd House District this week, where { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=355401&locid=1" } (R-Battle Creek) is serving his first term.

Mr. Haadsma on Wednesday would not say he is running for the seat just yet and said he will make an official announcement when he decides.

The 62nd District, while competitive, has one of the strongest Democratic bases of a seat now held by a Republican. Democrats are expected to fiercely contest it in 2016.

Mr. Haadsma said he is more connected with the district than Mr. Bizon and he does think the first termer is vulnerable. The Michigan Democratic Party has recently attacked Mr. Bizon on his vote for the Republican road funding plan that dedicates $600 million of General Fund dollars to roads and increases fuel taxes and registration fees.

"I don't think Dr. Bizon, before becoming a representative, was as involved in the community as a representative ought to be," Mr. Haadsma said, pointing out his own experience as a county commissioner. "I think that he perhaps isn't the representative to whom people might go with issues like they would come to me."

Mr. Haadsma joined McCroskey Law, a regional law firm specializing in labor relations and workers' compensation, and has been a partner at McCroskey since 1992. He has served as county commissioner since 2008.

Kildee Pushes More Testing, Disclosure In New Federal Lead/Copper Rule

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency updates its Lead and Copper Rule, it has to require communities to conduct more testing and release more testing results, { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=306801&locid=1" } said in testimony Wednesday to the National Drinking Water Advisory Council.

Mr. Kildee said both state and federal officials were at fault in the process that resulted in excessive lead levels in Flint drinking water after the city converted to a new water source.

"What happened in Flint is a failure of government," Mr. Kildee (D-Flint) said. "People expected that the government at multiple levels would be able to protect them by making sure that the water that they drink is healthy for them, and the government failed them."

Mr. Kildee said the rule should have required sufficient testing to show that the Flint River water would cause the problems it did, and should have required the city to implement anti-corrosion protocols to make that water safe.

"Something that back home seems unfathomable, to go from a source that is derived from the greatest freshwater source on the planet, surface freshwater source, the Great Lakes, to the Flint River, which, if you live in my hometown at the time seemed almost like the punchline to a joke," he said. "The notion that that wouldn't trigger a much more robust analysis of what that water consisted of, and what that would mean in terms of treatment required, is almost beyond reason."

Residents also should have been told why state officials ignored warnings from water system experts that there were problems.

"This new Lead and Copper Rule must have greater transparency in order to restore public confidence and protect public health and ensure the safety of drinking water," he said. "Residents deserve to know why for months the state of Michigan failed to follow federal safe drinking water laws. At my request, the EPA is conducting a complete audit of Michigan's implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule, so I hope some of the lessons learned during that audit can be included in the latest revisions of this Lead and Copper Rule."

Calley Signs EO To Aide Employment Of Those With Disabilities

State departments and agencies that provide services and support to those with disabilities as well as economic development and employment services will adopt the Employment First model that emphasizes competitive employment in an integrated setting for persons with disabilities under an executive order signed Wednesday by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=151301&locid=1" }.

Mr. Calley signed the executive order because { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" } is in Nevada for the Republican Governors Association meeting. Mr. Calley also has championed the cause of persons with disabilities during his time in office.

"Employment First encourages workplace diversity and enhances economic development while further designating Michigan as an equal opportunity state," Mr. Calley said in a statement. "Michiganders with all abilities deserve to live independent, self-determined lives. The ability to work leads to enhanced social interaction, community involvement and economic independence, and a sense of pride that all people desire."

The executive order ({ HYPERLINK "http://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/EO_2015-15_506303_7.pdf" \t "blank" }) also requires departments and agencies to share data to track progress on the issue. The State Rehabilitation Council will oversee implementation.

Schuette Calls For Halting Syrian Refugee Process Pending Review

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=77201&locid=1" } said Wednesday that the United States should stop admitting Syrian refugees into the country until the government conducts a review of its processes.

It is a similar message as the one taken by { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=245801&locid=1" }, who on Saturday said the state would pause its efforts with nonprofit service agencies to bring Syrian refugees until the U.S. Department of Homeland Security completed a review. Mr. Snyder sent a letter to the federal government asking for the review following terrorist attacks in Paris and Lebanon.

"America must have a hopeful immigration policy," Mr. Schuette said in a post on his Facebook page. "At the same time, given the recent attacks of global terrorism, we must halt the Syrian refugee process until a full and complete review of all background protocols and procedures is completed in order to protect the safety and security of our citizenry and our nation, which is the first job of the federal government."

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson strongly called for Pontiac to cease its efforts to bring Syrian refugees to the city.

"Any program such as the acceptance of refugees from Syria under current conditions constitutes an immediate threat of imminent danger," Mr. Patterson said in a statement. "I am not

overreacting to the tragedy that befell Paris. I am pointing out that lax immigration policies contributed to this terror."

Unemployment Remains At 5% In October

Michigan's unemployment rate did not change in October, holding at 5 percent, according to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

During the month, employment rose by 9,000 and unemployment rose by 3,000. The labor force increased by 13,000.

At 5 percent, Michigan's unemployment rate was the same as the U.S. unemployment rate for the month.

The monthly survey of employers showed seasonally adjusted Michigan payroll jobs rose in October by 14,000 to 4.277 million. Gains occurred in government (6,000), education and health services (5,000) and professional and business services (2,000). The only notable decline came in manufacturing (-2,000), which DTMB attributed to short-term layoffs in the auto sector.

The unemployment rate for the Detroit-Warren-Livonia market rose by 0.2 percentage point for the month, to 5.7 percent.

Civil Rights Commission Urges Against Backlash From Terrorist Attacks

The Civil Rights Commission issued a statement Wednesday condemning the recent attacks in Paris and Beirut, but urged Michigan residents against taking out anger over those attacks on those of Arab descent living in the state.

"We offer our deepest condolences and support to the families of those lost and to those harmed by these horrific acts," the commission said. "And yet, we now have another task before us. We must rally around our friends and neighbors - regardless of their religion or ethnicity - to protect them from the hateful response that these attacks may trigger."

The commission said it stood by its July resolution supporting the Take on Hate campaign.

"Michigan's hardworking Middle Eastern, Arab American and Muslim families are fearful tonight, for nothing more than identifying with their own culture and practicing their own faith," the commission said. "This fear for their most basic of rights should not happen anywhere, but especially not in the United States of America - a country founded on freedom of religion, and built firmly on the bedrock of individual liberty. We cannot allow misinformation, bias and discriminatory rhetoric to alter what we stand for and who we are."

Capital Notebook

WOLF DELISTING: A group of wolf experts urged U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to again try removing gray wolves, at least those in the Great Lakes states, from the federal endangered species list.

The group, which included David Mech of the University of Minnesota, author of The Wolves of Isle Royale, said the wolves have recovered in the region.

"We believe that failure to delist wolves in these states is counterproductive to wolf conservation there and elsewhere where suitable habitat may exist," the letter said. "The integrity and effectiveness of the ESA is undercut if delisting does not happen once science-based recovery has been achieved."

Wolves have been delisted several times in recent years, but returned to the list by courts.

POLL: VOTERS FAVOR 50% INCREASE IN CIGARETTE TAX: Sixty percent of voters support increasing the state's cigarette tax from $2 to $3 per pack, according to a poll commissioned by several health groups.

The survey, conducted by EPIC/MRA and commissioned by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network in partnership with the American Lung Association, American Heart Association and Michigan State Medical Society. The poll was conducted among 600 registered voters from October 25-31 and has an error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

"Michigan's tobacco epidemic is fueled by a tax that hasn't been increased in 11 years," Andrew Schepers, Michigan government relations director for ACS CAN, said in a statement. "Evidence shows that regular and significant tobacco tax increases encourage smokers to quit or cut down their use, and keep kids from ever picking up a cigarette. But an unchanged tax rate lessens that impact, especially as new tobacco products become increasingly popular."

MML SPONSORING LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL TRAINING: The Michigan Municipal League is sponsoring training sessions for elected local officials. The trainings are November 18 in Ferrysburg, December 1 in Grayling, December 9 in Lansing, December 10 in Southfield, December 16 in Birch Run and January 20 in Ann Arbor. Details are available at { HYPERLINK "http://www.mml.org/events/calendar.htm" \t "blank" }.

Each session runs from 5:30-9 p.m. and covers the basic functions new and returning elected officials will need to know.

Campaign Notes

DRISKELL ENDORSEMENTS: The United Auto Workers has endorsed { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=318101&locid=1" } (D-Saline) in her challenge to { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=87801&locid=1" } (R-Tipton) in the 7th U.S. House District.

"Service to her community has always been a driving force for Gretchen. Time and again, Gretchen has been a strong advocate for working Americans on countless issues - including the basic rights to safe working conditions, collective bargaining, and higher wages," Rory Gamble, UAW 1A regional director, said in a statement announcing the endorsement. "And just as she has stood with working families in the past, we know she will continue to do so when elected to Congress."

PAVLOV, MITCHELL BOTH 'YOUNG GUNS': Both { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=93801&locid=1" } (R-Saint Clair) and business executive Paul Mitchell have qualified as "On the Radar" for the National Republican Congressional Committee Young Guns program in their runs for the party's nomination in the 10th U.S. House District.

The program, which recognizes campaign activity for challengers or candidates in open seats, provides qualifying candidates with some additional national exposure and some assistance from the national committee.

Capital Notebook

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY CHILD CARE SUSPENSION: The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Community and Health Systems, has suspended and issued a notice of intent to revoke the certificate registration of a Shiawassee County family child care home provider, Alysse Crum, upon an investigation into a complaint lodged with the business at 13334 Jennifer Drive in Perry.

The complaint investigation found violations of the Child Care Organizations Act and/or administrative rules regarding caregiver suitability, appropriate care and supervision, and safe sleeping and play equipment.

Effective November 16, 2015, the suspension order prohibits Ms. Crum from operating a family child care home at the aforementioned address or at any other address or location. She also may not accept children for care after that date and must inform all of the parents of children in her care that her certificate of registration has been suspended and that she can no longer provide child care.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, December 2

House { HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=288901&locid=1" } (R) PAC fundraiser, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, 110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 1200, Lansing, 7:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=322301&locid=1" } (D)

fundraiser, Michigan Municipal League, 208 North Capitol Avenue, First Floor, Lansing, 8 a.m.

Rep. Ed Canfield (R) fundraiser, Michigan Restaurant Association, 225 West Washtenaw Street, Lansing, 12 p.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=356701&locid=1" } (R) fundraiser, The Exchange, 314 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, 4:30 p.m.

Rep. Brad Jacobsen (R) PAC fundraiser, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 3

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=104001&locid=1" } (D) fundraiser, Michigan Municipal League, 208 North Capitol Avenue, First Floor, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

{ HYPERLINK "http://www.gongwer.com/index.cfm?link=bio.cfm&nameid=318601&locid=1" } (D) fundraiser, Karoub Associates, 121 West Allegan Street, Lansing, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 19

Deadline for partisan candidates to file for state and federal office, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11

Michigan Soft Drink Association Annual Legislative Reception, Ninth Floor, Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 31

Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Wednesday, June 1

Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Deadline to file petition signatures for a voter-initiated act, 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 2

Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Friday, June 3

Detroit Regional Chamber Mackinac Policy Conference, Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Monday, July 11

Deadline to file petition signatures for a constitutional amendment, 5 p.m.

Thursday, July 21

Deadline for candidates without party affiliation to file for the November general election, 4 p.m.

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Click the ☑ after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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From: Ryal, Kelley (DTMB)
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9:36 AM
To: Speers, Cheryl (DTMB);Rice, Amy (DTMB)
Subject: FW: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

I love John Oliver – you have to watch the link to his show below about Courser/Gamrat.

From: gongwerreports@gongwer.com [mailto:gongwerreports@gongwer.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 8:35 AM
To: Michigan_State_Employees_clips@gongwer.com
Subject: Gongwer News Service Michigan Media Clips

Michigan News & Opinion For September 15, 2015

News

Flint asks Snyder for $30M to upgrade water system (Associated Press, 9/15/2015)

Schuette touts success of school safety hotline (Associated Press, 9/14/2015)

Orange barrels: Should there be lights? (Detroit Free Press, 9/12/2015)

Jim Storey, Allegan County commissioner, announces candidacy for Gamrat seat (MLive, 9/14/2015)

FCA, UAW negotiate through the night with no new deal (The Detroit News, 9/15/2015)

Fields of candidates grow for seats of Courser, Gamrat (The Detroit News, 9/14/2015)

John Oliver rips Courser, Gamrat scandal on HBO show (The Detroit News, 9/14/2015)

Wage repeal group submits 390,000 petition signatures (The Detroit News, 9/14/2015)

Editorials

Mackinac pipeline helps power Michigan's industrial comeback (MLive, 9/14/2015)

Susan J. Demas: Why did the Courser-Gamrat scandal dominate headlines? (MLive, 9/15/2015)

Editor's Note: Get facts on right to work and pay (The Detroit News, 9/15/2015)

Editorial: Bring them here (The Detroit News, 9/14/2015)

Lund: Unions are Chicken Little on prevailing wage (The Detroit News, 9/14/2015)

Blogs

John Oliver Picks Up Courser, Gamrat Scandal (Gongwer News Service Michigan Blog, 9/14/2015)

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City of Flint Wednesday 9:00 am Phone Conference Agenda
March 5, 2014

1) **Public Safety Update – FPD, MSP (FFD if needed)**

[redacted]

2) **Governor's Office Update – B. Clement and/or Rich Baird, H. Hollins**

3) **Retiree Lawsuit – Status, Issues**

[redacted]

[redacted]

4) **Financial Update**

[redacted]

b) Treasury when will we get approval of the budget amendment? As we go into KWA financing, we are proceeding as if the amendment is done. That is important because the amendment maintains the $1million in deficit reduction. Nearly 2 weeks and we are still awaiting a response.

[redacted]

d) Need some assistance in getting the Administrative Consent Order through the DEQ so Karegnondi Water Authority can get their bonds issued.

5) **City Council Update**

[redacted]

6) **Blue Ribbon Committee**

[redacted]

[redacted]

7) **Scrap Metal Bill (HR 4593)**

[redacted]

[redacted]

8) **Other items**

Created on: 03/04/14

[redacted], **access code** [redacted]

City of Flint Wednesday 9:00 am Phone Conference Agenda
March 19, 2014

1) **Public Safety Update – FPD, MSP (FFD if needed)**

[redacted]

2) **Governor's Office Update –Rich Baird, H. Hollins**

3) **Retiree Lawsuit – Status, Issues**

[redacted]

4) **Financial Update**

[redacted]

b) Approval of the budget amendment still pending – 4 weeks. Because of Water Treatment Plant update expense and timeline, we are proceeding as we await formal approval of the amendment. That is also important because the amendment maintains the $1million in deficit reduction.

c) Thanks to Treasury for assistance in moving Administrative Consent Order through the DEQ, however the process is still moving slowly. ACO is still not approved.

d) Update on E&Y contract: held a phone conference with Treasury about Hurley, Water and Sewer study and their update of the 5 year financial projections.

5) **City Council Update**

[redacted]

[redacted]

6) **Blue Ribbon Committee**

[redacted]

7) **Water Issues**

The Water Plant held a ceremonial ground-breaking for the update to the water treatment plant in preparation to transition to Flint River use as drinking water source.

We will know by the first of next week the certainty of being on the river in April.

We are currently in negotiations with GCDC on purchase of pipeline. COF is making counter-proposal on sale of pipeline (using $4million appraisal value). Need to know Treasury will approve sale using this appraisal.

8) **Scrap Metal Bill (HR 4593)**

[redacted]

9) **Other items**

Created on: 03/17/14

[redacted], access code [redacted]

Attachments:

A. Public Safety Initiatives
B. Proposed FY 15 and 16 Budget Calendar

GENESEE COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Richard B. Yuille
Chief Judge
Council Chairperson
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(810) 257-3276

Ward Chapman
Special Assistant
Flint City Attorney
Council Coordinator
wchapman@cityofflint.com
(810) 237-2029
(810) 569-0281

March 17, 2014

Darnell Earley
Flint Emergency Manager

RE: Public Safety Initiatives

Dear Mr. Earley:

[redacted]

Attachment A

Sincerely yours,

Ward Chapman

Ward Chapman, Coordinator
Genesee County Criminal Justice System Advisory Council

Cc: Chief Judge Richard B. Yuille

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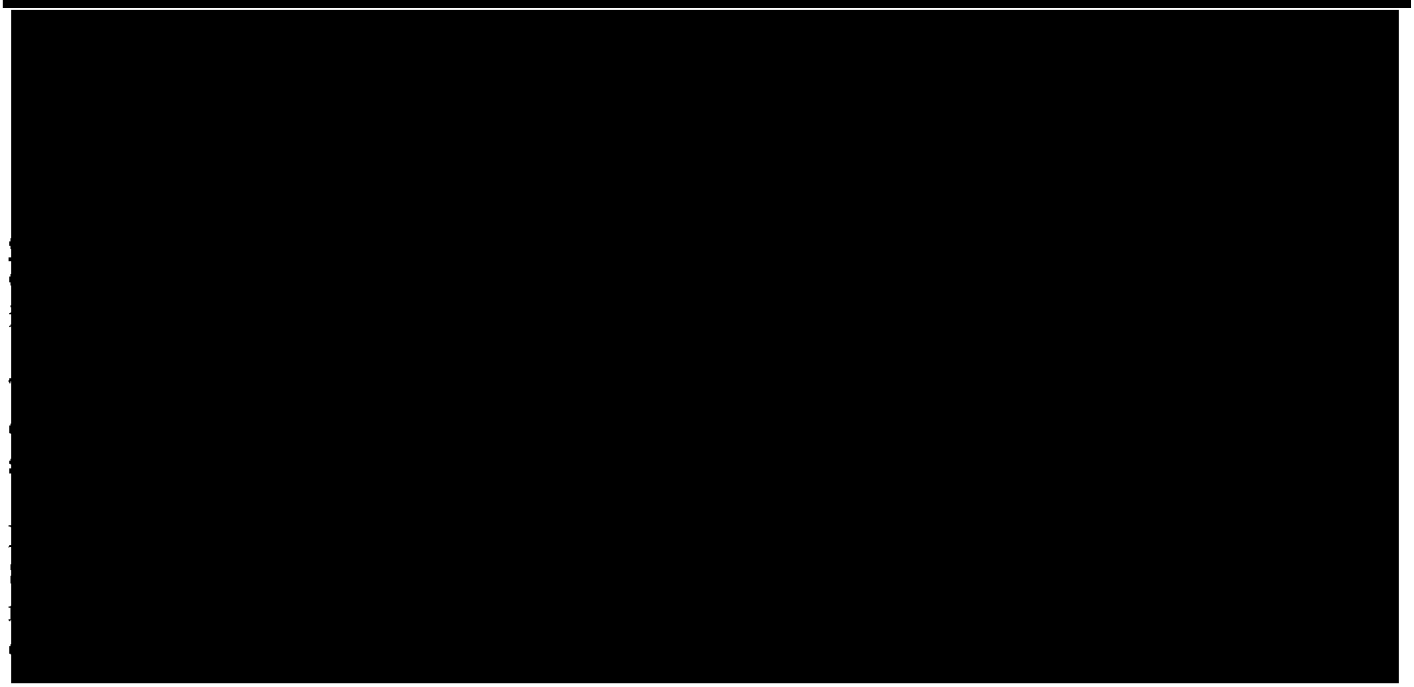
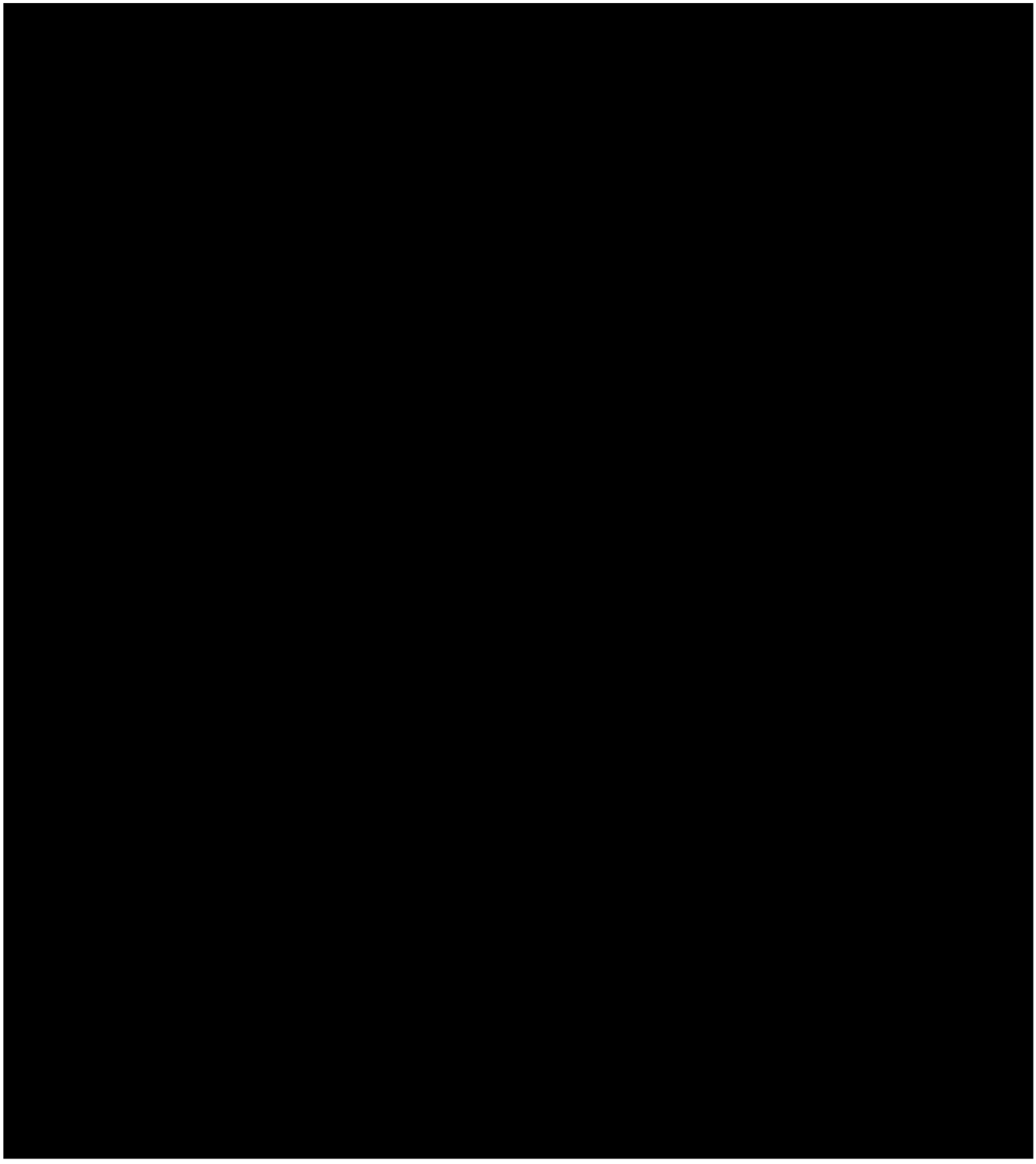
Operation Fresh Start Regional Operation

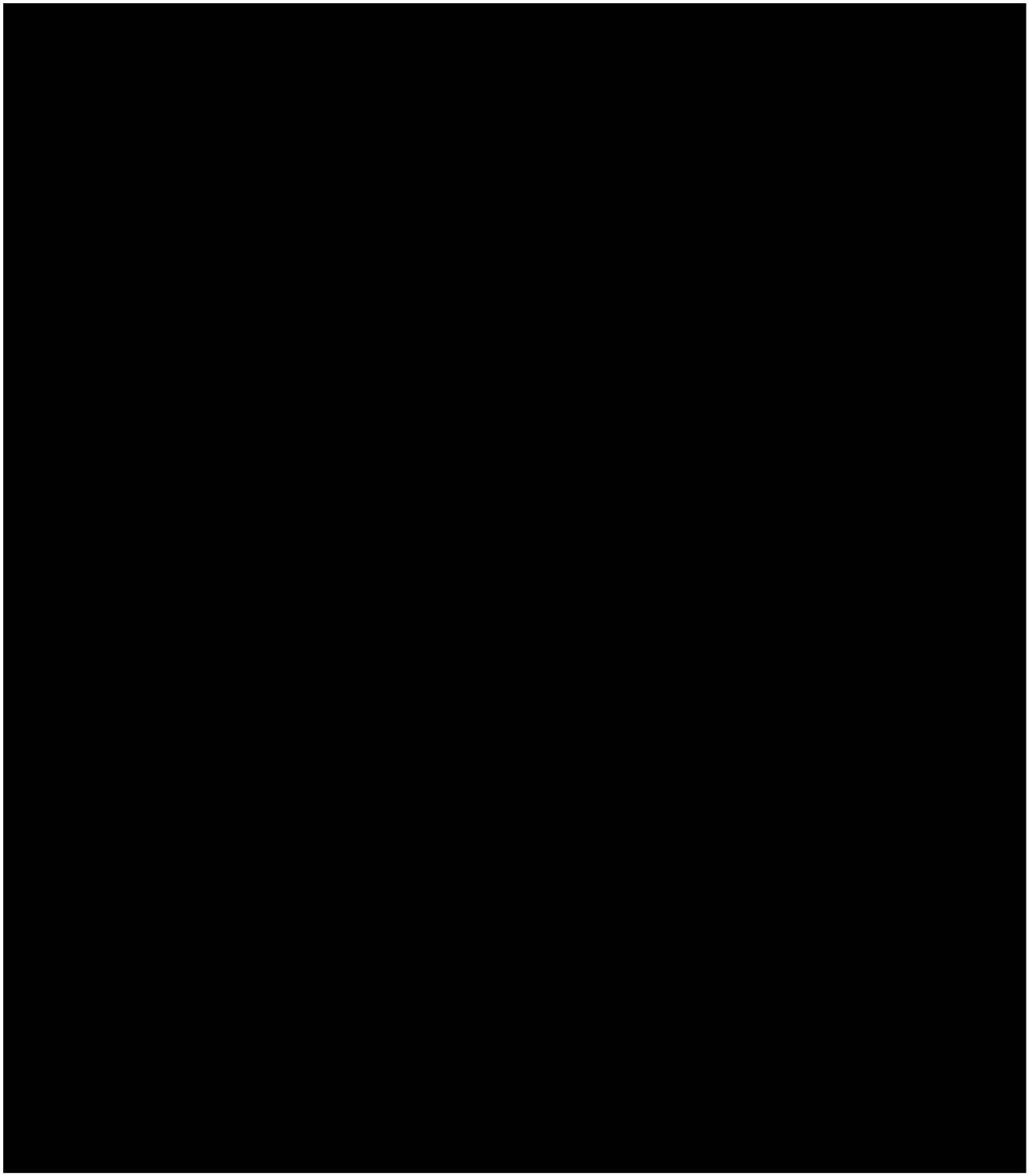


STATEWIDE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SRMS)

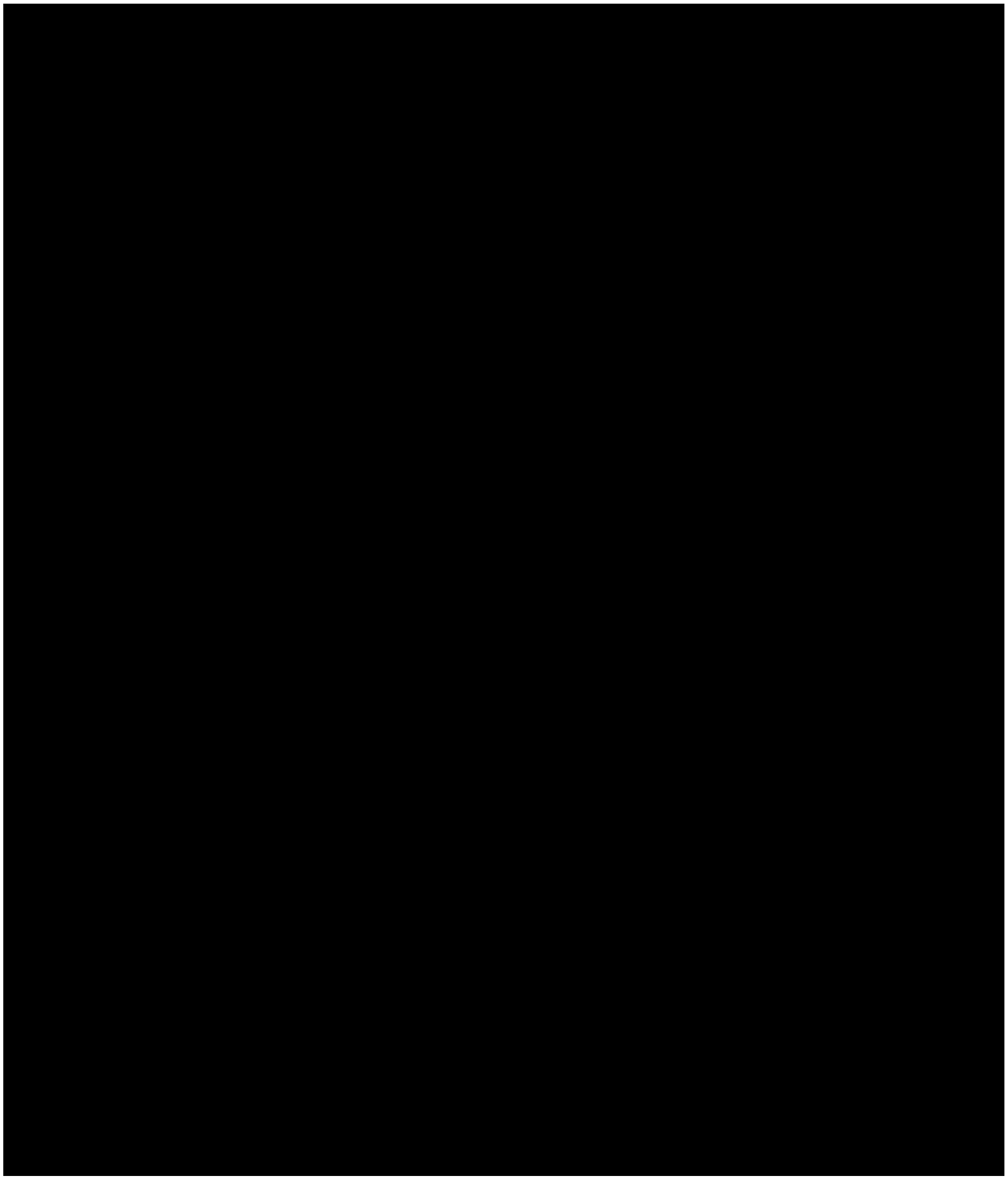


Arson Investigative Team

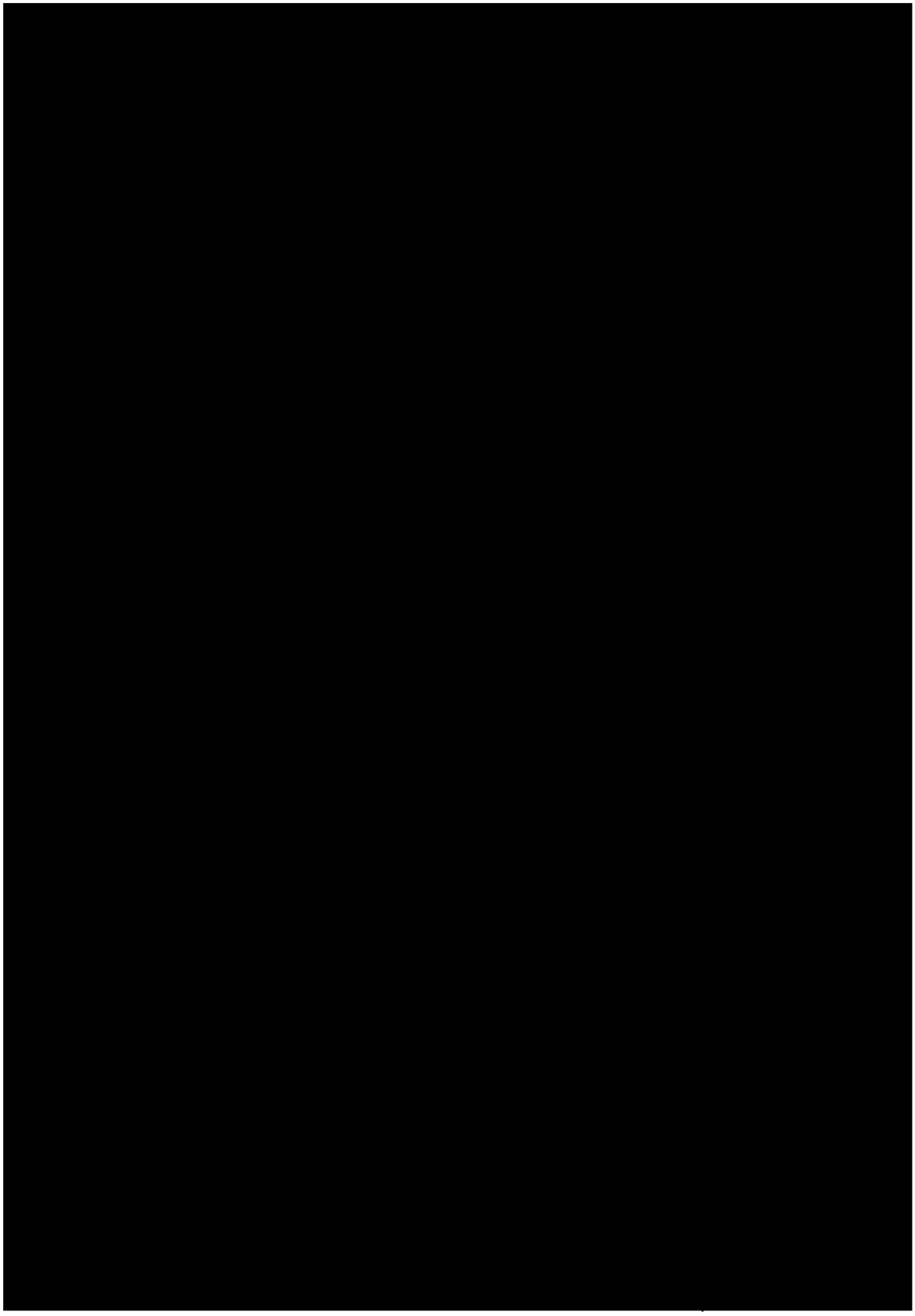
The City of Flint Police Department
Crime Reduction Strategy
Area Crime Team / A. C. T.



Lifeline Regional Crime Intervention Strategy



Proposed FY15 & 16 Budget Calendar



Attachment B

City of Flint Wednesday 9:00 am Phone Conference Agenda
April 2, 2014

1) **Public Safety Update – FPD, MSP (FFD if needed)**

[redacted]

2) **Governor's Office Update –Rich Baird, H. Hollins**

3) **Retiree Lawsuit – Status, Issues**

[redacted]

4) **Financial Update**

[redacted]

c) Water Treatment Plant – Resolutions authorizing contractors approved by Treasury. Frost conditions and easement issues with Consumers Energy may impact completion date, but are being addressed. DEQ ACO has been approved. Awaiting approval of Construction Permit, discussions with Water and Solid Waste Divisions ongoing. Must be resolved this week or significant delay with project could occur.

d) Update on E&Y contract: Preliminary draft reviewed end of last week. Next draft expected end of this week. Preliminary review expected with EM and Treasury within the next three weeks.

[redacted]

[redacted]

g) DEQ SAW Grant: could there be a policy to allow distressed communities to skip the lottery? The City of Flint applied for a $2 million SAW Grant to develop a GIS based sewer Asset Management Plan (AMP) and work tracking system. The proposal also included an Asset Management Plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Plant's NPDES permit renewal will require this in the upcoming fiscal year. That AMP is estimated to cost $300,000, which will now have to be funded internally.

4) City Council Update

[redacted]

5) **Blue Ribbon Committee**

[redacted]

6) **Water Issues**

a) Water Issues – DEQ permits are expected to be received this week. Consumers Powers easements issues are being addressed. However, termination of water service from DWSD may be delayed. Awaiting confirmation of terms from DWSD by which water will continue to be purchased from DWSD – presumably the terms outlined in their February 12, 2014 letter. Delay *could* be a matter of weeks, but certainly no later than June 30, 2014.

b) Negotiations with GCDC continue with regards to sale of the pipeline section. COF current proposal is for $3.9 million sale price, the value established in recent valuation. Valuation has been submitted and reviewed by Treasury. Submission to Treasury for approval is anticipated prior to ending relationship with DWSD. Also, COF is negotiating back-up service agreement for GCDC for period between DWSD termination and KWA start-up.

c) Water and Sewer Rate Study – the final draft is due shortly and will be reviewed with the Public Works Committee on April 10.

7) **Scrap Metal Bill (HR 4593)**

[redacted]

8) **Other items**

[redacted]

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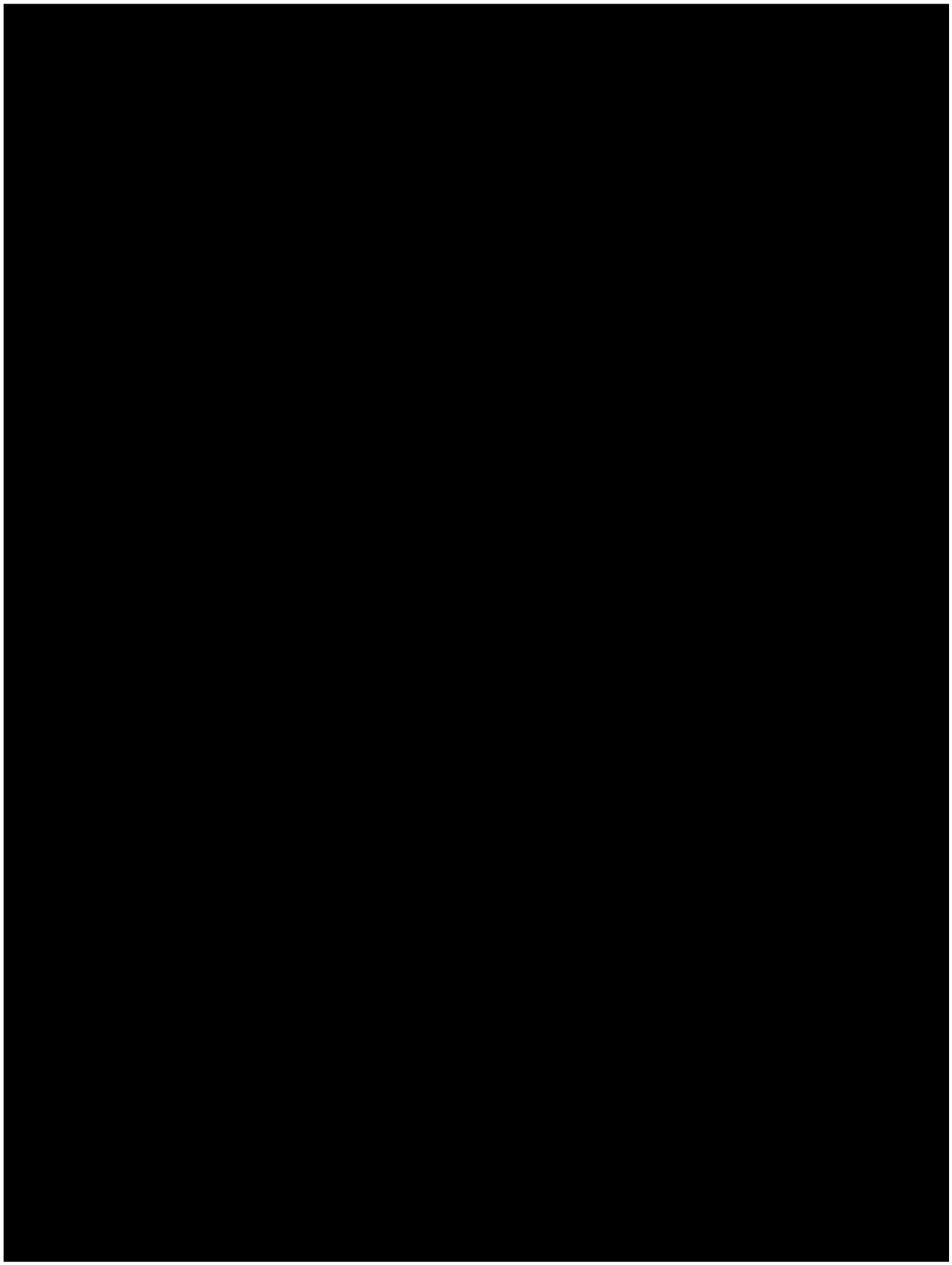
Attachments:

A. Public Safety Initiatives

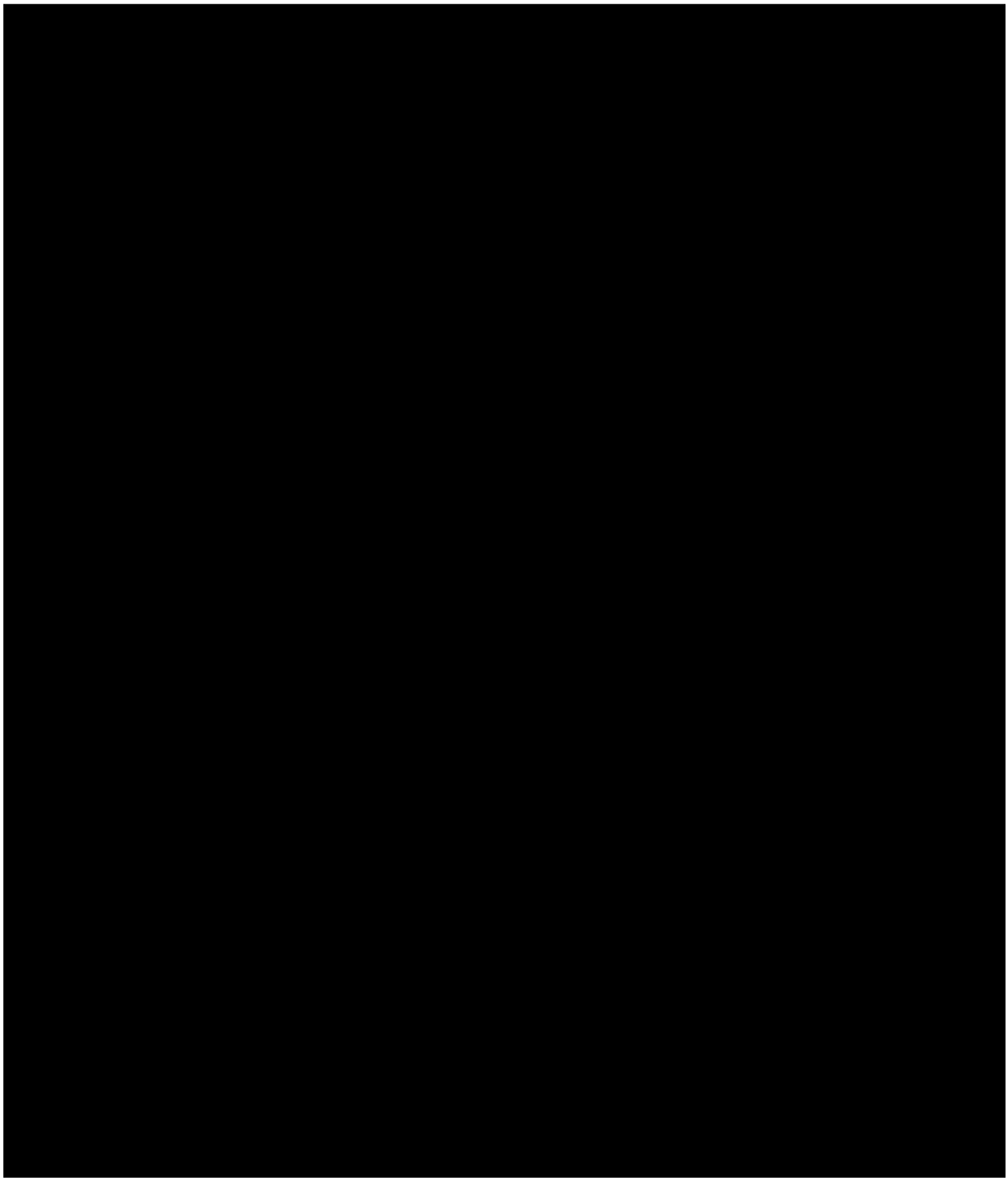
Operation Fresh Start Timeline

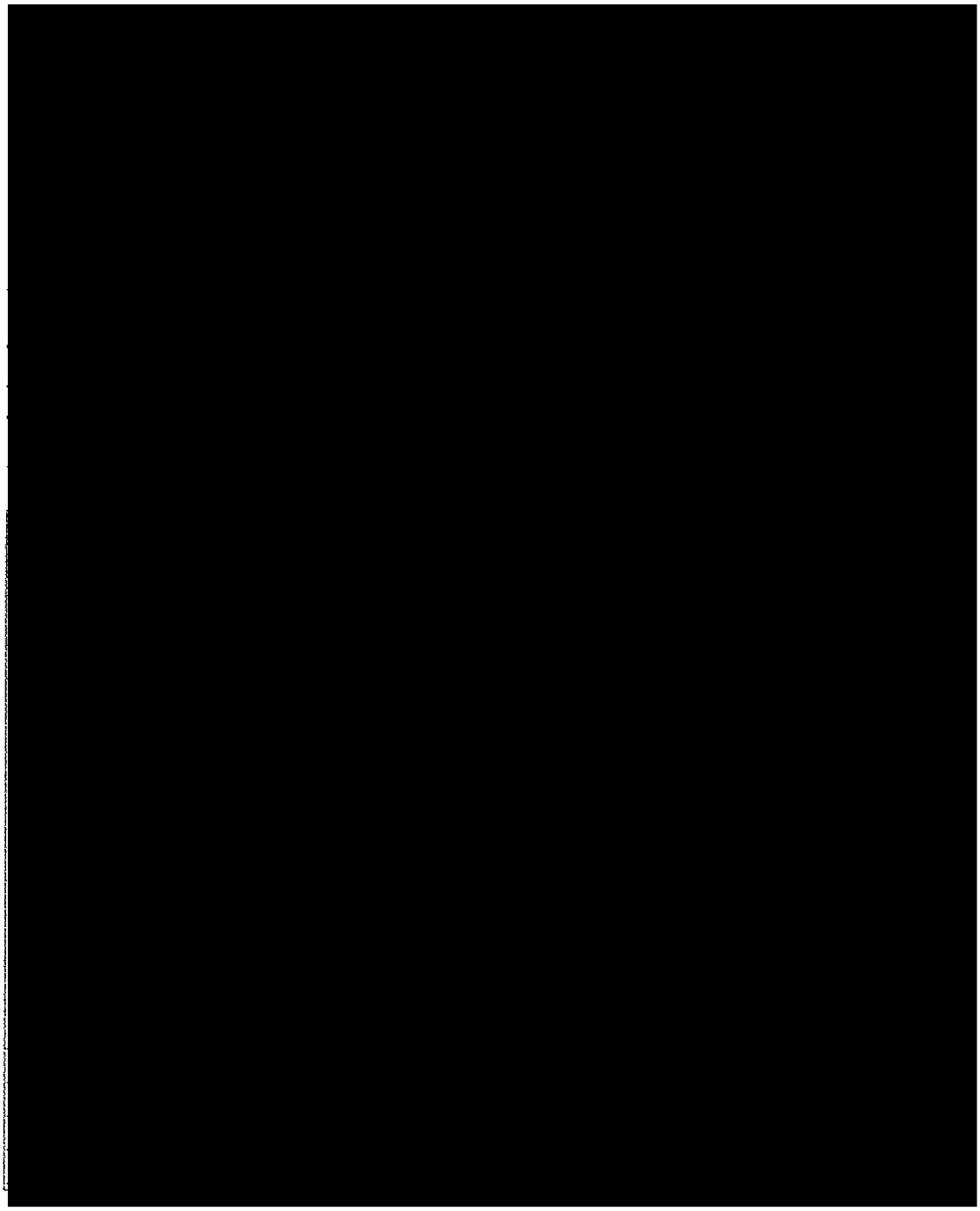
Operation Fresh Start Regional Operation



State Record Management System Time Line

The City of Flint Police Department
Crime Reduction Strategy
Area Crime Team / A. C. T.

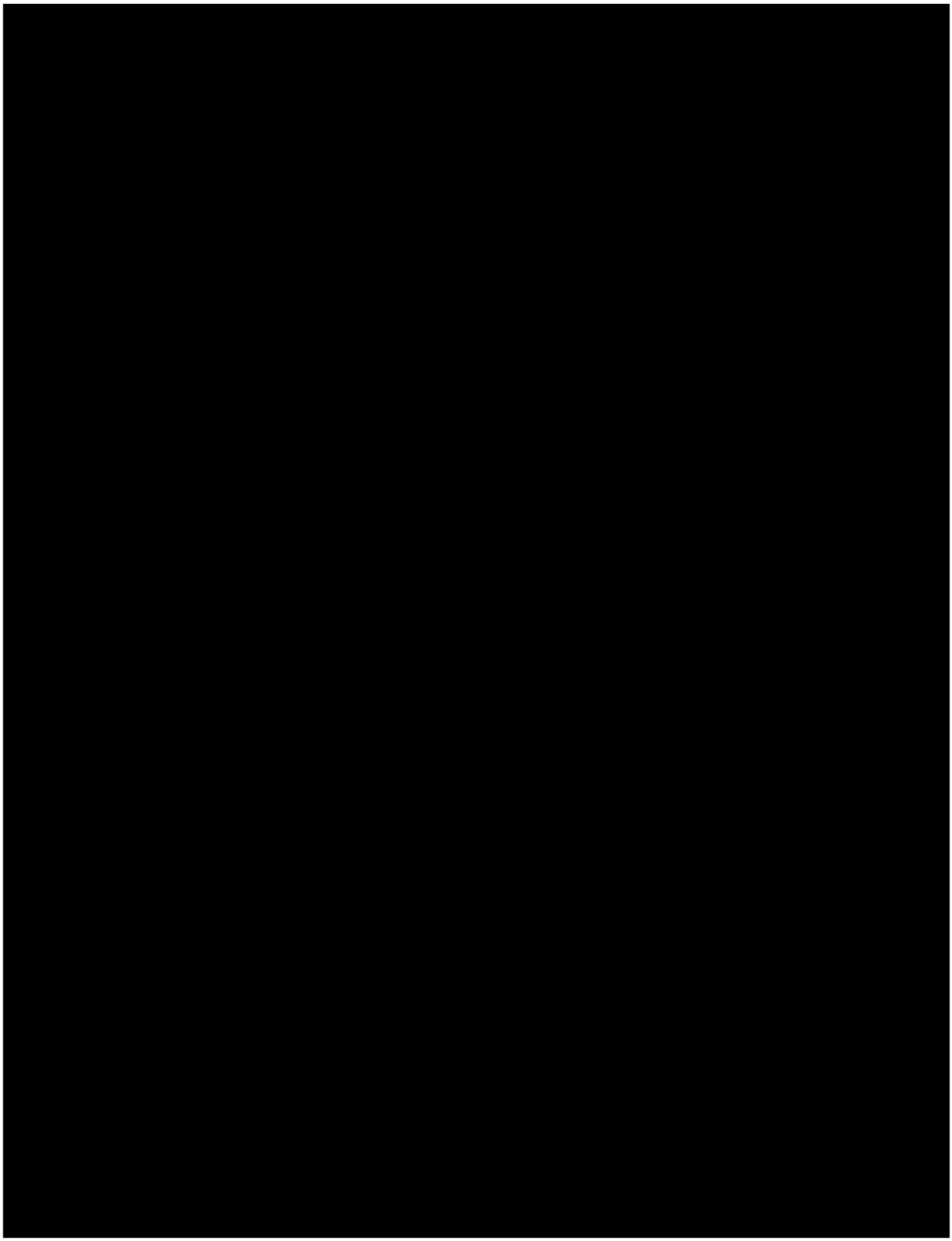


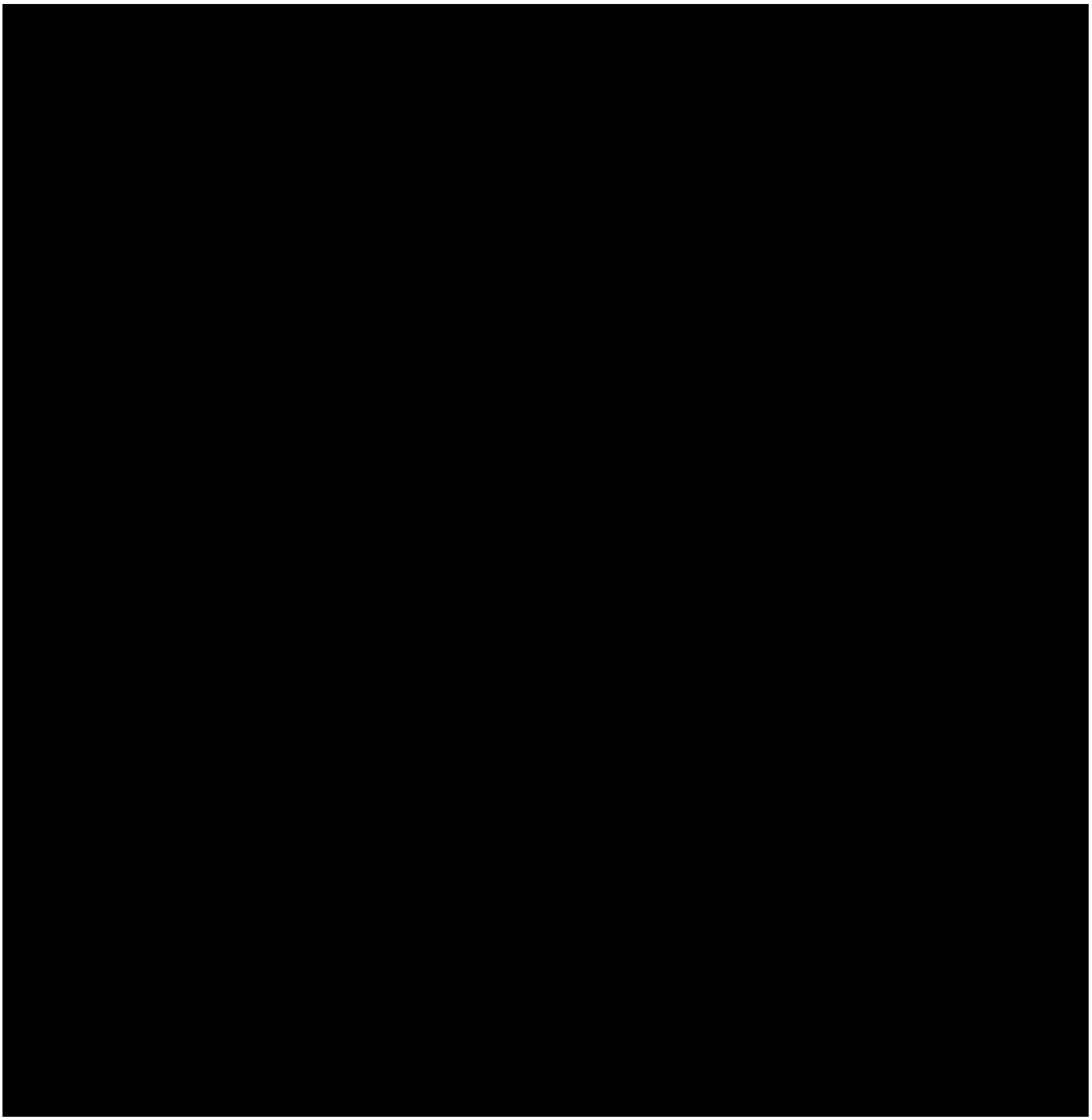


Arson Investigative Team

Lifeline Regional Crime Intervention

Lifeline Regional Crime Intervention Strategy





Arson Investigative Team Timeline

City of Flint Wednesday 9:00 am Phone Conference Agenda
April 16, 2014

1) **Public Safety Update – FPD, MSP (FFD if needed)**

[redacted]

2) **Governor's Office Update –Rich Baird, H. Hollins**

3) **Retiree Lawsuit – Status, Issues**

[redacted]

4) **Financial Update**

[redacted]

c) Update on E&Y 5 Year projections: Preliminary review expected with EM and Treasury within the next three weeks. Analysis of utility system is still pending.

[redacted]

f) DEQ SAW Grant: could there be a policy to allow distressed communities to skip the lottery? The City of Flint applied for a $2 million SAW Grant to develop a GIS based sewer Asset Management Plan (AMP) and work tracking system.

The proposal also included an Asset Management Plan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Plant's NPDES permit renewal will require this in the upcoming fiscal year. That AMP is estimated to cost $300,000, which will now have to be funded internally.

4) City Council Update

5) Blue Ribbon Committee

6) Water Issues

a) Water Issues – DEQ construction permits were received last week for the Water Treatment Plant and Bray Rd. site. Easement issues with Consumers Energy have been resolved. A series of meetings, media activities and other forms of notification about water change over are being planned. Start date goal: April 17, 2014.

b) Negotiations with GCDC continue with regards to sale of the pipeline section. COF current proposal is for $3.9 million sale price, the value established in recent valuation. Valuation has been submitted and reviewed by Treasury. Submission to Treasury for approval is anticipated prior to ending relationship with DWSD. Also, COF is negotiating back-up service agreement for GCDC for period between DWSD termination and KWA start-up.

7) **Other items**

Created on: 04/14/14

[redacted], **access code** [redacted]